

The Chosen People



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Be Honest and Kind to Jewish People
America's Antisemitic Attitudes
Salvation through the Redeemer



ANTISEMITISM
A THREAT
TO THE GOSPEL



BE HONEST AND KIND TO JEWISH PEOPLE

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from New York City. I thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We are constantly amazed at the good things the Lord is doing among His chosen people!

This issue of the newsletter is all about one of my least favorite topics—*antisemitism*—and how it has driven Jewish people away from the Gospel. But as hard as it is to face this painful reality, there are valuable lessons to be learned that can make us more prayerful and effective ambassadors of the life-giving message of the Gospel.

Let me explain by telling you a story about a conversation I had with my grandparents. My father and I were visiting his parents at their apartment in Coney Island, Brooklyn. While we were enjoying bowls of chicken soup and matzoh balls, we were engaged in a deep theological discussion. That table was the scene of many discussions like these. My dear grandparents were trying to figure out why I believed in Jesus and not Moses or Marx.

I finally had the chance to get a word in and asked a question. I said, “Dad does not believe in God and, like Grandpa, he never attends synagogue yet he still says that he is Jewish. I, on the other hand, believe in the God of our fathers, learned Hebrew, married a Jewish girl and believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Which one of us is the better Jew?” My grandmother did not hesitate to respond. “Your father,” she replied. And I daresay she spoke for the majority of the Jewish community!

What was she really saying? My grandmother, like most Jewish people, understood that being Jewish is more a matter of community identity than religious faith and that a person could remain part of the community as long as certain lines were not crossed. However, if you did cross one of these unseen lines, you could easily cross right out of being Jewish altogether.

In the Jewish mindset, *believing in Jesus is one of those lines*. Once you cross over, there is no return, save the renunciation of your faith.

Unbelief in Jesus Is Part of Jewish Identity

As a minority in a predominantly Christian culture, Jewish unbelief in Jesus has become a part of our upbringing, especially in America. Jewish people like myself are raised knowing that Jesus is not for the Jews.

Therefore, your Jewish friends will be resistant to even listening to the Gospel because they fear both family and community rejection. Theological objections to Jesus are secondary! And unfortunately, evangelism is viewed as a threat and even as a form of antisemitism.

Yet, we know the Lord is able to open the hearts of Jewish people. I know this is possible from first-hand

experience, as I stepped over that line in November 1970 and discovered, to my great surprise, that I was still Jewish!

The Jewish Community Views Christianity as a Threat

The Jewish community generally views Christianity as a threat because of the long history of “Christian” antisemitism. You will find out more about this in this newsletter as well as learn of the opportunities true believers have to combat this truly evil presence.

In his excellent book, *Faith or Fear* (1997), Eliot Abrams, a senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), argues that Jewish people should not fear Christians, as most evangelicals support Israel and have a concern for more traditional values. He writes,

Evangelical activities are not inherently anti-Semitic; any more than Jewish efforts to convert Christians are inherently the mark of bigotry or a deprecation of Christianity. What determines whether evangelizing is anti-Semitic is what is underlying it—and Christian attitudes toward Judaism have changed enormously in the last few decades (Abrams, p. 58-59).

And yet, the average Jewish person still feels threatened by Christianity.

This is easy to understand when viewed in light of the troubled history of Jewish-Christian relations. Solomon Grayzel, a Jewish historian with an acrid pen, writes, “The history of Judaism and Christianity is written in blood and punctuated in violence.”

Even in our secular culture, there is still an ingrained fear among Jewish people that Christianity will dominate the public sector, that the religious freedoms of the Jews will be curtailed, that the line between church and state will become blurred, and Jews will ultimately be persecuted, as was often the case in Medieval Europe.

Somehow the Church has to show the Jewish community that Jesus is

“Jewish-friendly” and that Christian involvement in the public sector does not guarantee future anguish for the Jews. In fact, there is a greater similarity of values true Christians hold in common with the Jewish community—love of fellow man, the preservation of basic freedoms and even a concern for the preservation of the Jewish people. These bridges of understanding will create a climate for a more powerful and effective witness by Christians for the Lord.

