



NEVER AGAIN: CHRISTIAN ANTI-SEMITISM



By Carol Rushton

Common sense would dictate that after the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, that the countries of Europe would be more sensitive to the revival of anti-Semitism throughout the continent, however small. Regrettably, this has not been the case.

The recent rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic acts throughout Europe has caused enough concern that it has received the attention of the European Parliament.

According to a report published by the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organisation, there was a peak in anti-Semitic acts around the world in 2021, at more than 10 incidents per day. Roughly 50% of those acts were committed in Europe . . . The most-commonly recorded anti-Semitic acts were vandalism, wrecking, graffitiing, desecration of graves and propaganda. Physical and verbal aggression accounted for one third of the acts reported. The number of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories expounded on social media has also increased, and anti-Semitic symbols have also been used in demonstrations against restrictive health measures . . . What is the Commission's strategy for putting a stop to anti-Semitic acts everywhere in

Europe? (Daniel Buda, "Worrying Rise in anti-Semitic acts in Europe," May 18, 2022, Parliamentary Question E-001839/2022 European Parliament).

The worrying increase in anti-Semitism and the turmoil caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in more European Jews immigrating to Israel. The Lord always uses anti-Semitism around the world to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament that in the latter days, God will draw Jews from every corner of the globe to their historic homeland.

However, there is a very important topic that I was not able to address in the first part of this series on anti-Semitism, and that is Christian anti-Semitism.

Christian Anti-Semitism

Although I didn't have the opportunity to know Jews growing up as a child in rural Oklahoma, I was fortunate to have parents who recognized that the modern State of Israel is a fulfillment of end-times Bible prophecy. They were very strong in their support for Israel and very staunch in their condemnation of anything and anyone who would undermine and attack the only Jewish country in the world. My parents often referred to the passage in Genesis 12:1-3 in which God promised Abraham that not only would his descendants be a great blessing to the entire world, He would bless those that bless his posterity and curse those who cursed them.

My parents were great admirers of the Israeli military and their ability to defend this tiny country surrounded by enemies who wanted nothing more to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, winning wars miraculously against great odds. My parents were in awe of Israel military heroes like Ariel Sharon, talking about them in the same breath as George Washington and Patrick Henry. I saw my father warn others against anti-Semitism, including having to break off personal and professional relationships with others because of their anti-Israel stance.

I remember when I was teenager sitting at our kitchen table, talking with my mother. Somehow the conversation led to Israel and the Jews, with my mother describing all the wonderful things that the Lord had in store for Israel and Jews and how He was going to bless Israel during the Millennium. She was so passionate about this that I wondered if the Lord had anything left over for us poor Christians!

This love and admiration for Israel and Jews led my father to begin leading Christian tour groups to Israel and the Middle East in the 1970s. I was fortunate to go on two of these tours. Going to Israel had a very profound effect on my life, as it did many others who went. It is not an understatement to say that going to Israel literally changed my life and led me to live in Israel for most of the 1990s. Considering the way we were raised, it is amazing that my other two sisters did not join me at some point in Israel!

I was not exposed to anti-Semitism until I became a young adult, sadly by two men who claimed to be Christians. I was beginning to learn that not all Christians and not all Americans held the same views and felt the same way I did about Israel and the Jews.

When I went to live in Israel during the 1990s, I was very naïve about the thousands of years of persecution Jews had suffered at the hands of Gentiles and unfortunately Christians, especially in the years leading up to World War II. I had read *The Diary of Anne Frank* when I was a young girl, and of course had read about the Holocaust, but so much of my knowledge about the persecution of Jews was incomplete.

One of my Israeli girlfriends educated me about some of the scurrilous charges made against Jews over the years, including that Jews would kill Christian children and use their blood to make matza bread for Passover. I have never been able to figure that one out. Wouldn't the matza bread be red from the blood instead of white if that were actually true? It seemed very stupid and evil to me.

I also was a first-hand observer of the hatred that most Arabs and Muslims have for Israel and Jews: the terrorist attacks, knifings, bombings, shootings, murders, the constant threats by Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups; the celebrations Arabs would have after every successful terrorist attack that killed or maimed Jews, honking their cars and passing out candy and pieces of cake in the streets. Jewish schools in Israel have to be surrounded with barbed-wire with at least one guard at the gate, checking every student and teacher, every purse and backpack before Israeli children and teachers can start their school day. Arab schools don't have to take these precautions. Even in their own country, Jews are not safe.

