THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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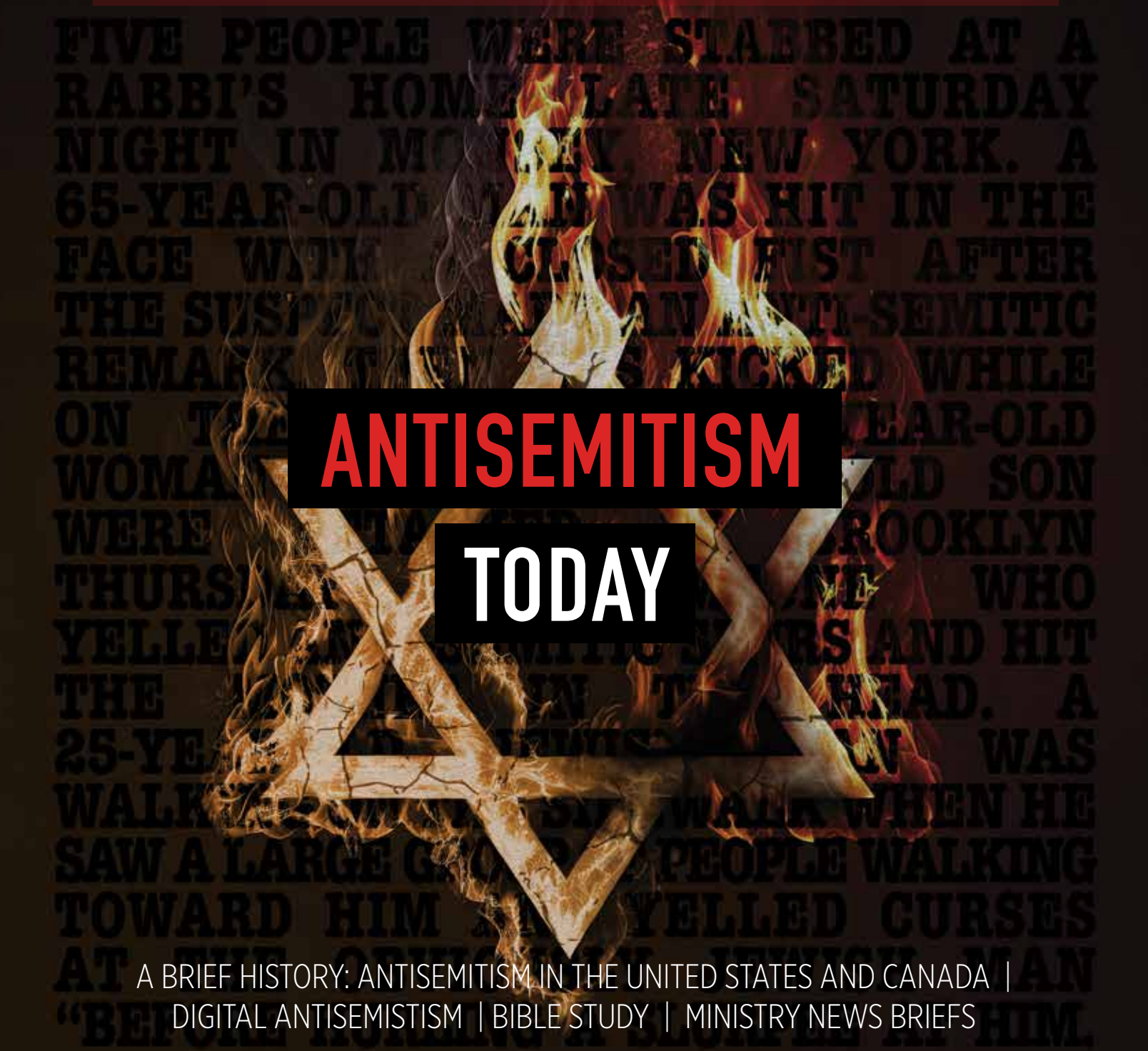


ANTISEMITISM TODAY

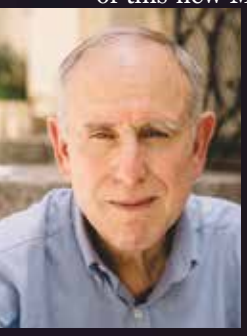
A BRIEF HISTORY: ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA | DIGITAL ANTISEMISTISM | BIBLE STUDY | MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Thank you for taking a moment to read the Chosen People Ministries newsletter! We appreciate your interest in what God is doing among the Jewish people and through Your Mission to the Jewish People today! We deeply value your prayers and support.

TEL AVIV UPDATE

I want to update you on the new Messianic center in Tel Aviv. We are working on two fundraising tracks right now. First, we are only in the third month of raising funds for the purchase of this new Messianic Jewish outreach center in the greater Tel Aviv area—home to about four million Israelis!



FROM THE PRESIDENT, MITCH GLASER

Second, we are beginning construction on the build-out of the center as this new commercial space will house our Bible study classrooms, weekly outreach lectures and concerts, young adult activities, a café, and hopefully future congregational activities! The entire area is new, so we will need to renovate the interior space by adding walls, flooring, heating and air conditioning, bathrooms, and more.

