

The World's Oldest Hatred EXPOSED



Director of Christian Connections Leket Israel



“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” –

George Santayana

Ray and Rosalind MacDonald. We have been working for Leket Israel: The National Food Bank since 2007.

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalms 126

ANTISEMITISM; THE WORLD’S OLDEST HATRED EXPOSED – AN INTRODUCTION

Expulsion, ritual murder, inquisition, decide, blood liable, ghetto, Christ killers, pogrom, host desecration, Shoah. Over the hundreds of years of Jewish life in Europe, many new expressions were added to the human vernacular. All because hatred was left unchecked. It is not only Jews who are at risk, it is our humanity.

שואה Shoah. An expression which appears in the Bible several times. The first occasion is in the book of Job: “They are gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste.” (Job 30:3). The Hebrew word is translated in different ways: devastating storm, whirlwind and in this case desolation.

The first person to use the expression in modern times was writer Yehuda Erez who emigrated to Palestine from Russia in 1923. In 1938 he wrote a paper titled “With the Shoah in Europe” in which he stated,



Viennese school kids have lunch on the Austrian Holocaust Memorial at the Judenplatz, Vienna

"We are horrified at the foundation by the shoah that is taking place upon the heads of German Jewry." Did he foresee a tragedy?

Within a few years the extent of the tragedy became clear to the world. Shoah. Holocaust. The systematic murder of over 6 million of Europe's Jewish population.

Now, decades later, people and countries around the world remember. Holocaust memorial day, called Yom HaShoah - Day of the Shoah. People remember and with the Jewish people, say "Never Again". However, now 75 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, I'm saddened to say that memorializing is not good enough. How can countries which have invested so much in remembering and learning from the past be witnessing a rise in antisemitism?

As we survey the problems facing mankind: global warming, water and airborne microscopic plastics, human trafficking, COVID-19 and terrorism, the greatest problem is none of these. It's antisemitism, a hatred that has been around as long as there's been Jews. Why is it so dangerous? Because it is the clearest expression of opposition to God's plans and purposes for the human race.

Jewish history is the greatest story ever told. From God's Covenant with Abraham, through to Moses, David and Jesus and the creation

of the State of Israel God is still clearly involved with the story of the Jewish People. Antisemitism is the persistent antagonist in this story, one that Christians must be aware of in order to combat.

As a Christian who loves the people and land of Israel, I take this antagonist very seriously and it is good to see an increasing number of Christians opposing antisemitism around the world. Evangelical Christians worldwide form the largest bloc of pro-Israel advocates. As such, we need to be educated on the threats and concerns facing Israel and the Jewish people as a whole.

Antisemitism has been defined as, “hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group”. Interestingly this definition is almost a concise history of this most ancient of diseases. For centuries Jews were seen primarily as a religious community. Thus they were hated. Then in Europe during the Enlightenment when religion began to play a lesser role in society Jews were considered more an ethnic group. Thus they were hated. Then in the 20 century they were regarded as a race and were hated as such.

Now, in the 21st century there’s a fourth component which needs to be added to the definition. Over the decades, as its Jewish population has swelled, Israel is increasingly regarded as the collective embodiment of the Jewish people. Thus the Jewish people, including those living outside of Israel, are hated for their state.

I was not born a Christian. In my late teens I became one when I committed myself to knowing God and serving him. So what connection do I have to evil that was in the name of Christ so many years ago? The fact that I wear a cross around my neck means that I very much had, or have, a connection to these hundreds of years of church history. It’s a sad fact that the majority of Christians have no knowledge of church history, but I can tell you today that Jews do have the knowledge of church history, in as much as Christianity or Christian history has impacted them. If we bear the name of Christ we need to understand how our history has impacted the Jewish people. We have that responsibility.

It is my hope that this booklet will provide you or your study group with all you need to know to combat antisemitism. We’ll be looking at its

origins, its tactics and how to effectively refute it. This will allow you and your fellow Christians to become advocates against antisemitism and thus better supporters of the Jewish people.

I encourage you to take your time with the material, pay attention to the discussion questions as you learn and grow as a Christian ready and prepared to combat antisemitism, the world's oldest hatred.

Ray MacDonald

Director of Christian Connections Leket Israel

As “People of the Book,” both Jews and Christians have inherent in their respective traditions a sacred connection. As Ray MacDonald illumines, Leket Israel has been a force for reconciliation and social action in bringing together diverse Canadians (Jews and Christians) and Israelis (Jews as well as Arabs). This is in partial fulfillment of the biblical command to care for the alien, the fatherless, and the widow.

In the land of Israel, I have witnessed first-hand the effort to feed and nourish impoverished Holocaust survivors. This commitment to bring “repair” to the world (tikkun olam) is wide-ranging. In words and actions, my hope is that all will join in co-creating peace-on-earth, so that true Shalom (Peace) may be known as lived reality.

Lily Kim

Former Co-Chair, Holocaust Education Week (UJA Federation of the Greater Toronto Area)



“Antisemitism is not a Jewish problem – this is a problem for the world and we need to recognize that.”

– Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein of Chabad in Poway, CA

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All verses in this guide are are NKJV

Antisemitism is making a comeback in America and the Western World as a whole.

IS ANTISEMITISM STILL A THREAT TO JEWISH LIVES?

Some Christians believe antisemitism ended with World War 2 and Hitler's system of mass murder but the reality is antisemitism remains a consistent threat. The tragic attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018 which left eighteen people killed or injured was not an isolated incident. Antisemitism is making a comeback in America and the Western World as a whole.

Let's look at some quick facts provided by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Council of the Southern Baptist Convention (2015) in the United States.

- Despite being 1.8% of the population, 56% of all anti-religious hate crimes were directed at Jews
- Violent assaults increased over 50% with over 60% of all hate crimes being committed against Jews
- Antisemitic incidents on campuses doubled

The problem has become more pronounced recently as white nationalists become more comfortable working in the open. There are also concerns that a more insidious antisemitism exists on the Left. As I write this there are even expressions of antisemitism from federal elected officials.

Today in Europe levels of publicly expressed antisemitism are reaching that of the 1930s.

"I don't have to tell you about our many neighbours who don't want us in the neighborhood anymore. Jews have been the primary targets in a world engulfed by hatred. I could go from

country to country, telling you stories from France, from the UK, from Germany, from Poland, from Hungary. But it is here, on these shores, where we would witness gun-toting men dressed in white capes and hoods shouting “Jews will not replace us.” A parade of hate outside the Charlottesville synagogue, climaxing in the deliberate striking down of a female Jewish protester. Who would have believed that in 2019 we would witness the largest antisemitic attack in the history of the United States? Where 11 Jews who came to worship peacefully, in a synagogue just like ours, were gunned down and murdered mercilessly. This, followed just a few months later by another synagogue shooting in Poway, California.”