After I returned from Israel, I attended a church for several years in Oklahoma at which one of the members criticized me every time I said something positive about Israel and Jews. This woman eventually said that Israel is a country just like any other country, and the Jews are a people just like other people. I was shocked when I heard this. The official position of evangelical Christians is that the modern State of Israel is one of the most important fulfilled signs of end-time Bible prophecy, that the Jews are still God's chosen people, and God has a unique plan and purpose for Israel and the Jews which has not been completely fulfilled but will be during the 1,000-year Millennium.



Esther and the Persian King

My father eventually asked me to write an article on Christian anti-Semitism. This was to be a response to Texe Marrs' twisted version of the Book of Esther. Marrs, who claimed to be an evangelical Christian, was also known as a very strident anti-Semite. He taught that Esther was a Jewish siren who deliberately seduced the king in cahoots with her Uncle Mordecai to take over the Persian Empire. He had the gall to denounce the way Esther dressed when she went in to the king to

plead for the lives of her people. I guess Marrs missed the parts where Haman schemed to destroy the Jews, and Esther asked Mordecai to fast before she risked her life.

One of my points in the article was to ask, if you were going to have a meeting with the president of the United States, what would you wear? Would you dress in old, ripped jeans, a dirty tee shirt, and tennis shoes? Or would you look through your closet and find the best outfit you had and made sure you looked your very best for this important meeting? If you didn't have anything suitable to wear for the president of the United States, wouldn't you go out and buy new clothes, shoes, whatever you needed to meet with our president or any government official for that matter?

The king was surrounded by guards who held swords; they would not have hesitated to end Esther's life if the king did not hold out his scepter in acceptance. Esther knew that going in to see the king without being summoned could mean her immediate death. Not just her life, but the lives of her people were at stake. It was more than fitting and appropriate for her to look her best in order to have any hope of winning the king's favor and have any chance of saving the Jews from complete genocide.

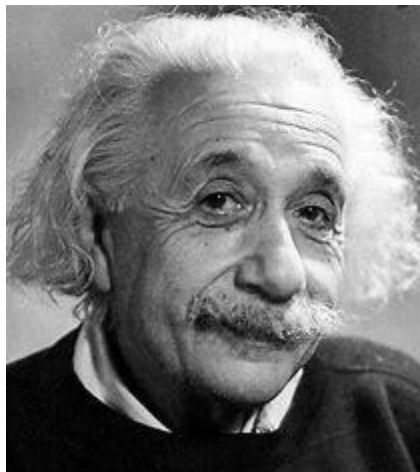
Esther is the only book in the Bible in which God's name is not explicitly stated. Bible scholars overwhelmingly interpret this book as God's invisible hand, moving through the events in the lives of Esther and Mordecai to punish the wicked and save the righteous. You have to have a very, very twisted mind to reach the conclusion that Marrs had of this book. Marrs should have also been cognizant of the fact that if the Jews had been wiped out by Haman, then the Messiah could never have been born. Apparently, Marrs forgot that Jesus Christ had to be a Jew!

Esther is not the only book in the Bible that has been used to promote Christian anti-Semitism. *The Complete Jewish Study Bible* points out that some have used the biblical account of the birth of Jacob and Esau and the interpretation of Jacob's name as "supplanter" as a basis for Christian anti-Semitism.

Referring to the third patriarch so negatively lays the groundwork for future anti-Semitism . . . God made a covenant with Rivkah [Rebecca], saying that "the older will serve the younger," a message she passed on to her son, Ya'akov [Jacob]. God sovereignly placed this zeal for the birthright and his father's blessing in the young boy. Moreover, that Ya'akov was hanging on to the heel of Esav [Esau] should not be seen as sinful. It would have been natural for him to hold on to his "older" brother, sensing that he was now leaving the womb where they both had so comfortably developed. Add to this the fact that the expression that sounds so critical of Ya'akov is better translated, "May God be at your heels," meaning, "May God be your rear guard." The negative attitude toward Ya'akov came from Esav, who in telling his father what happened said that Ya'akov "has supplanted me these two times; he took away my birthright, and here, now he has taken away my blessing!" (Gen. 27:36). Naturally, this older brother was bitter about what God had ordained and how he, himself, had allowed this to happen. Now he was blaming his brother. But the Bible does not criticize Ya'akov for desiring both the birthright and the blessing, and neither should others. This should never have been used to promote anti-Semitism ("Ya'akov and Christian Anti-Semitism," *The Complete Jewish Study Bible*, pg. 35).