Abrams addresses this issue as well, and his comments give me some hope that there might be some improvement in the days ahead. He writes,

It is unreasonable for Jews to demand of Christians that they abandon a central tenet of their faith, which calls for evangelizing—for spreading the gospel to the world. Indeed, from the Jewish perspective, Christian evangelizing has brought knowledge of the Hebrew Bible and Ten Commandments to millions never reached by Judaism. But, the rejection of Jews and Judaism that usually accompanied efforts to spread the gospel has meant disaster for the Jews. If today, Christian churches have abandoned their traditional contempt for Judaism, perhaps the wish to spread the gospel will not be attended in the future by episodes of anti-Semitic talk and activities.

What Can You Do?

The most effective way for you to remain faithful to your calling as a witness to Jewish people for the Gospel is to be honest and kind, helping your Jewish friends understand that it is your duty as a believer to share the Good News with them and that it flows from a heart of love, not out of religious contempt or superiority. You can also introduce Jewish friends who are interested in Jesus to another Messianic Jew, or take them to visit a Messianic congregation so that they understand from the start that embracing Jesus will not deprive them of their Jewish identity.



Holocaust Memorial Tour

We are getting ready for what I hope will be a very moving and meaningful trip in June. A number of Chosen People Ministries’ friends, prayer partners and supporters will be traveling to Germany and Poland on our first Chosen People Ministries Holocaust Memorial Tour. The purpose for the trip goes far beyond education and information. It is also intended to help those who support and pray for Chosen People Ministries to better understand the background behind the reasons why most Jewish people do not believe in Jesus. I am hoping that those who travel with us will better understand the resistance our missionaries and staff workers around the world face every day in their ministry among Jewish people.

By the way, although we only have a few slots left, please feel free to call 212-223-2252 and speak to Jennifer to see if there is still room for you to go on the trip. I know that it is going to be life-changing because my wife and I did the same trip a couple of years ago. The trip made a huge impact on our lives—and I know it would do the same for you.

Enjoy the newsletter and remember to pray for Your Mission to the Jewish People!

In Him,

Mitch



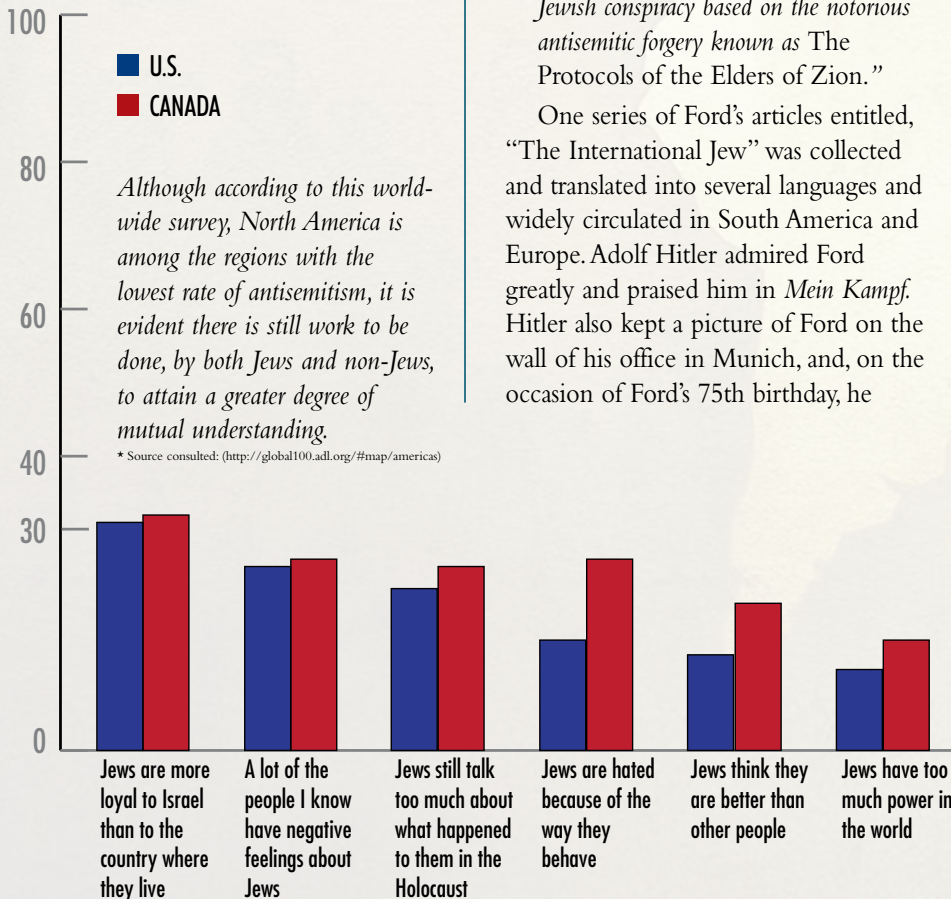
Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