Rabbi Grover. Rabbi Jarrod R. Grover serves as the spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Toronto, Canada

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WHERE ATTACKS ON JEWS OCCUR, ATTACKS ON BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS FOLLOW

Attacks on Jews are rarely done in a vacuum. Often the perpetrators share an equally anti-Christian world view. The target is not just the Jewish people but the God-centered world view itself. In WW2 Hitler sought to replace Judeo-Christian values with paganism and dark rituals. The facts prove this is the case as well today.

- In Egypt, where the media and government authorities permit antisemitism to run rampant, we see persecution of the Coptic Orthodox Church; many churches have been destroyed
- In Iran, where leaders have a history of denying the Holocaust and calling for the destruction of the state of Israel, we witness the

- imprisonment and torture of converts to Christianity
- Where antisemitism persists in Belarus, other minority faiths are denied registration and Baptist churches are raided by the government
- In America a White Nationalist opened fire at an African American church in Charleston, South Carolina in June 2015

Christians around the world are under attack and Jews are like a canary in the mine, when it is distressed, the miners know their lives are in danger as well. In this way we can see that attacks on Jews are a signal that the Christian community will be threatened and attacked.

Discussion Question

Suppose you are at dinner with friends and one of them casually says *"I don't understand why people are so concerned with antisemitism. After all, more people die in traffic accidents in New York in a month than were killed in the Pittsburgh attack. It just seems media sensationalism."*

How would you respond?

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AS CHRISTIANS DO WE HAVE A SPECIAL DUTY TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM?

God does not want us to be a bystander when the weak are attacked and in recent decades a growing number of Christians are seeing a need to come to the defence of Jewish people and Israel. This defence comes from a solid biblical foundation. In fact, without the Jewish people we would have no biblical foundation at all!

God has used the Jewish people to deliver His Word to mankind,

"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly, because to them were committed the oracles of God." **Romans 3:1-2**

We have a Scriptural mandate to defend the Jewish people from attacks.

Romans 11:17-18 tells us clearly that we as Christians have been grafted into the olive tree which is God's covenants with Israel, our root.

"If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you."

Also,

"if the first fruit is holy the lump is also holy, and if the root is holy so are the branches" **Romans 11:16**

It doesn't make sense for God to tell us this in the New Testament if we should abandon our root. The health of the tree depends upon its roots.

Further in Romans 15:27 we read regarding the early Church's assistance to the poor Jews in Jerusalem,

"They [Gentiles] were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to

share with them their material blessings."

Is Paul, the Jewish Apostle to the Gentiles, expressing the commitment Christians should have to the Jewish people?

I think so!

It was Paul's custom as he ministered to Gentiles throughout the Roman world to take an offering to deliver to the poor in Jerusalem.

"Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation"

Acts 24:17

As much as we have been blessed by sharing in the line of covenants God made with the people of Israel, we clearly have a duty of reciprocation. This can take many forms, praying for the security of Israel, making sure its people are free from starvation as Paul did in Jerusalem; but, it also means coming to their aid when antisemitism strikes.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you." **Psalms 122:6.**

Jerusalem is the only city the Bible commands us to pray for.

Perhaps the clearest instruction to the Gentiles in this regard is in **Genesis 12:3,**

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

These words have never been more important than now!

I don't believe God makes a promise and then abandons it, just as I do not believe he offers us salvation only to withdraw His loving hand. I believe this instruction is echoed and confirmed in Romans. God clearly tells us we must concern ourselves with the welfare of the Jewish people and not remain idle when they are under attack. Our silence can make us complicit when we ought to be proactive in our opposition to antisemitism.

We must also remember our shared values with the Jewish people. Israel is the only nation in the Middle East where a Christian can vote



in peace, and can worship without the threat of the bombings or killings which hang over the heads of Christians elsewhere in the Middle East. Liberty, personal responsibility and the free market are values which exist in only one place in the Middle East.

Discussion Question

Do we have the same duty to protect the Jewish people as the Gentile Christians at the time of Apostle Paul?

If Christians in the twenty-first century still “owe” a debt to the Jewish people, what would it be or entail?

While antisemites will often use myths and lies as a cover, when one digs beneath the surface you find something entirely irrational.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF ANTISEMITISM?

In the pamphlet “Antisemite and Jew”, French scholar Jean Paul Sartre tells the story of a student who chose to party rather than study. He never applied himself in class and simply expected achievement and self worth be given to him. When looking at the results of the class’ exams, this student realized he had come in dead last with a failing grade. Rather than owning his failure and resolving to work harder this student loudly read the names of every student on the grade list he suspected to have been Jewish. “If it weren’t for these Hebrews getting in the way” he proudly and defiantly stated, “I would have been in the top of the class.”

It can be tempting to see antisemitism simply as a mistaken opinion, which we can combat simply by debating; but it is fundamentally different from other kinds of opinion. It is a need in the soul of an antisemite to attack others for their own weak character.

It is something of a cliché to say that antisemitism happens when people need someone to take the blame for their own failings, but history demonstrates this again and again. After Germany’s defeat in World War 1 and the humiliation of the Versailles Treaty and the sudden shock of the Great Depression, Hitler was able to rally Germany by blaming the calamity on the Jews. Further into this study you will see how this was the case in Russia as well. In blaming the Jews for their own faults and shortcomings, the antisemite devalues the lives of others; they say “Rather than taking a hard look at myself, praying to God and changing my direction, I choose to blame and harm you instead.”

This becomes a self-fulfilling cycle. As the antisemite’s life goes

downhill they blame the Jewish people. The lack of self improvement causes their lives to slide further, causing their antisemitism to become more intense. After a period of time, this explodes in threats and violence.

Facts no longer matter at that point. The antisemite ceases to ask uncomfortable questions about themselves, and instead begins constructing conspiracies to explain their failures. An antisemite with a failing business might blame Jewish financiers, despite never dealing with one, as in their mind the banks and Capitalism becomes a vast "Jewish plot". Or, they may blame their workforce, seeing them as instruments of a communist plot, in their mind seeing Jews as plotters against the free market. The glaring contradictions will not matter; the Jewish people will be whatever the antisemite needs them to be. They are depersonalized entirely; their actions are behind anything the antisemite does not like. To quote Sartre again, "If the Jews did not exist, the antisemite would need to invent them."

While antisemites will often use myths and lies as a cover, when one digs beneath the surface you find something entirely irrational. In the end they will describe their reaction to Jewish people in terms of a physical sickness or revulsion. Accusations of the Jews being physically dirty, sexually corrupt or bestial in nature will be spoken with increasing eagerness.