Looking back, I am so blessed to have been born into a family who, while Christians, also had a deep love and admiration for Israel and the Jewish people. The example my parents set is a great gift, one that I am realizing is increasingly rare in our world. I honestly believe that my background gives me a unique perspective on being able to discuss the alarming and dangerous rise of anti-Semitism.

The Importance of Jews to the World



Albert Einstein

Most of the world seems oblivious to the great contributions of Jews to the world, in the fields of science, religion, culture, and especially Western Civilization. This is what the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has to say about the impact of Jews and Judaism to Christianity.

Judaism has played a significant role in the development of Western culture because of its unique relationship with Christianity, the dominant religious force in the West. Although the Christian church drew from other sources as well, its retention of the sacred Scriptures of the synagogue (the Old Testament) as an integral part of its Bible - a decision sharply debated in the 2nd century CE - was crucial. Not only was the development of its ideas and doctrines deeply influenced, but it also received an ethical dynamism that constantly overcame an inclination to withdraw into worldwide-denying isolation.

...St. Jerome translated the Hebrew Bible into Latin with the aid of Jewish scholars; the exegetical work of the scholars of the monastery of St. Victor in the 12th century borrowed heavily from Jewish scholars; and the biblical commentary of Rashi (Solomon ben Isaac of Troyes) was an important source for Martin Luther” (“The role of Judaism in Western culture and civilization,” Britannica, www.britannica.com).

Jews have made an overwhelming difference to our world in the fields of science. It is truly astonishing how many Jews are responsible for medical and scientific discoveries that we now take for granted. Below is just a partial list from “Contributions of Jews to the Modern World” at www.fundacionhispanojudia.org:

- Cancer and hepatitis - Gertrude B. Elion, Bruce Beutler
- Discovery of vitamins - Kazimierz Funk
- Treatment for leukemia - Paul Ehrlich
- Discovery of cholesterol - Konrad Emil Bloch

- Blood groups - Karl Landsteiner
- Structure of DNA - Rosalind Franklin
- Antibiotics, polio vaccines - Jonas Salk
- Quantum physics - Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Wolfgang Ernst Pauli, John von Neumann
- Neurology and neurophysiology - Otto Lowei, Abraham Low, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Karl Pribram
- Nanotechnology - Richard Feynman
- Gasoline fueled car - Sigfried Marcus
- First carburetor - Arthur Eichengrun
- Artificial cardiac pacemaker and cardiac defibrillator - Paul Zoll
- Calculators, ballpoint pens - Laszlo Biro
- Radar - Henrich Hertz
- Ammonia synthesis - essential for the creation of fertilizers and color photography - Gabriel Lippmann
- Creation of the first reactors for NASA rockets - Theodore von Karman
- Duracell batteries - Samuel Rubin
- First videotape - Charles Ginsburg

If you ever wore Levi Jeans, you have Levi Strauss to thank for those. Stopped at a Dunkin' Donuts for a quick coffee and pastries before work? William Rosenberg came up with this successful franchise. Fashion and cosmetic lines, department stores, and other companies - Max Factor, Estee Lauder, Revlon, Faberge, Helena Rubinstein, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Mattel, Sears, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Starbucks - all founded by Jews.

Haim Salomon is a forgotten figure but he played a prominent role in the American War of Independence from Great Britain in the 1770s and early 1780s, loaning and also raising money for the war effort. He also loaned money to our prominent revolutionaries such as James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. Yet he is rarely remembered today. Without Salomon, there might not have been a United States of America.

According to the American Jewish Archives, over 500,000 Jews served in the U.S. military during World War II, including Jewish generals and admirals. Irving Berlin composed *God Bless America* one of our most beloved, patriot songs. Berlin and Ira and George Gershwin wrote countless songs and musicals that have become part of The Great American Songbook.