America's Antisemitic Attitudes Then and Now

North America has long been cherished as a haven by those of many nations who have groaned under oppression in their native lands. Jewish people are high on the list of those who have benefited by the religious freedom and economic opportunity that have characterized North American society, particularly in the United States. They, in turn, have poured their energy and gifts into helping to shape the society and culture of North American life.

It is a sad fact that the United States has had its fair share of antisemitic organizations and personalities. In the decade leading up to World War II, there were over 100 antisemitic organizations in America, including the German American Bund and others with such exotic names as the Silver Shirts, the White Knights of the Camellia, and the so-called Christian Front. The two figures described here, however, were especially well-known and, therefore particularly destructive.

Percentage of North Americans Who Agree with the Statements Below about Jews

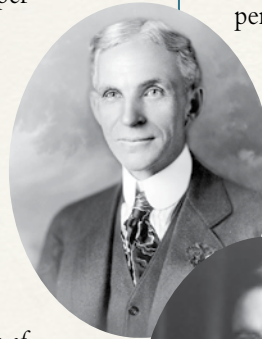


The Shameful Side of Henry Ford's Legacy

Henry Ford (1863-1947) was not only the man that revolutionized the automobile industry through mass production and the "\$5 workday" for his factory workers. He was also a virulent antisemite. Shortly after World War I, he acquired the weekly newspaper *The Dearborn Independent*, in which he published regular antisemitic rants. Ford was deeply opposed to World War I, and he accused "German-Jewish bankers" of instigating the war for profit. Ford also perpetuated the fabricated antisemitic falsehood called *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which outlined a Jewish plan for world domination. As noted Jewish historian Jonathan D. Sarna writes,

"For ninety-one straight issues beginning on May 22, 1920, Ford's weekly newspaper, the Dearborn Independent, purported to describe an international Jewish conspiracy based on the notorious antisemitic forgery known as The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

One series of Ford's articles entitled, "The International Jew" was collected and translated into several languages and widely circulated in South America and Europe. Adolf Hitler admired Ford greatly and praised him in *Mein Kampf*. Hitler also kept a picture of Ford on the wall of his office in Munich, and, on the occasion of Ford's 75th birthday, he



awarded Ford the highest honor Germany could bestow on a foreigner—the Grand Cross of the German Eagle.

Although Ford eventually apologized for his statements, his hateful depictions of "The International Jew" provided fuel for other Jew-haters that emerged during the years leading up to World War II and greatly hindered efforts to render aid to persecuted European Jewry.

Father Coughlin – The Poisonous Priest

The Great Depression was a time of struggle and increasing isolation. Antisemitism in America was on the rise in the 1930s amid the unfriendly influences of a prevailing anti-immigration sentiment, an increasing anxiety about the rise of Communism and the accompanying suspicion of Jews in general for their supposed Communist leanings.

In that decade, another voice would travel over the radio waves with its message of unreasoning antisemitism. Father Charles Coughlin (1891-1979), a Catholic priest based in Detroit who was among the first to see the vast possibilities of mass media, created a weekly radio program that reached an audience as large as twelve million. A staunch foe of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, Coughlin took a page from Henry Ford and first railed against international financiers (code for Jews) and later openly denounced highly placed Jews in Roosevelt's administration. Only ten days after *Kristallnacht*, the calamity of destruction levelled against the German Jews, their synagogues and businesses on November 9-10, 1938, Coughlin's radio broadcast openly blamed the Jews.