We could not be more excited about the future as we are finding a new openness to the gospel in Israel, especially among younger Israelis. It is like an unstoppable wave moving across the country, and we are doing all we can to disciple those coming to faith.

Please pray and join us in building the future of the Israeli Messianic community through your prayers and generous support for the new center. On the back of this newsletter, you will find more information about how you can give toward the purchase and renovation of the property.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. We can only get it done with your partnership!

ANTISEMITISM KEEPS JEWISH PEOPLE FROM BELIEVING IN JESUS

As you continue reading the newsletter, you will quickly discover this edition focuses on the alarming and deeply tragic increase in antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the globe. This trend dramatically impacts our efforts to bring the gospel to the Jewish people today. *Generally speaking, Jewish people blame Christianity for antisemitism.*

Unfortunately, one of the most frequent and negative Jewish responses to the gospel is not driven by differences in the interpretation of Scripture or Jewish tradition but by the past and present experiences of Jewish people with Christianity and the church as an institution.

I remember when I told my grandmother I was a believer. She accused me of joining the side of those who persecuted Jewish people. It was incredibly difficult to convince her otherwise. She immigrated to the United States from Belarus because she experienced pogroms, and later the Nazis murdered her entire family for being Jewish. She thought those men and women were Christians! I cannot blame my grandmother for feeling this way, as she did not know any better. She judged what she thought was Christianity based on the actions of so-called Christians.

Is this claim against Christianity accurate? Historically, it is certainly the perception of the Jewish people. Still, I cannot imagine how true Christians who love the Lord and believe the Bible could hate the Jewish people. It has not been my experience since I accepted Jesus a half-century ago. On the contrary, I found true Christians love the Jewish people and do not persecute anyone! If more of my people had genuine Christian friends, they would immediately discover those who persecuted Jewish people—especially in Europe—are different from those who name Jesus as Lord today.

Jewish people still hold Christianity accountable for the crusades, the pogroms of eastern Europe, and even the Holocaust. Without question, some in the past who called themselves Christians mistreated the Jewish people. This truth is a blight on the history of Jewish-Christian relations. Some Christian leaders spoke and wrote harsh words against the Jewish people in the earlier days of the church. These ideas tragically influenced Christian attitudes toward the Jewish people for centuries.

John Chrysostom (354–407 CE),[1] who was considered a church father and the "golden-mouthed preacher" (*chrysostom* is Greek for "gold-mouthed"), wrote a series of eight sermons called "Against the Jews." In one message, he wrote:

> *Certainly it is the time for me to show that demons dwell in the synagogue, not only in the place itself but also in the souls of the Jews. . . . Do you not shudder to come into the same place with men possessed, who have*

1 John Chrysostom (354–407 CE) was the most distinguished church father of the East and one of the most virulently anti-Jewish preachers. Born in Antioch, he was baptized in 373 CE and ordained a priest in 384 CE. He delivered his eight sermons (homilies) "against the Jews" during his first two years of preaching in Antioch (386–387 CE).

so many unclean spirits, who have been reared amid slaughter and bloodshed?. . . Must you not turn away from them since they are the common disgrace and infection of the whole world? Have they not come to every form of wickedness?[2]

There are many other examples from the writings of the early church fathers as well as later pillars of Christianity, including Martin Luther. They were flawed men who did a lot of good but also mischaracterized the Jewish people in ways leading to what is often called "Christian antisemitism." This history caused the Jewish people to view Christianity—and therefore the gospel—as a threat rather than a lifeline to salvation.

THE UNDERLYING CAUSE OF ANTISEMITISM

The real issue is much more profound; we must look at the Scriptures to understand it.

Our current dilemma begins in Genesis 12:1–3 and the Lord's covenant with Abraham. By God's Spirit, Moses penned this promise, *"And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed"* (Gen 12:3).

From the moment God made Abraham His friend, the devil chose Abraham and his descendants as enemies. After all, Satan understood God would one day save the world through the death and resurrection of a son of Abraham. He also knew the Jewish people would one day repent and call upon Jesus, leading this same Savior to return to reign as king.

When Israel acknowledges Jesus as Messiah (Romans 11:26), all the plans of the ultimate heavenly rebel will fail. Therefore, from the moment of Abraham's call, the devil tried to hinder God's plan by moving heaven and earth to crush Abraham's descendants.

THE SOLUTION TO ANTISEMITISM

The apostle Paul urged the Gentile followers of Jesus to tell Jewish people about Jesus by demonstrating His love in word and deed. For Paul, this lovingkindness would cause the Jewish people to be jealous of the Jewish Messiah living in the hearts and souls of Christians (Romans 11:11–15).

Paul wrote in Romans 11:11, *"I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous."*

Therefore, we must ask ourselves why Jewish people often perceive Gentile Christians—whom God gave a primary role in reaching the Jewish people for Jesus—as seeking their harm.

We know the enemy works especially hard at turning all of God's people against each other. One of those ways is to mobilize the same people God called to bless the Jewish people to do the opposite. This sabotage is his failing effort to keep the people of promise from recognizing their Messiah and thus destroy the plans of God for the ages.