Again we can see this played out historically. To the Nazis, Jews were not a religious group but a race, and they blamed Jewish people for both capitalism and communism, manufacturing a Jewish conspiracy when the need emerged, but underneath the cacophony of contradicting lies was a single consistent message. Jews are emotionally and physically disgusting to the antisemite.

In Joseph Goebbles (Hitler's head of propaganda), major film production "The Eternal Jew", they are portrayed as rats.



Nazi propaganda paper Der Sturmer compares the Jews to a parasite, responsible for both Capitalism and Communism.

"Where rats appear, they bring ruin by destroying mankind's goods and food sources. In this way, they spread disease, plague, leprosy, typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, and so on. They are cunning, cowardly and cruel and are found mostly in large packs. Among the animals, they represent the rudiment of an insidious, underground destruction – just like the Jews among human beings."

"The Jew is instinctively interested in everything abnormal and depraved."

"Therein lies the dreadful danger, for even these 'civilized' Jews remain foreign bodies in the organism of their hosts, no matter how much their outward appearance may correspond to that of their hosts."

This is not the language of theology or reason. It is simply the emotional foundation of cruel antisemites, which is then justified using the facts they choose to use to construct elaborate lies.

Even though the Jews of Germany had been there for centuries and its great artists like Mahler and scientists like Einstein were Jewish, this kind of emotionally charged language was used to attack them effectively.

"Over the millennia Jews have been accused of everything from causing plagues, natural disasters controlling world events, starting wars and even orchestrating the Holocaust, their own attempted extermination. Sadly, a world ignorant of history appears to be marching towards catastrophe where many reflexively make the Jews the illogical scapegoat. It is only through the actions of honest, principled people of good will that the relentless evil of antisemitism can be fought. This means you and me."

Dr. Steve ES Samuel – DARA
(Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism)

Discussion Question

If you are at work and hear, *"I have nothing against the Jews, but they really only care about themselves and put themselves ahead of everyone else. A few years ago I was passed up for a promotion, the guy who got the job was a Jew and I'll bet the boss was a Jew too."*

Would you trust the sincerity of what they say?

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*Antisemitism is something you can explain
but you cannot find a reason for it.
It's a spiritual sickness*

WHAT ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF ANTISEMITISM?

I've been asked many times "Why do people hate Jews?"

Antisemitism is something you can explain but you cannot find a reason for it. It's a spiritual sickness. It's a very difficult question. I think it requires a spiritual answer. So far we have looked at the psychology of antisemitism however I believe it is not simply a sickness of the mind but an act of spiritual warfare against God's Plan as well and history shows this.

There has been a continuous thread through human history in an attempt to thwart God's plan - and it involves the Jewish people. That thread is as present today as it has ever been. Satan has been



attempting to deny the Jewish people their biblical role in order to disrupt God's plan here on Earth. If you look at the greatest (worst!) antisemites in history - Pharaoh, the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin - each denied God and attempted to replace His plan with a worldview of their own. That is not an accident but shows how much antisemitism is linked to the spiritual and cultural warfare against God.

You can see this in the early pages of the Bible. The struggle for the soul of mankind between God and Satan,

"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."

Genesis 3:15

Throughout the book of Genesis this battle plays out with a great deal of conflict: expulsion from the Garden, murder in the first family, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel.

The Old Testament is not just a story of darkness and God's judgement however, it is a story of heroism and righteousness. Everything begins to change as God makes His Covenants with the Jewish people.

"And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan"

Genesis 11:31

God enters in to a Covenant with Abraham and His Descendants

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

As well, Abraham's son Isaac is told,

"Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." **Genesis 26:3-4**

The Covenant is expressed once again, this time to Abraham's grandson Jacob;

"I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **Genesis 28:13-14**

The promise continues. At the end of his life Jacob pronounces his last words to his sons. One of his sons, in particular, seems to receive special attention:

"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes." **Genesis 49:8**

Thus the privilege of providing Israel's sovereign fell to the House of Judah. This came to fruition beginning with the reign of David. Here we have a Covenant regarding a royal dynasty which, as Christians, we regard as pointing to Jesus:

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." **2 Samuel 7:12-13**

God's mission of the Jewish people is described as follows,

"I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My

salvation to the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 49:6

The Jewish people were a living example of God’s truth, of monotheism in a time of rampant idol worship, testifying to the value of all human life when infant sacrifice was common and compassion to the widows and orphans when most societies were extremely cruel.

While God’s hand was on the Jewish people, even while in exile in Egypt, Satan did his best to extinguish them. Pharaoh attempted to wipe them out entirely, saying to the midwives of Egypt,

The spiritually corrupt nature of antisemitism is most clearly seen during the victorious festival of Hanukkah.

“When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him.” Exodus 1:16

When the Jews experienced another Exile, this time in pagan Persia, there was another attempt to exterminate them,

“If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed.”

Esther 3:9

The spiritually corrupt nature of antisemitism is most clearly seen during the victorious festival of Hanukkah. Antiochus Epiphanies was a Greek King who led a vicious persecution against God’s people. He did his best to force the Jews to reject their scriptures and lead the decadent lifestyle of the Greeks. He had a pig slaughtered in the Temple as part of a dedication to Jupiter. God granted Israel a great military victory and a miracle in the Temple.

His plans are not easily defeated!

Through scripture He describes Israel as *“the apple of His eye”*

Deuteronomy 32:10, Israel is affirmed as *“His treasured possession”*

Deuteronomy 7:6 and as *“God’s firstborn Son.” Exodus 4:22.*



He has preserved them through the centuries.

Still God's plan continued and the line of David was protected allowing Christ to be born as He was ordained to. It should not surprise us therefore that the first thing in the New Testament we learn about Jesus, the very first verse is:

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." **Matthew 1:1**

Jesus arrived on the scene as part of God's Covenants with Israel. We see this as well in the gospel of Luke. Prior to his birth the angel announced to Mary:

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:32-33

The attempt to thwart God's plan continues:

"Then Herod... was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men." **Matthew 2:16**

Jesus could only come in to this world within the context of the

Covenants God made with the people of Israel. His ministry, with only rare exception, was not to the Gentiles but to the people of Israel. We know that God's Plan will finally be fulfilled when Jesus returns to the Jews as King in Jerusalem.

"Behold, the day of the Lord is coming... will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... And fight against those nations... And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... living waters shall flow from Jerusalem... And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." **Zechariah 14**

Satan has been hard at work to prevent this. The horrors of the Holocaust made the urgency for the rebirth of the Jewish State more compelling than ever before. Just three years after World War 2 ended the world witnessed Israel's independence. Many Jews considered the rebirth of the Jewish state as a symbol of redemption. Israel made it possible to ensure the continued existence of the Jewish people.