The outbreak of World War II finally shut off Father Coughlin's stream of antisemitic poison. Widely seen by then as a firm Nazi sympathizer, it was behind-the-scenes pressure exerted by

the Roosevelt Administration that finally forced him off the air.

Sources consulted:

American Judaism: A History by Jonathan D. Sarna
Antisemitism in America by Leonard Dinnerstein

Antisemitism Is Still with Us!

On April 11, 1944, Anne Frank wrote in her diary,

*“Who has made us Jews different from all other people? Who has allowed us to suffer so terribly up until now? It is God who has made us as we are, but it will be God, too, who will raise us up again.”*¹

The term “antisemitism” was coined in 1879 by Wilhelm Marr, a German political activist who founded the League of Anti-Semites to counter the influence of Jewish people in German society. His hatred of Jews was founded primarily on racial, rather than religious, grounds. Today, antisemitism describes anyone who hates the Jewish people and seeks their harm on the basis of their Jewish identity. It has taken the form of religious persecution of the Jewish people (the Inquisitions, pogroms, etc.), as well as non-religious and more racially based oppression. It has resulted in the confinement of Jewish people in ghettos, and the imposition of limitations regarding education, jobs, the owning of personal property, and much more.

Ultimately, this racial and government-based antisemitism resulted in the Holocaust.

Antisemitism in America Today

Antisemitism, unfortunately, also has a long history in the United States. In some instances, hatred of the Jewish people was a cultural value exported to the U.S. from Europe. Jewish people who immigrated to America were not immune from the well-developed European antisemitism that had begun to embed itself in American society, which took the form of discriminatory quotas for immigration, the workplace, and in academic institutions. In 1938, a Gallup poll determined that 50% of those responding to a broad survey admitted to having negative views of Jews.

In spite of this, America has, by and large, been friendly towards the Jewish people. Jews have flourished in America as nowhere else in what many Jewish people coined, “The Golden Land.” However, recent years have seen a slight, albeit alarming, rise in antisemitism.

Political campaign slogans, such as “With Jews We Lose,” recently became the mantra for one candidate of the extremist and racist White Guard Party, which “seeks to show White people the facts regarding the Jewish role in America’s decline as well as highlight the destructive effects that multiculturalism, diversity, and political correctness have had on this country.”²

According to surveys completed in 2013-14 by the Anti-Defamation League and reported by the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, 9-12% of Americans have expressed antisemitic views. There is also an alarming amount of anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist activity on American campuses. In a recent video on YouTube, an experiment showed students responding better to a man flying the ISIS flag than to another individual holding an Israeli flag.³

In some cases, antisemitism taints the rhetoric of those who oppose the modern state of Israel generally or with regard to a particular policy. This conflation of a specific disagreement with Israel with the racist generalizations of antisemitism has become all too common in secular society. It has even reared its ugly head within Christian circles, as Israelis and Jews have been characterized in a harsh and unfavorable light as a people.

Abraham Foxman, national U.S. director of

the Anti-Defamation League claims that “bigotry is still with us, we haven’t won that battle. We have not found an antidote, a vaccine. Until we find that vaccine, it’s going to be with us.”

The Gospel and Antisemitism

What a great opportunity we have as followers of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus! By joining our Jewish friends and family in withstanding any encroachment of antisemitism in our society, we demonstrate through our actions that we love the Jewish people. Our efforts to stand with the Jewish people against antisemitism, whenever and wherever it rises, gives concrete expression to our belief that it was God’s choice to create a people for His glory and purposes. This can only lead to a deeper and more profound witness to the Jewish people.

We encourage followers of Jesus the Messiah to speak out against antisemitism in all its forms. To quote Abraham Foxman once more, “The gas chambers in Auschwitz did not begin with bricks; they began with words, with ugly words. Because there was no one who stood up and said, ‘Don’t say that!’ I will not be silent...”⁴

As believers in Jesus, we must denounce antisemitism not only as racism, but also as sin and a great evil. Let’s not be silent—for the sake of the Jewish people and our Jewish Messiah.

