

March 2008



Star that
Hitler required
all Jews to wear



Dear Beloved in Yeshua,

Anti-Semitism

As we celebrate the feast of Purim this month (March 20-22), we give thanks to God that, once again, He made the defeat of Israel's enemies possible. Once again, the Holy One of Israel engineered circumstances in order to preserve His people from annihilation. Once again, the Jews were victorious because their God raised up a leader to confront the forces of evil and be victorious over them. The Book of Esther chronicles the events of 474 B.C. during the Babylonian captivity of the Jewish people. Esther, Queen of Persia (modern Iran), risked her life to save her people from the wicked schemes of Haman, one of many anti-Semites throughout history, whose goal was the complete extermination of the Jewish people. This month, the Lord has given us an awesome challenge: to explore and explain anti-Semitism from a biblical point of view in four short pages. There is so much to say, so much information to impart! We pray that you order some of our suggested materials and do some reading on your own. This topic is timely and crucial to an understanding of an age-old battle that has great prophetic significance.

Webster's New World College Dictionary has three pages of listings under "anti-." Only one listing mentions a people, culture or religion, and it is listed two ways: "anti-Jewish" and "anti-Semitic." No anti-Italian, anti-Polish, anti-Catholic, anti-Protestant, anti-Buddist, anti-African, etc. Anti-Semitic is defined as 1) having or showing prejudice against Jews, and 2) discriminating against or persecuting Jews. It is interesting to note that the only other "anti" that refers to a person is "anti-christ," defined as "the great antagonist of Christ, expected to spread universal evil before the end of the world but finally to be conquered at Christ's second coming." These two evils are actually closely related.

Why the Jews?

To answer that question, we have to go back to the Garden of Eden where the spiritual root of the longest and deepest hatred in all of human history is found. Genesis 3:15 exposes this root right after Eve confesses to the Lord that the serpent deceived her, and she ate of the forbidden fruit. God then told the serpent that he was cursed more than any other animal and would eat dust all the days of his life. God continued with, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* The serpent is no other than Satan, the arch enemy of God. The woman is Israel. Her seed is Messiah. Israel and her people, the Jews, became the enemy of Satan since the One designated by God to crush Satan's head would come forth from Israel: Yeshua HaMashiach. Thus, the source of anti-Semitism is spiritual in nature. Satan has his own "seed," demonic spirits, that help him spread his virulent poison. The anti-Semitism that he spearheaded had, and still has, as its goal, the eradication of the Jewish people. Initially, his attempts were focused on preventing the Messiah's first coming. Thus, Satan used Pharaoh to order that all Hebrew male babies be killed (Exodus 1:15-22). If he had succeeded, the Jewish people would have eventually ceased to exist. Anti-Semitism continued with Haman's decree to have all Jews killed on one day (Esther 3:8-15). Satan tried in 165 B.C. again with Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian-Greek ruler of the Hanukkah story, who attempted to force the Jewish people to adopt Greek culture and forsake the religion of their Fathers. The Jews revolted, under the leadership of the Maccabees, preserving a people from whom the Messiah would come.

Once the Messiah was born, Satan tried to snatch His life from Him. This time, he used King Herod who ordered that all male children in Bethlehem and vicinity, two years old and younger, be killed. The God of Israel foiled another anti-Semitic attempt to cut off Israel's Messiah. Satan, undoubtedly, thought he had been victorious when Yeshua was crucified, but it was only Messiah's heel that was bruised, and Messiah arose from the dead victorious. Now Satan had to deal with the coming again of the Messiah, as well as with the people who brought Him into the world—the Jewish people, God's chosen channel of blessing. *"Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child."* (Rev. 12:13) Rev. 12:9 identifies the "dragon" as *"that serpent of old," "called the Devil and Satan."* His persecution of Israel continues until today since Israel is key to his demise. When the Jewish people cry, *"Baruch haba b'shem Adonai"* ("Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"), Satan's end is near. His goal now: to eliminate the Jews before they repent and return to their God.

Christian Anti-Semitism?

