

ARE YOU SURPRISED BY THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM?

Why is there such a rise in hatred against Israel? To a Jew, it seems that the whole world has turned against his people. Since the dawn of the history of the people of Israel, from the time of the Exodus from Egypt, the nation was again and again under the threat of annihilation. A century has not yet passed since the Holocaust, and anti-Semitism surfaces again at an increasing rate.



Artist: Zinovii Tolkathev

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING?

What causes anti-Semitism and why is it that today, in an unprecedented manner, numerous countries conspire against the Jews? Is it jealousy? Ignorance? Are the Jews again becoming the scapegoat of the ills of man? The roots of anti-Semitism go much deeper than what could be perceived superficially.

Few realize that this phenomenon dates to the creation of the nation of Israel. Its causes and

consequences have been incessantly spoken of by the writers of the Jewish people's own sacred book, the Tanach. The reasons for anti-Semitism are intrinsically linked to the purpose and the *raison-d'être* of the Jew. How is this all tied together? The Tanach throws much light on this phenomenon. Before one delves into the reasons for anti-Semitism, the writings of the Tanach are unanimous on this:

NO NATIONS, NO INDIVIDUAL, EVER, WILL BE ABLE TO ANNIHILATE THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God said:
Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name): If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Jeremiah 31:35,36

There will never be an annihilation of the Jews. Those who intend such an evil find themselves fighting against God Himself, the Creator of Israel, of whom the prophet Zechariah said,
"For he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."

Zechariah 2:8

These constant persecutions and pogroms have left the Jewish nation small in number. Have you ever noticed that the Jewish people who amount to some 15 million worldwide are of a

much lesser number than those nations who are as old as they are, such as the Chinese or the East Indians?

WHY IS GOD ALLOWING IT?

While there is protection, there will also be persecution. The Tanach establishes the purpose for which the Jews have been chosen and the consequences and risks of being chosen. God chose a people to bear His name, to carry His laws and statutes, thereby becoming a nation of priests for the Gentile nations of the world. God plainly spelled out His purpose for the Jewish nation penning this through Moses:

"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Exodus 19:6

Eight hundred years later, we read again that God called this people Israel to serve Him,

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles."

Isaiah 42:6

With this responsibility came many warnings as well. Today, Jews are experiencing the outcome of these unheeded warnings which culminated in the present worldwide Diaspora which began 2600 years ago with the destruction of the 1st Temple, and then saw, some 2000 years ago, the destruction of the 2nd Temple. It was at that time that the name Israel was changed to Palestine.

Once Israel became a nation and before her first entrance into the land of Israel, Moses prophesied the Diaspora and even the pogroms and holocausts. We find these prophecies in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26.

Read what God said through Moses:

"And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you...And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul."

Deuteronomy 28: 37,65

WHY SUCH A RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM TODAY?

The prophets of the Tanach speak of such a rise prior to the establishment of the Messianic Era.

"And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was A nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the Book".

Daniel 12:1

"Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it."

Jeremiah 30:7

At that time the land of Israel, and especially Jerusalem will be the focus of the world, as we are already starting to see today.

WHERE IS GOD WHEN THE JEW SUFFERS?

As a loving Father, God does not arbitrarily chasten, and when He chastens, He shares the pain His children suffer. In the Scriptures it says,

“In all their affliction, He was afflicted.”
Isaiah 63:9

Twenty-five hundred years ago, the prophet Zechariah said:

“And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”
Zechariah 12:3 & 9

While we might not fully understand Israel’s chastening right now, she, as a nation will be justified and made righteous.

WHAT CAN WE DO AT THIS TIME?

Only the Messiah will be able to deliver His people from the oppression of anti-Semitism. The Messiah? What does the Messiah have to do with all of this? In the following prophecy of Zechariah 12, it speaks of the Messiah coming to deliver Israel from its foes. But note what it says

in verse 10; that this Messiah **already** came and was **already** pierced.

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son.”
Zechariah 12:10

Has the Jewish Messiah come already a first time?

...ONE WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED?

The word *pierced* פָּרַץ, is a word used when someone has been pierced to death.

WHEN DID THE MESSIAH COME? WHEN DID WE PIERCE HIM?

The Tanach gives us so many prophecies to help us recognize the Messiah. These prophecies were recognized by the ancient rabbis in the Talmud, the Targum and other major writings.

Isaiah the prophet in his 53rd chapter explains the reason for the Jewish Messiah’s first coming.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:5

Before the Messiah comes to deliver His people from the evil of anti-Semitism, the same

Messiah came to die, and to atone for their sins and the sins of the whole world.

WHO IS THE JEWISH MESSIAH?

The Book of Proverbs asks you these questions:

1. Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
2. Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
3. Who has bound the waters in a garment?
4. Who has established all the ends of the earth?
5. What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?

Proverbs 30:4

The answer to the first four questions is *God*. In the fifth question we are asked if we know His Son's name? Do you know Him? His name is Yeshua. He is not what most of Church history has portrayed Him to be. He is what the Jewish prophets have testified Him to be. The Tanach explains it all.

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RISING ANTI-SEMITISM

WHY?
WHEN
Will it end?



J. Korczak’s sculpture
Yad Vashem Memorial, Israel