I don't believe this timing was accidental, what are the odds that the worst antisemitism the world had ever seen would happen just a few years before the tiny nation of Israel would rise up and defeat the eight Arab armies arrayed against them?

God's final prophetic work requires the Jewish people to return to their land in fulfillment of God's covenantal promises. When we encounter the modern rabidly anti-Israel antisemitism, which will be



discussed later, we need to see it in its overall historic and spiritual context.

Jacob Emden, a leading German rabbi born in 1697 said: ***“By my life, the survival of the Jewish people in this exile is a greater miracle than the Splitting of the Sea”.***

Despite this satanic plot against the Jews and Israel, in the end God's work will be fulfilled!

“The Jews gave the world the 10 Commandments, the presentation to mankind of laws that forbid inhumane and destructive behaviour: murder, theft, falsehood etc. Humans do not want to hear these restrictions on their impulses. The answer is to eliminate the messenger, the Jews.”

Dr. Steve ES Samuel – DARA

Discussion Question

Have Christians done an adequate job in including Israel and the Jewish people in our understanding of the Gospel?

How should the fact that Israel and the Jewish people plays such a prominent role in God's prophetic timetable impact our understanding of our relationship to them?



HOW OUGHT WE CONFRONT ANTISEMITISM?

If antisemitism is basically irrational and fundamentally spiritual how can it be combated effectively? When speaking up as a Bible believing Christian, here is what to keep in mind.

The antisemite will often test the waters and if they are not challenged will build from there. When in a group setting antisemites, either in person or online, might begin with a mildly antisemitic joke. An anecdote about a “cheap” Jew they know or commentary on a piece of negative international news which they attribute to Jews with little evidence. They are looking to see whether anyone in the group agrees. If they see agreement or silence they will continue escalating the behaviour into more blunt territory. In this way silence or a “I don’t want to spoil the evening” attitude simply enables them to bring others to their way of thinking, it makes their antisemitism socially acceptable making it harder to challenge as they become more open.

In Law Enforcement there is something called the “Broken Windows” theory of crime. If a nice community has a broken window in the side of a building it will signal to some criminals it is not well looked after by the neighborhood or police. This causes further vandalism, more broken windows which in turn becomes a beacon for increased criminal activity until it becomes a serious problem at which point it becomes harder to resolve. As such many police departments focus on an immediate and clear response, even to minor crimes, as a deterrent to increased gang activity.

In a similar vein it is important to put an immediate break on antisemitism, even when it seems small with a proportionate response. If someone tells a joke about the Jewish people, let them know you don’t find it funny. If they insinuate they are money grubbing, give an example of Jewish charity (more on this further on). If they insist they were passed over for promotion by Jewish favouritism, explain to them and others present you find it more likely they simply did not work as hard as the one promoted. Do not allow antisemitism into the environment and it will not have the chance to fester.

It is also important to understand that you are often speaking to an audience. Antisemites are masters of acting reasonable and concerned for society, even while motivated by hateful selfishness. It can be difficult to challenge their various debating tricks so switch to a more personal level and refuse to play their game. If someone says “I do not hate Jews but facts are facts” point to how real people are harmed by antisemitism. We respond far more to stories than the chosen half truths of bigots so be clear and respond with statements like “I have a Jewish friend who was a victim of an attack, I find this sort of talk rude and completely distasteful” and you will reach listeners more effectively than an antisemite.

It is also important to recognize and refute antisemitic stereotypes, which we will spend the rest of this study doing.

Discussion Question

You are at a friend's home with others and one of them says “I went to trade in my old car but the guy jewed me out of a thousand dollars at least” When called out he says “Oh come on I was just venting, why are you so uptight?”

How would you respond?

If someone were to tell you “Sure antisemitism is spreading, but Christians should not care about it specifically or pay any special attention to Jews threatened around the globe and in our own country. After all, don't we have our own problems?”

How would you respond?

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"Although the crucifixion of Jesus was carried out by the Romans, historically many Christians have accused the Jews, who were powerless subjects of Rome, of deicide, the killing of God. To knowledgeable Christians, Jesus' mission on earth was to suffer and die for the sins of mankind. It was God's plan. If the Jews were complicit in the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans, were they not, like the Romans and the entire sinful world, part of Heaven's blueprint? If Jesus had not died on the cross would he have been resurrected. Would he have been divine? Certainly from a Christian viewpoint there is no basis for the hatred of Jews or Judaism."

Dr. Steve ES Samuel – DARA

"THE JEWS KILLED CHRIST"

On Easter Sunday, 1903 a mob descended on the Jews of Kishinev. 50,000 were murdered. Meir Weissman, a humble grocer blind in one eye from birth begged for his life. His good eye was gouged out, "You will never again look upon a Christian" said his assailant.

"Christian antisemitism" sounds like an oxymoron. Before we begin this section we need to define some terms. Most of us would define Christian as an individual who follows Christ. A person who seeks to understand the life of Jesus and imitate it. In this section when we say Christian we mean more of a cultural, "In Name Only" sense. We are using the term broadly as individuals or nations who bore the name of Christ.

The oldest and least coherent assault on Jews is the claim that, collectively, they killed Christ. Despite making as much sense as "The Americans killed John F Kennedy", this myth and the legacy of "Christian" antisemitism has done untold harm to Jews over the centuries and has sullied the name of Christ in whose name these crimes were committed.

Now it might be tempting to see this sentiment justified in the Bible, after all **Matthew 27:25** reads,

"When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!' All the people answered, 'His blood is on us and on our children!'"

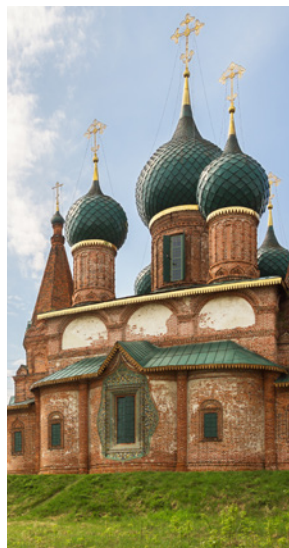
Centuries later this became known as the Blood Curse upon the Jewish people, a biblical justification to torment them. But such an interpretation made little sense at the time. The early community of Jesus followers was virtually entirely Jewish, they worshiped in Jewish synagogues, spoke Hebrew and they were considered a sect within Judaism. Even the Apostle Paul continued to interact with the Jewish community as a Jew, albeit as one also following Jesus. The passage only makes sense when interpreted as referring only to the Jews present as Jesus' conviction.