Yes. Unfortunately, there is such a thing as Christian Anti-Semitism. While some may argue that no true "Christian" or follower of Yeshua would ever be anti-Semitic or take part in anti-Semitic atrocities, the reality is that some of the great Church Fathers were some of the worst anti-Semites of all time. Jewish people know this, and, unfortunately, since they have not seen much unconditional love and "real Christianity" on the part of the Gentile Church throughout the ages, they have concluded that the "Church" hates them. The truth is that while anti-Semitism is demonic in origin, Satan is able to use human beings to do his work. He is able to appeal to man's pride, whisper insidious lies to him and plant seeds of hate, revenge and all manner of wickedness in his mind. As the "great deceiver," no one is exempt from Satan's machinations. He must be resisted!! However, the devil was not resisted for nearly 2,000 years as the Christian world relentlessly dehumanized the Jew. This vitriolic anti-Semitic attitude paved the way for the Holocaust. The following is a quote by Paul Hillberg, a foremost scholar of the Holocaust, taken from **Our Hands are Stained with Blood**, by Michael L. Brown: "Since the fourth century after Christ there have been three anti-Jewish policies: [forced] conversion, expulsion, annihilation. The second appeared as an alternative to the first, and the third emerged as an alternative to the second...The missionaries of Christianity, had said in effect: You have no right to live among us as Jews. The secular rulers who followed proclaimed: You have no right to live among us. The Nazis at last decreed: You have no right to live."

A sampling of early Church Fathers shows how effective Satan was at twisting truth and minds where Jewish people were concerned. Saint John Chrysostom, a fourth century Bishop of Antioch, was known as one of the most eloquent preachers of truth and love. However, in a series of eight sermons against the Jews, he wrote: "The synagogue is a criminal assembly of Jews...a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ. Jews are inveterate murderers, possessed by the devil, their debauchery and drunkenness gives them the manners of the pig."

Bernard of Clairvaux, a very influential monk known for his great love for God and for man, said that the Jewish people as a whole had "a stupidity bestial and more than bestial," and "intelligence coarse, dense, and as it were bovine," because they did not follow the Lord. He said the Jewish people were an "evil seed," "of the devil." The list goes on and on and on. Saint Jerome, Saint Augustine, Emperor Constantine—all representatives of the only "Church" there was—all Jew haters! Even when Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church and at first reached out kindly to the Jews, his benevolence changed to venom when the Jews did not convert as he had anticipated. Luther wrote: "What shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews? First, their synagogues should be set on fire...Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed...Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer-books and Talmuds...etc., etc."

The Lutheran Church has repudiated Luther's vicious anti-Jewish remarks, labeling Christian anti-Semitism as "spiritual suicide" in 1964. The Catholic Church has likewise repudiated much of her

anti-Jewish bias. Nevertheless, the deep, venomous hatred has been slow to die—especially since Satan is still very much alive, fueling the flames! History has shown that if you tell a big enough lie long enough, especially if it concerns the Jews, most of the world, including the Church, will believe you. For example, when the Black Death ravaged Europe from 1348–1349, wiping out about one-third of Europe's population, the Jews were blamed for it. Hundreds of thousands of "Christians" believed that the Black Death was caused by the Jews contaminating the wells. This resulted in thousands of Jews being butchered by angry mobs.

Perhaps the most widespread anti-Jewish lie is the "Blood Libel," which is still circulating today! This lie charges the Jewish people with ritual murder, the kidnapping and murdering of a Christian child, often before Easter, and using the child's blood to make Passover matzoh. Unbelievable? Tens of thousands of people have believed this lie of Satan! How about Holocaust denial?? That lie is believed by many in our day! Watch out for a book called **The Protocols of the Elders of Zion**. This anti-Semitic book has been circulating for over a century. It is still being read and believed!

One of the biggest lies of all times is the accusation of "deicide"—the notion that Jews were responsible for the crime of "killing God." This was first preached in accusatory form in 167 A.D. by Melito of Sardis in a sermon called "On the Passover." Who really killed Jesus? Every one of us, Jew and Gentile alike. (See Acts 4:26-28.) Nevertheless, the label of Jews as "Christ-killers" has resulted in the belief that anyone persecuting, torturing or massacring Jews does so on God's behalf as an instrument of Divine wrath. The Crusaders (11th–13th centuries), who initially engaged in "Holy War" to free the Holy Land from the Muslims, turned on the Jews since they were also "infidels." As they marched through Europe, the Crusaders raped, robbed, and murdered Jews wherever they found them. On one occasion, in Jerusalem, Jews fleeing from the Crusaders locked themselves in their synagogue. The Crusaders set the synagogue on fire and, as the Jews burned to death, they held up their crosses and sang "Christ, We Adore Thee." Is it any wonder that Christ, Crusade and cross are words that make Jewish people uncomfortable? The cross, especially, is a symbol of hate, not love, to them!