1 <http://annefrank.com/#diary>

2 <http://blogs.forward.com/forward-thinking/206276/with-jews-we-lose-candidate-robert-ransdell-in-his/>

3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCBINSWCiAE>

4 <http://www.jta.org/2014/02/18/news-opinion/united-states/antisemitism-in-america-today-down-but-not-out>



SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



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SALVATION THROUGH THE REDEEMER ISAIAH 49:1-52:12

Who is the Servant in the Servant Songs of the Prophet Isaiah? Is it the nation of Israel, as the traditional Jewish reading maintains? Or, is the Servant a reference to the anticipated deliverer of Israel, the Messiah? While this is not easy to ascertain, a brief overview may give some insight into whether the Servant is Israel or the Messiah.

I. GOD'S SALVATION THROUGH THE SERVANT MESSIAH (Isaiah 49)

The first mention of the term "Servant" in this section suggests the Servant refers to Israel, since Isaiah speaks of "Israel" by name (Isa. 49:3). If this is the case, God promises to reveal His splendor or beauty through Israel. However, the context shows the interpretive difficulty, because it indicates the Servant is separate from Israel; God calls the Servant to bring Israel and Jacob back to God (Isa. 49:5-7). Thus, it appears the Servant is not the nation, but rather her Messiah.

Therefore, Isaiah looks forward to One from Israel who will have the mission to bring the nation back to the Lord. Through this person, the Messiah, God will not only realize His purposes with Israel and restore the nation (Isa. 49:8-13), but He will

accomplish all His intentions for the nations as well (Isa. 49:22-26).

II. GOD'S SERVANT SON (Isaiah 50-51)

Who is He who comes to Israel and calls the nation to repentance? It is none other than the Servant, the Messiah of Israel.

One day, all the redeemed of the Lord shall return and enter Jerusalem even *"to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their head. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (Isa. 51:11).

III. THREE EXHORTATIONS OF THE LORD (Isaiah 51:9-52:12)

Isaiah concludes the passages we are examining with three exhortations for Israel to rise from her slumber.

The first is *"Awake, Awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord..."* (Isa. 51:9). The Hebrew Bible frequently uses "arm of the Lord" as a metaphor to show God's power, typically in His active role as the deliverer of Israel (Ex. 6:6; Deut. 5:15). Isaiah speaks of a future time when God actively reveals His power to commission the rejected Servant, Israel's Messiah (see Isa. 53:1-3). It is He who tells Israel,

"I, even I, am He that comforts you...." (Isa. 51:12).

We find the second exhortation in Isaiah 51:17-23. Isaiah depicts Jerusalem drunken when they drink from the cup of God's wrath, fallen and lying in the dust (Isa. 51:18-20). Yet this humiliation has one objective, namely that Israel at last may be the channel of God's blessings, flowing out to all nations (Isa. 51:16).

The third exhortation is the wonderful passage beginning with Isaiah 52:1: *"Awake, awake... Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem... for the unclean shall no longer come to you."*

In Isaiah 51:17-23, Jerusalem is pictured as a drunken woman lying helpless in the dust. God will remove the shame from His people and place the cup in the hands of her enemies. Here we find Isaiah's prophetic assurance that the Lord will care for His people (Isa. 51:21-52:3).

CONCLUSION

Messiah's salvation is full and free. The prophet Isaiah anticipates a time when there will be messengers who travel to Israel to proclaim God's victory and how He has redeemed both Israel and the nations (Isa. 52:7-10). Will you be one who carries this great news to Israel (Isa. 52:7)?

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RECEIVES MESSIAH

A member of our West Coast staff was introduced to a secular Jewish man, Yaakov,* an 88-year-old Holocaust survivor who had spent over five years in a concentration camp. They discussed at length who the Messiah is and explored a number of verses from the Hebrew Bible including Isaiah 53. They also spoke about how our sins must be forgiven on the Messiah's terms. Then, Yaakov prayed to turn from his ways and to receive Jesus as his Messiah. Not long after his life-changing decision, Yaakov passed away. Please pray that our staff may continue to minister to Yaakov's family.