As well, it is clear within the gospel that no man could take his life which Jesus gave up willingly,

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." **John 10:18**

The first major charge of "Deicide", killing Christ, was in the fourth century, by church leader John Chrysostom. He had been losing some of his parishioners to Christians who preferred to go to local synagogues to connect with Christianity's Jewish roots and because rabbis were often better educated than Christian clergy. Rather than reaching out to the Jewish community to build bridges or improve his skills as a pastor, he went on a rabid antisemitic attack. Increasing discord and ill will rather than correct his own short comings as a church leader.

He wrote the *Adversus Judaeos*, a series of attacks on the Jews and Christians who saw



Temple architectural ensemble in Korovniki, Yaroslavl, Russia. Church of St. John Chrysostom. Credit:Yulia-B

a value in understanding their Jewish roots. “For the Crime of Deicide, no Expiation is Possible” he wrote. In so writing he demonstrated a basic ignorance of the facts. Despite even the Nicene Creed making it clear that Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate and the fact that Jesus surrounded himself almost exclusively with Jews this charge became a key weapon in Christian antisemitism.

This kind of thinking allowed corrupt clergy and rulers to spread lies to redirect rage against them whenever it was convenient to do so. Some of the most common false accusations were “Blood Libel”, the charge Jewish people would abduct Christian children to use their blood in the making of Sabbath bread and “Host Desecration”, the idea that they would break into churches to destroy the communion bread.

Unfortunately lies do not exist in a vacuum. These lies led to the persecution and deaths of thousands of Jews throughout Europe.

Discussion Question

Given what we have covered thus far about how Christians should relate to the Jewish people and the origins of antisemitism, how would you respond if you overheard someone during Easter services say “It’s good that Christ died for our sins but the Jews were the ones who killed Christ, they rejected, tortured and killed him. That’s why I don’t trust Jews.”

Even though individual Evangelicals do not believe they were born a Christian, does that make us disconnected from what was done in the past in the name of Christ? Do we bare some responsibility to have knowledge of Church history especially where that history has interacted with Jewish people?

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“THE JEWS CONTROL THE MEDIA, BANKS AND GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR OWN AGENDA”

Antisemites need to find excuses and rationalizations for their hatred, regardless of how absurd their claims are. Nowhere is this more clear than in the most common antisemitic charge, that all Jews knowingly participate in a conspiracy to usurp Gentile nations. Now on the face of it this “theory” can be dismissed, it makes no sense to say that the Jews, spread across all continents, all languages and all belief systems would be communicating, perhaps in a secret sign language or complicated series of whistles, their nefarious Master Plan to one another.

But let’s look a bit closer at this idea so you can combat it when it comes up.

“It says that Jews are the secret hand controlling the world. Wily manipulators of power. Betrayers of the white race. Internationalists. Investment bankers. Hollywood liberals. Neo-Conservatives. New Yorkers. In Charlottesville, the conspiracy was that Jews were trying to replace the white race.”

Rabbi Jerrod Grover

The idea of the Global Jewish Conspiracy comes from late nineteenth century Russia. The country was ruled by a brutal and sadistic Tsar whose feudalism was centuries behind the times. The peasants were suffering from starvation and physical abuse from their Lords, the city workers

were underpaid and forced to work full days under severe conditions and the intellectuals were losing patience with a self absorbed Tsar as British, French and Americans lived their lives in freedom. The Tsar had only three choices - reform his Empire thus losing the Pharaoh like power he enjoyed, perish in a Revolution as had happened in France - or find someone else for the people to blame for his own failings as Ruler.

The choice was simple and he had his secret police write the famous forgery, The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, supposedly a leaked document illustrating the Jewish plot for world conquest. Each of Russia's internal problems could be laid at the feet of the Jewish people, keeping the Tsar safe. Rebellious writers across the Empire were told that each of their hopes for liberation, reformed monarchy, socialism or liberty were in fact all just Jewish plots meant to ensnare them. Russians who wanted territorial expansion more quickly than the Tsar could afford and those who wanted a lasting peace on the troubled continent were told that both were the plots of Jewish bankers. Threats to feudalism like tradesmen who wanted unions or business owners who wanted reduced taxes were told, again, that these dreams which defied the Tsar's need for feudalism were also Jewish plots.

No matter what the trouble in Russia, no matter what change could threaten the Tsar, a Jewish person was to blame. In this way objections to his obscene abuses of power could be safely redirected to Jews living in squalid conditions in the Pale of Settlement (Russia's territory in central and eastern Europe) or those tiny number of Jewish students permitted into the universities.

With the doors of "normal life" physically and professionally closed to them the Jewish people entered one of the only professions open to them, banking.

The lie had lethal effects. Across Russia any time conditions grew so severe the people could not handle it they attacked the target the Tsar provided. Tens of thousands of Jews perished in Pogroms of the 1880s through to World War One, anti Jewish riots in which homes were invaded, children beaten, wives assaulted and fathers murdered. These orgies of violence were sometimes organized by the State but often happened on their own.

"Well if the shofar is supposed to be a wake-up call, we've got to make sure that this year we have woken up to the threat of anti-semitism. It is real, it is out there, it is open, it is also disguised, and it is dangerous. The vandalism, the violence, the attacks, the cartoons. It is all very real. Let's remember - we have a history. We know what hatred looks like. We know the signs. We recognize them. Panic may not be the right reaction, but neither is apathy."
Rabbi Jerrod Grover

Discussion Question

You are speaking to an old friend when they say, *"You know, the Jews run the world it seems, I wonder what they are running it for? Whatever it is it can't be good. I mean, that's just my opinion, and opinions don't do anyone harm"*

Based on what you have learned so far, how would you respond?

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"JEWS ARE CHEAP AND SELF OBSESSED"



The Fourth Lateran Council Jews forced to wear Judenhut or horned skullcap to distinguish them from others.

I was meeting with a Christian leader who also works for a company owned by a Jewish person. I asked how his employer was and he replied "Oh he is just a typical Jew" meaning hard nosed and money grubbing.



An ancient Jewish Ghetto in Rome.

A common charge against the Jewish people has to do with their recently acquired success. To antisemites it is a sign of a vast collusion of "Jewish parasites" against Gentile host nations. "Jews not only have always loved and hoarded wealth, they use it only for their own ends and give nothing back". Let's examine that myth.

The Jewish people were not always known as successful bankers, in ancient Israel they were far more likely to be farmers or soldiers than merchants. For example, in the time of Herod the Great merchant cities like Gaza were pagan. During Roman rule, Jews were prized as

soldiers, their resistance to the Greeks and Romans earned respect and they were highly sought after for the legions. The stereotype that Jews were good merchants or bankers simply was not the case, from David to Jesus. They were known for their piety and martial perseverance not for their skills with finance.