There is not enough room in this article to list the many Jewish singers, actors, and entertainers that have shaped our culture. Mel Brooks, Lenny Bruce, Tony Curtis, his daughter Jamie Lee Curtis, Sid Caesar, Eddie Fisher and his daughters Carrie Fisher and Joely Fisher, Barbara Streisand, Ed Ames, Jack Klugman, Martin Landau, Leonard Nimoy, Jerry Lewis, Carl Reiner, Mel Torme, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara, Walter Mathau, Rodney Dangerfield, Walter Klemperer, Tom Bosley, Abe Vigoda, Shelley Winters, Rod Serling, Don Rickles, Peter Faulk, Danny Kaye, Lee Strasberg, Jack Benny, Billy Wilder, Otto Preminger, Steven Spielberg, Felix Mendelssohn, Groucho Marx, George Burns, Eddie Cantor, Lauren Bacall, Beatrice Arthur, Ed Asner, Madeline Kahn, Goldie Hawn, her daughter Kate Hudson, Billy Joel, Kevin Kline, Peggy Lipton, Bette Midler, Gilda Radner, Jane Seymour, Paula Abdul, David Duchovny, Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Adam Sandler, Daniel Radcliffe, Gwyneth Paltrow, Robert Downey Jr., Robby Benson, Bob Saget, Gene Simmons, Lesley

Ann Warren, Henry Winkler, Michael Landon, Dustin Hoffman, Mel Blanc, Kirk Douglas, Larry King, Jackie Mason, George M. Cohen - this is just a very small list of Jews who have made us laugh, cry, think, sing, inspire, encourage. Whatever you think of some of these singers, actors, entertainers, composers, and conductors, our world would be very different without them. As you can see there is no end to this list!

The Complete Jewish Study Bible puts the amazing contributions and influence of Jews into proper perspective.

In light of the fact that Jews comprise less than 0.2 percent of the world's population, the sheer enormity of their contributions staggers the mind. Of the Nobel Prize winners from 1901 to 2007, 22 percent were Jewish. Likewise, of the 750 Nobel Prize winners through 2007, Jews were awarded 13 of all laureates in literature, 26 percent in physics, 41 percent in economics, 2 percent in medicine, and 19 percent in chemistry and for humanitarian/peace efforts . . . Clearly, apart from the greatest gift of Messiah, God has kept his promise to bless his world in countless other ways through his chosen people, Isra'el ("Jewish Contributions to the World," *The Complete Jewish Study Bible*, pg. 39).

What You Can Do

The terrifying rise of anti-Semitism is something that Christian should be very concerned about. The natural question at this point is, *what can we do?*

First, if you don't know very much about anti-Semitism or Israel in general, the Jewish Virtual Library is a good place to start. It is a great resource of facts and history, not only about anti-Semitism, but Israel and Jewish history, including what happened right before, during, and after Israel's war for independence. You can find it at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.

Educate yourself about anti-Semitism. Read books and articles, plenty of which can be found on the internet now. Find a local messianic Jewish synagogue in your area and connect with them. Most messianic synagogues have a membership of both Jew and Gentile believers with a messianic Jewish rabbi, and you will learn a lot about Jews and Israel there as well.

Pray for Israel and the Jews. Pray for our government and political leaders on a local, state, and national level. Pray that they will be supportive of the State of Israel, especially when they are under attack from terrorist groups in the Middle East. Find out the views of your representatives concerning Israel and make sure they understand that one of the things you consider when voting for someone is their views on Israel and anti-Semitism. Support pro-Israel political candidates when they run for office. Give to charities and non-profit organizations that support Israel.

If you are in a church or denomination that is involved in the BDS Movement or your pastors and church leaders attack Israel or refuse to support Israel, get out of that church! Find a church that supports the right of Jews to their historic lands.

President Donald Trump was the most pro-Israel president in the history of the United States! President Trump was the only American president to:

- Recognize Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the Jews
- Move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

- Recognize the Golan Heights as part of Israeli sovereignty
- Broker the history Abraham Accords, peace agreements with Israel and Bahrain and UAE

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration is actively working to reverse the wonderful pro-Israel legacy of President Trump.

Zechariah prophesied that in the last days before Jesus' return that the entire world will turn against Israel and the Jews.

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zechariah 12:2-3).

We are literally seeing the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy as the entire world, including, sadly, the United States, becomes more and more anti-Israel and anti-Semitic every day. In this critical time in history, it is more important than ever before that we support Israel, Jews, and their God-given right to live in peace in the land God gave them thousands of years ago.

God promised Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee . . ." My parents always said that one of the reasons God has blessed our country was because of our pro-Israel stand, and if America ever turned her back on Israel and the Jews, then God would turn His back on us. God has always blessed countries that have welcomed and supported Jews, and He has judged countries that have attacked Jews and the modern State of Israel.

Perhaps God is judging our country as the United States elects more local and federal officials and leaders who are blatant in their hatred for Israel and the Jews. We need to repent of many things, and anti-Semitism is one of them. May we do so before it is too late!



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