DESPITE HAZARDS, MINISTRY IN ISRAEL GOES ON

Unrest in Israel takes its toll and makes ministry there more difficult. Eugene L., who ministers in Maale Adumim, a community not far from Jerusalem, reports regular stone-throwing attacks upon the city's light rail, as well as private cars and commercial buses that service the city. Despite these hazards, life goes on—and so does ministry. Eugene reports, "Spiritually hungry Jewish seekers continue to gather at least once a week for our Bible studies, often changing buses three times to get there. Two people have decided to be baptized and more have been calling us to request prayer or other forms of help."

MESSIANIC FLYER DRAWS JEWISH MAN TO FAITH IN BERLIN

The Lord uses many ways to draw people to faith in Messiah. Igor Swiderski sends along this praise report about Mikhail,* a Jewish man who has just now received the Lord. Mikhail explained, "Someone on the street gave me this flyer. I wanted to throw it away since it was about Jesus, but then I noticed the Star of David." This was his explanation of how he first got to the Messianic Jewish congregation in Berlin where Igor presented a message from the book of Jonah. At this point, Mikhail has been attending for three months, and God has been knocking on his heart for decades. Igor relates, "Now was the time to open the door. It was pure joy to lead him in prayer to receive his Messiah and Savior!"

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES VOLUNTEERS REAP HARVEST FOR KINGDOM

Larry and Eileen Marcus are longtime Chosen People Ministries volunteers in Arizona who have been a tremendous support to our staff there. While they were visiting a retirement community, Larry met David,* a Jewish man who not only was from Larry's home city of Detroit, but had attended the same high school. With this much in common, they struck up a good relationship and over time their talk turned to spiritual matters. After some months, Larry led David to receive the Lord and continues to disciple him. Meanwhile, during the course of Larry's visits, Eileen got to know Esther,* a Jewish woman in a nearby room. They too formed a friendship, and after reading Isaiah 53 together and additional spiritual nurturing, Esther also came to faith!

**names changed*

FIRST FRUITS OF NEW LIFE FOR ISRAELI AT BROOKLYN CONGREGATION

Praise the Lord for giving Beth Sar Shalom Brooklyn (our Messianic congregational plant) the first fruits of what we believe to be a great harvest to come. Shmuel,* a young Israeli soldier who was visiting his cousin in Brooklyn (who is a member of our congregation), has received the Lord! After attending our Bible study and weekly service where he heard the Gospel explained in a Jewish way, he then went home and read the Scripture all night long. In the early hours of the morning, he surrendered his life to Yeshua (Jesus), his Messiah. Since then he has displayed a deep hunger for the Word of God: attending our services, participating in our small group gatherings, and meeting regularly with our congregational leaders. Rejoice with us!

WHAT IS 11 ELEVEN?

April 23-26, 2015

New York City



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includes lodging, all meals,
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Ages 18-25

It is an initiative, a conference and recognition of calling for 18-25 year olds. It equips you — the dreamers and doers — to take God at His word to make Jewish people jealous. It offers a community in which to conceive of daring ideas and time-tested approaches in Jewish outreach. It provokes action and offers the opportunities for you to discover your unique role in fulfilling Romans 11:11. We are ready to bring the message of the Gospel back to the original messengers!

Register and Info:

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What are you doing this summer?

Come serve with Chosen People Ministries for a dynamic experience reaching Jewish people for Messiah!

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eXperience Israel is a spiritual pilgrimage designed for adults ages 18-35 who want to engage with God by walking through the pages of biblical history and serving the people who live in Israel.

July 12-26, 2015

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August 8-22, 2015

For more information visit
www.chosenpeople.com/shortterm,
call 212-223-2252, or
email: opportunities@chosenpeople.com



They Have Conspired Against You Responding to the New Anti-Semitism

A new trend of antisemitism is surfacing world-wide with the advent of the Palestinian Intifada in the fall of 2000. As told by Olivier Melnick in his book, *They Have Conspired Against You*, Jewish people are again the target of antisemitism around the world, particularly European Jews. This book will expose, educate and call to action.

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The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)

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