That changed when they were expelled from the Holy Land and settled in Europe. A number of laws were passed against the Jews, barring them from normal life. They were forced into ghettos, walled sections of the major cities in which they were strongly discouraged and at times forbidden to leave. These restrictions also fell on which vocations Jews were allowed to pursue. In the Medieval world Guilds (like modern trade unions granted special rights and monopolies) resented competition from Jewish tradesmen and petitioned kings to bar them from the marketplace reducing Jewish competition. Jews were also forbidden from owning land in many parts of Europe and barred from farming. With the doors of "normal life" physically and professionally closed to them the Jewish people entered one of the only professions open to them, banking.

Church Law at the time forbade Christians from earning interest on a loan, it was considered usury. Christian dogma taught that charging interest on a loan would doom a Christian to Hell, but since Jewish people were condemned to Hell for eternity anyway, the Church and Kings felt comfortable having them back and grow their treasuries. As such Jewish people moved into the profession, finding a living in one of the few niches it was legal for them to do so. Now Medieval economics was too primitive to understand that charging interest on a loan is a reliable way to gain additional funds for additional investment and quickly they were able to prosper, becoming "Court Jews", personal bankers to Lords and Kings across Europe. Fortunes were made but were often quickly lost as Kings who refused to pay their debts could simply stoke hatred against Jews and have their debts canceled.

Ironically it was Church antisemitism and God's blessing that propelled the Jewish people to success, not any kind of plot or conspiracy. But how do they use that wealth? Is it true they simply hoard it for themselves?

Let's look at a desperate story from the American Revolutionary War to see how wealthy Jewish people tend to behave when their nation is in crises. In August 1781 George Washington had cornered British General Cornwallis at the coastal city of Yorktown, Virginia. One way or another American freedom would be decided there. Washington seemed to have the upper hand but in reality he was on the brink of disaster. His troops were malnourished, their clothes tattered by the elements, their guns without ammunition and their mood on the brink of mutiny. He needed vital supplies, quickly so he gave a simple order, "Send for Haym Salomon".

A Revolutionary Patriot, Salomon was the Jewish banker who used his international connections to secure French aid for the war effort, securing millions in loans. Now his aid was needed urgently and he didn't hesitate. Salomon secured the amount Washington needed by selling bills of exchange at great personal risk. Washington, his men now fed, clothed and equipped properly, pursued the battle and won the war for freedom. Salomon's use of his wealth for America did not end there. He kept an eye on the veterans who fought in the war and made sure they were cared for in their old age. One such example was Bodo Otto, a senior surgeon in the revolutionary army. He had abandoned his practice in Reading Pennsylvania to fight but now had nowhere to go back to having abandoned his practice to serve in the war. Salomon provided for Bodo and rebuilt his practice so he could continue saving lives as a civilian.

Far from being miserly or self absorbed with their wealth, overwhelmingly Jewish people give proportionately more than other religious groups. It is true part of the reason is their wealth but even Jews in the lower income bracket give more than those of other religious groups.

The reason is simple, in the Bible God mandates such giving. The Bible does not command charity, instead it demands "Tzedekah", Righteousness. It's a Hebrew word difficult to translate in to English. It stresses that all which we have ultimately belongs to God and as such must be used not only for our own enjoyment but for the good of all. Jesus would have gone his whole life without the casual, half-hearted idea of charity so many of us have in the modern world but instead with a solid, Biblical understanding of Righteousness.

Discussion Question

Have you ever been guilty of thinking that Jews are cheap or miserly?

Is it possible to have a very positive image of Jesus but a negative image of Jews in general?

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"Jews and the Jewish Promised homeland, Israel, receive an immensely disproportionate amount of attention and vilification, considering that Jews number less than 15 million in a world of 8 billion." – Dr ES Samuel

"I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST JEWS BUT ISRAEL IS AN OPPRESSIVE OCCUPYING APARTHEID STATE!"

"But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there" 2

Chronicles 6:6

Given the centrality of Israel in both the Old and New Testaments, I believe antisemitism is a clear sign of rejecting God. That is why antisemitism follows us in the 21st Century as an extreme and irrational hatred of Israel today. While antisemitism is a hatred of the Jewish religion, ethnicity and race, anti-Zionism is a rejection of a nation. While antisemitism states that Jews have no right to exist as a people, anti-Zionism states that Israel has no right to exist as a nation.



Everyone knows that Jerusalem is special. Did you know there is a greater concentration of the world's news media in Jerusalem than anywhere else in the world but Washington, DC? The whole world is focused on this city and this land. The conflict between Israel and the surrounding Muslim states is one of the most tense and complex in the world. While there is a lot of room for differences of opinion regarding specific Israeli actions, antisemites will often use that room to peddle new kinds of antisemitic conspiracy theories. But how can we discern between honest opinion and hatred of the Jewish people? Former Soviet dissident and Israeli politician Natan Sharansky found a way to spot what he referred to as "3D antisemitism", attempts to Delegitimize or Demonize Israel, through the use of Double Standards.

Today, the most dangerous antisemites might be those who want to make the world Judenstaatrein, free of a Jewish state."

The former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Per Ahlmark had this to say about the changing nature of antisemitism.

"Compared to most previous anti-Jewish outbreaks, this new antisemitism is often less directed against individual Jews. It attacks primarily the collective Jews, the state of Israel and then such attacks start a chain reaction of assaults on individual Jews and Jewish institutions. In the past the most dangerous anti-Semites were those who wanted to make the world judenrein, free of Jews. Today, the most dangerous antisemites might be those who want to make the world Judenstaatrein, free of a Jewish state."

Delegitimization is the process of denying the right of Jews to a Homeland while affirming the rights of others to a national home. Following World War 1, American President Woodrow Wilson famously declared that each nationality should have the right to self determination rather than facing foreign rule. After suffering in the Holocaust who could say the Jews should not have the right to safety and security? Who could deny them the right to safe harbour?

"Were I to sum up the Basel Congress in a word — which I shall guard against pronouncing publicly — it would be this: At Basel, I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will know it." – Theodor Herzl, September 3 1897

Fifty-one years later Israel came in to being. He was off by only a few months.

Herzl was the founder of modern Zionism. He could not have foreseen the ferocity of 2/3 of Europe's Jews being wiped out. But then to the world's amazement, in May, 1948, Israel sprang back to life!

Yet antisemites will often apply double standards stating that while other nationalities should have the right to a homeland, this right should not be extended to the Jews.