Following the Crusades came the Spanish Inquisition, begun by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to purge the "Church" of the Jews who secretly practiced any of their traditions. Many are not aware that the Inquisition extended into the 19th century, expanding its diabolical tentacles into Latin America! Thousands of Jewish people were burned at the stake during this time period. The other tortures devised by the demon-inspired inquisitors are shocking beyond description. Jamie saw some of the devices used to force Jewish confessions in a Holocaust museum in Lima, Peru.

Over the centuries, Jews have been expelled from country after country, forced to live in ghettos, flayed alive, buried alive and tortured with every reprehensible devilish device possible. All of this culminated with the Holocaust where Satan and Hitler got together to make a final end to what they called "Jewish vermin." Six million of God's Chosen People were brutally tortured, perishing at the hand of the Nazis. But Hitler is dead, and the Jews **live**!

Anti-Semitism Today

Satan still hates God, and he still hates the Jews. This irrational, supernatural hatred is being expressed today through White supremacists, Black militants, and Muslim extremists. Do not be deceived! The Palestinians do not want a state. They embrace the sacred Arab mission expressed by the Mufti of Jerusalem in 1948: "The entire Jewish population in Palestine must be destroyed or be driven into the sea. Allah has bestowed on us the rare privilege of finishing what Hitler only began. Let the *Ji'had* begin. Murder the Jews. Murder them all!" White supremacists still see the Jewish people as an inferior race. (To the Nazis, the Jews were biologically inferior and therefore had to be exterminated.) All three groups have great respect for Adolf Hitler and deep hatred of the Jew.

On April 3, 2006, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced its finding that incidents of anti-Semitism are a "serious problem" on college campuses throughout the United States. On September 19, 2006, Yale University founded a special center for studying anti-Semitism citing its worldwide increase as generating a "need to understand the current manifestation of this disease."

Anti-Semitism has increased significantly in Europe since 2000 with more and more verbal attacks, vandalism, graffiti, fire bombings of Jewish schools, desecration of synagogues and cemeteries and physical assaults of Jewish people. Anti-Semitic incidents rose in Germany, Australia and the U.S. in 2007 according to Haaretz.com (1/31/08). This included a 30% increase in New York. Britain still sees the most of any country in Europe, followed by France. Thankfully, there has been increased enforcement of anti-racism laws in many European countries.

Watch out for the Internet! It contains abundant forums that serve as platforms for anti-Semitism.

What Should "Real" Christians Do?

- ✧ Search your heart to see if there is any latent anti-Semitism there.
- ✧ Repent, and acknowledge the guilt and shame of our "Christian" ancestors, whether Catholic or Protestant. "We who are the spiritual representatives of the Lord Jesus must repair what our carnal predecessors have done in His name." (Michael Brown p. 168)
- ✧ Determine to let the Jewish people see what "real Christianity" is.
- ✧ Ask God to help you identify with the Jewish people's pain.
- ✧ Leave any church that says that God is through with Israel as a people and nation, or that the Church has replaced Israel. (This is an anti-Semitic lie of Satan.)
- ✧ Remind others that Jews were—and are—chosen and loved by the Lord.
- ✧ Teach your children about God's love for the Jewish people.
- ✧ Show God's mercy to Israel (Romans 11:30-31).
- ✧ Ask the Lord to show you His heart for Israel.
- ✧ Encourage Jewish believers to embrace their Jewishness, their Torah, their culture and their own people. The Spanish Inquisition said: "Either Jesus or Jewish!" Don't be like them!
- ✧ Minister to the Jewish people financially (Romans 15:27).
- ✧ Enjoy your Jewish roots and the Feasts of the Lord.
- ✧ Make Israel jealous by your knowledge of the Scriptures, your unconditional love, your faith and your good works (Romans 11:11).
- ✧ Be sensitive to Jewish suffering. Have compassion. (A twelve year old girl in Paris was attacked coming out of school by two men who beat her, held her down and carved a swastika into her face with a box cutter. This happened in May 2004.)
- ✧ Weep, and pray, for the lost sheep of the House of Israel throughout the world. Pray that they return to the God of Israel. Pray that their eyes are opened to see their Messiah.
- ✧ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Go there to visit, and be a blessing if you can. Our next Mercy Mission will be in 2009. Start saving **now!**

"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Yeshua HaMashiach be with you. Amen." (Romans 16:20)

P.S. The economic downturn in the U.S. has affected the finances of Jewish Jewels, at the same time that anti-Semitism is on the rise and Jewish people are open to hear the Good News of Messiah as never before! We are counting on you to send your VERY BEST GIFT to help us continue to share the Love of God with His Chosen People.

P.P.S. Pray about ordering this month's offers. They are IMPORTANT!