"If Algeria introduced a [United Nations] resolution declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions." - Abba Eban, Israeli diplomat and politician

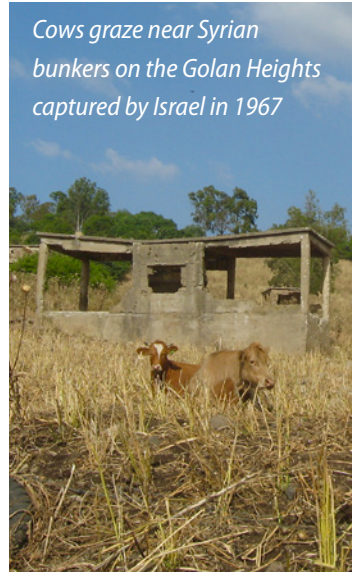
“None of us is aware of any army that takes such extensive measures as did the I.D.F. last summer to protect the lives of the civilian population.” – Colonel Richard Justin Kemp CBE, Britain referring to Israeli “Operation Strong Cliff” the 2014 Gaza war

Often they will do this by denying Jewish history such as the Holocaust or the ties Jews have with the Land of Israel in clear contradiction of the facts. They will also say that Israel should not exist because it was “colonized” by the Jewish people while defending the sovereignty of other nations like Canada and the United States which were also founded by those seeking refuge from persecution.

Demonization refers to the way in which Israel is singled out and attacked as especially evil, in a similar manner individual Jews were in the past. Through double standards, Israel is singled out vastly disproportionately and targeted for condemnations and sanctions despite the actions of other nations, often neighboring nations being far more severe. The charges against Israel are often bizarre and the results of an antisemite’s twisted imagination. The Syrian government recently produced and aired the Protocols of the Elders of Zion on television. Accusations of draining Gentile blood, poisoning wells and other such accusations abound.

There are many places where this battle is being waged. On college campuses groups like BDS (boycott, divest, sanction) are aggressively spreading misinformation against Israel. BDS was founded as Israel withdrew from the

Cows graze near Syrian bunkers on the Golan Heights captured by Israel in 1967



Gaza Strip in 2005. Co-founded by Omar Barghouti who opposed a two state solution and instead called for a right of return to Palestinians who had fled fighting in 1948 as well as their descendants. By 2005 they numbered in the millions. It was absolutely impossible for Israel to absorb that many Palestinians and still remain both Jewish and democratic. In the UN Israel is subjected to intense attacks, from 2006 to 2016 the UN Human Rights Council issued over half of its criticisms at Israel more than all other Middle Eastern nations combined. UNESCO, the UN department which monitors world heritage sites has repeatedly denied Jewish history in Jerusalem.

“We need to be careful not to get caught in the web of divisions that the characterizes today’s political landscape. Many of us, without a doubt, know of the overt anti-semitism in the British Labour Party. We’re also familiar with the distorted views of some US congress members. And we’ve have already concluded that that will be the fate of the left in Canada.” – Rabbi Jerrod Grover

Discussion Question

If someone were to say “I have nothing against the Jews, but Israel frankly has no right to exist, its crimes are especially severe” How would you reply?

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THE HOLOCAUST IS OVERBLOWN!

"Reports of the Holocaust have been exaggerated or fabricated as part of a Jewish propaganda effort to create sympathy."

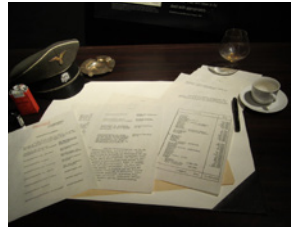
It might seem bizarre that someone can seriously fall victim to Denialist lies, the sad reality is many Americans are not familiar with the Holocaust and can fall victim to Denialists.

According to The Guardian,

"Nearly two-thirds of US young adults are unaware that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

According to a survey of American adults 18-39 years of age, 23% said they believed the Holocaust was a myth had been exaggerated or they weren't sure. Because we know antisemitism inevitably leads to genocide when carried to its logical conclusions, antisemites need to downplay or deny the Holocaust as much as possible to make it more more palatable to those they try to corrupt. They show the same kind of casual dishonesty regarding the Holocaust as they do in the rest of their arguments but it is important we as Christians recognize the most common lies to better counter them.

Much as antisemites peddling lies about the Jewish people being Christ Killers claimed to simply be involved in the humble research of theology, antisemites involved in Holocaust denial claim to simply be involved in the historic debate on the Holocaust. Historians look at the facts and evidence of the Holocaust, the death camps, the records



Every year over a Million People visit Anne Frank House making it one of Holland's leading Tourist Destinations

and so on, and ask how it was such an atrocity came about, as well as how the machinery of death functioned. Holocaust deniers will dress themselves up to be similar to the historians. Some emphasize their limited or unrelated academic backgrounds, they form organizations with names like "Institute for Historical Review" and label their gatherings with innocuous names such as "Media Mischief, Anti-Semitism, and Moral Clarity."

It is important to remember however that this attempt at legitimacy is only a thin veneer on top of hate and dishonesty. Groups like the Institute for Historical Review are staffed by people sympathetic to Hitler and open Neo-Nazis like David Duke are routine guests at their meetings. The task Holocaust deniers have set out for themselves is not to explain the facts of history but simply to deny them.

A common tactic of Holocaust deniers is to make the claim that the physical evidence of the atrocities were falsified by the Jewish people after the war. For example, historians following the liberation of Auschwitz interviewed some of the SS guards assigned to the crematoria, according to the Jewish Virtual Library,

"Hans Stark, also a member of the camp's Gestapo unit, gave evidence at the Auschwitz-Birkenau trial in Frankfurt in 1963. He testified that gassings were carried out 'in a room in the small crematorium which had been prepared for this purpose.' Stark recalled that the roof above the gas chamber room had openings, through which Zyklon-B was poured in granular form. On at least one occasion, Stark himself poured the Zyklon-B in the holes. Stark recalled that the Zyklon-B 'down over the people as it was being poured in. They then started to cry out terribly for they now knew what was happening to them... After a few minutes there was silence. After some time had passed, it may have been ten or fifteen minutes, the gas chamber was opened. The dead lay higgledy-piggledy all over the place. It was a dreadful sight.'

As far as Poland's Jews were concerned, Hitler had won the war. Many wondered whether the Jewish people would have a future, let alone a country to find safety in.

In an effort to deny the reality of the gas chambers however Holocaust denier David Duke spread the accusation that the chamber was faked, and built three years after the war for the absurd reason for boosting tourism to the region.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the Holocaust deniers will still tell open lies. When reading or hearing someone deny the Holocaust a cursory glance at history will prove their claims to be false.

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A SURVIVOR'S STORY

In May 1944, ghettos began to form, also curfews were imposed, which turned me into the neighbourhood errand girl. Providing services to our neighbours such as picking up emergency supplies (mainly from the pharmacy) as needed. With blond hair and green eyes, I passed as an Aryan (Hitler's term for the "Master Race"), and with my fearless spirit, I was happy to oblige.

On June 10 we were rounded up in the city square - women, children and the elderly. It was just my mother, myself and my three siblings aged nine, seven and one. Father had been taken to a forced labour camp two years prior. We had no clue about his whereabouts.

We embarked on a journey of several days. The cattle car they sent us in was meant for 30 people, but they crammed seventy of us in. No food, no water, no facilities. The only air shaft – a tiny shuttered opening near the top of the car that could be reached by people climbing on top of one another, literally speaking. At each sporadic stop, the dead were discarded not unlike some garbage.

Kind towns people from the area offered us some water which the 'kind hearted' gendarmes with a smirk on their faces spilled to the ground, depriving us of the yearned for liquid.

Our daily portion was a stale piece of bread and a black liquid, so called coffee. At noon, our 'meal' was brought from outside, consisting of a warm liquid, supposedly soup. We lined up with a plate in hand, waiting for our turn until the food ran out. Then we had to wait until the evening 'meal' was served. And thus we lived out the duration of the war, and were liberated in April 1945.

Along the way heading back to our so called home, by sheer miracle, we were reunited with our father, and arrived home amidst jeering neighbours taunting; 'More have returned than have left!'

In 1948-9 we fled from the Russian regime, and after years as refugees in Vienna we waited for a country to accept us. In 1953 we landed in Canada, where till today (due to rising antisemitism) we felt that there is no place on earth where we would rather be.

The Holocaust experience has taught me the importance and the pleasure of giving. Giving to the needy. My experience at Leket Israel, The National Food Bank, where years ago we celebrated my grandson's Bar Mitzva, provided the opportunity to harvest during the leak season, where our group of 12 filled tons of containers. By far not enough, but better than nothing. Today, I am dedicated to educating, students about Israel's legal Rights.

Goldi Steiner – Holocaust Survivor, Founder/Co-Chair: *Israel's Legal Rights*



*One third of Israel's Holocaust Survivors,
over 90,000 people, struggle with poverty
and hunger...*

WITH LEKET ISRAEL, CHRISTIANS LIKE YOU CAN HELP A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

You've read this guide and learned how to understand and fight antisemitism because you know Christians need to support the Jewish people.

How can a Christian support a Survivor of the Holocaust?

Many Christians see the Holocaust as just a regrettable event in history but for many Survivors it is still a fact of their lives, casting a shadow even now seventy years after. Elderly Jews are now experiencing the results of deprivations from their childhood.

One third of Israel's Holocaust Survivors, over 90,000 people live well under the poverty line according to the NY Daily News,

"Years of malnutrition, hard physical labour, repeated beatings, frostbite and mental anguish take their toll and catch up with you in old age. Survivors have severe degenerative joint disease, severe osteoporosis causing spinal and hip fractures, dental, vision and hearing problems that require many resources to help preserve dignity and independence."

Many are also revisiting a loneliness more severe than when they were children in the death camps, according to Jerusalem Post,



"Loneliness has some basic side effects – quality of life, perception of happiness and physical manifestations – and that is significant. Even if their families are in contact [with elderly Holocaust survivors] and come to visit them once or twice a week for a few hours at a time, they are often still spending most of the day on their own."

"Helping the poor is a wonderful deed anywhere in the world. Especially in Israel, it gains an additional dimension: Helping Israelis in need is hands-on support for this one and only Jewish state. A state which is such a necessary safe haven for Jews and Jewesses as well as Israelis of other confessions, after the Shoah and in current times, when antisemitism is on the rise again. As Federal Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against antisemitism, a big part of my work focuses on memory politics and cultures of commemoration, as well as awareness raising with regard to actual, living Jewish people and their stories. Few people know about the often meager living conditions of Holocaust survivors even in Israel. Thus, supporting them as well as other Israelis in need targets biased images as well as fulfilling basic needs of people who are just like us in all ways important."

Felix Klein

Dr. Felix Klein is German Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Anti-Semitism

Sources

<https://www.nydailynews.com/fl-jrcol-oped0330-20160329-story.html>

<https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/No-longer-alone-Tackling-loneliness-among-Holocaust-survivors-539652>



How Leket Israel Solves Hunger and Loneliness

Our work is inspired by the commandment of “Leket”, which means to glean, found in Deuteronomy 24. This commandment allowed the poor of Israel to pick from the fields for food, it was this commandment which caused Boaz to allow Ruth to glean from the fields for herself and Naomi. We follow this commandment in a modern way, using trucks and warehouses but with the same goal of making sure food from the fields makes it to those in need.

Leket Israel began as a hot meal rescue operation. Every day our staff and volunteers collect thousands of hot meals from hotels, restaurants, corporate cafeterias, Israeli Defense Forces bases, and catered events for delivery to Israel’s most needy.

Because of support from Christians like you, food of the highest quality from Israeli Army bases and corporate headquarters is delivered for free to Holocaust survivors and struggling families.

Over the years Leket Israel expanded into the rescue of agricultural produce and this year the organization will glean over 37 million pounds of fresh produce from 500 farms to benefit Israel’s needy.

All the food rescued Leket rescues is delivered to 200 non profit organizations working with 175,000 of the country’s poor. These includes food banks, homeless shelters, senior citizens facilities and half way houses.

Who We Help

“The food I receive is a blessing from Heaven.”

Lillian – Holocaust Survivor

“We all sit together to eat - truly a homey feeling.”

Miriam – Holocaust Survivor

“I am so happy to see the work that Leket Israel does.”

Estie – Holocaust Survivor

I believe that we at Leket Israel are a living example of perhaps the most



exciting thing that God is doing in the world today. Bringing Christians and Jews together for His purposes for Israel. For Christian who believes that God expects you to be a blessing to the people of Israel, when you support Leket Israel you are supporting a Jewish charity and your donation goes directly to Israelis in need.

Feeding Everyone in Need

Sometimes I am asked, "what about those who are not Jewish?"

God expects all of us to treat everyone with respect.

The Bible admonished ancient Israel to treat the stranger in their midst with dignity. That is exactly what Leket Israel does!

Leket employs many Israeli Arabs. This has transformed their lives as in many cases it is the first job they have ever had. It has transformed their families and communities.

Leket Israel also provides food to African refugees from Sudan, Eritrea and elsewhere.

God has blessed Leket Israel with phenomenal growth, but there is so much more work that needs to be done.

Ray MacDonald

Director of Christian Connections, Leket Israel



CONCLUSION

As Christians we must be clear, we must be unequivocal that antisemitism is unacceptable. As people of faith we must send a message to the enemies of the Jewish people that they have allies around the world! Jewish victims of antisemitism will tell you that its the silence of onlookers that is the hardest to bare.

We must be active in our homes in educating our children, on our university campuses, at work with our colleagues, and yes even in our churches. We must stand for truth and justice.

We need not fear. We are living in prophetic times. God is in control! The nation of Israel is reborn!

*"He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense
To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem." Isaiah 8:14*



Christian friends of
Leket Israel
The National Food Bank