We can stand against the evil one by reversing his evil plan. We can *make Jewish people jealous* and bring the blessings of the gospel to His chosen people.

We can be part of His effort to reverse the curse. By fighting antisemitism, we challenge the devil's cosmic plot to undo what God created for the world's redemptive good.

Therefore, Your Mission to the Jewish People wants to encourage you to **oppose antisemitism** vocally and publicly when you see it. We are the solution to the problem of antisemitism, which is destructive and keeps Jewish people from considering the gospel.

Together, we can make a difference in changing the mindset of many Jewish people about the gospel. Through simply being ourselves and living as authentic believers, we will show Jewish people the gospel is not antisemitic but rather Jewish in nature. As Jesus said, *"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews"* (John 4:22).

I am sorry to say antisemitism is rising in the United States and around the globe. It is time for Christians to take a stand and oppose antisemitism whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head. We do this not simply because antisemitism is wrong and satanic but because we love the God who created the Jewish people and the Jewish Messiah. We want to see Jewish people come to faith in Jesus the Messiah.

The remainder of this newsletter will reveal the extent to which antisemitism has grown and even adapted to the modern age. May it inspire you to stand with the Jewish people, pray for the nation of Israel, and stop the hate.

Your brother,

Mitch

2 John Chrysostom, *Against the Jews*, Homily I, VI, 6–7, accessed February 2, 2023, https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/chrysostom_adversus_judaeos_01_homily1.htm.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

The United States is home to the world's largest Jewish community outside Israel—around five million people. Canada, with 335,000, also has a large Jewish population. Jewish immigrants first arrived in the United States in 1654 and in Canada about a hundred years later. Though anti-Jewish discrimination has always been present in the United States and Canada, North America has still been a haven from the violent, pervasive, and often state-sponsored antisemitism of Europe.

Historian Howard Morley Sachar wrote, "The Jews of America were free, profoundly free, freer than Jews anywhere else on the face of the earth."[1]

But is this trend changing? Given a comparatively positive history, the rising antisemitism in North America is particularly troubling.

THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Modern antisemitism emerged in the Americas in the 1890s. The growth of American cities, where most Jewish immigrants settled, fostered some resentment among rural Americans. Associating Jewish people with the perceived immorality of the expanding urban centers caused some to believe many of the European conspiracy theories about the Jewish people.

These attitudes turned darker in the twentieth century. The rise of pseudoscientific notions of "racial purity," first weaponized against African-Americans, expanded to include Jewish people. According to this view, Anglo-Saxons represented a superior race who needed to avoid contact with inferior races. One of the most antisemitic periods in American history was the time between the world wars when groups like the Ku Klux Klan targeted Jewish homes and businesses. Meanwhile, antisemitism "was ingrained in the fabric of Canadian society." For example, a 1943 Canadian resort paper openly spoke of keeping "those unwanted people" off the beach.[2]

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a pamphlet supposedly exposing a global Jewish conspiracy, grew popular. Prominent citizens like Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company, publicized *The Protocols*. During the early twentieth century, universities in North America adopted quotas for Jewish students, and some neighborhoods forbade Jewish residents. In the 1930s, the Nazis actively fueled antisemitism in the United States as Nazi supporters distributed propaganda and disseminated Nazi ideals in their areas of influence.

THE LATTER HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The Holocaust generally made Americans more sympathetic to the suffering of the Jewish people and horrors of antisemitism. In 1950, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported antisemitism had reached an "all-time" low.[3] The founding of modern Israel in 1948 generally improved the global image of Jewish people. Many admired the country's valor and democratic values. During the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel was likened to King David standing bravely against the Goliath of invading Soviet and Arab armies. In Israel, the trial of Adolf Eichmann further educated the world about what really took place in Europe during the Holocaust.

"A PERVERSE HEART SHALL DEPART

DIGITAL ANTISEMITISM

As noted above, the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization monitoring antisemitic acts against the Jewish community, published a report in 2021 showing antisemitic incidents in the United States reached an all-time high.[1] The incidents occurred in all fifty states, with 2,717 cases of assault, harassment, and vandalism. Additionally, attacks against synagogues and Jewish Community Centers increased by 61 percent. The ADL states, **"This represents the highest number of incidents on record since [the] ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979—an average of more than seven incidents per day and a 34 percent increase year over year."**[2]

The ADL determined one of the major reasons for these attacks centered on the Israel and Palestinian conflict in May 2021, which caused "a staggering 148 percent increase in reports of antisemitic incidents that month when compared in May 2020."[3] Anti-Israel sentiment, however, is not the only motivating factor for these incidents.

"When it comes to antisemitic activity in America," writes Jonathan A. Greenblatt, the ADL's national director, "you cannot point to any single ideology or belief system, and in many cases, we simply don't know the motivation. But we do know that Jews are experiencing more antisemitic incidents than we have in this country in at least 40 years, and that's a deeply troubling indicator of larger societal fissures."[4]

The digital world is now an active sphere for antisemitic activity. In 2021, a study from the Center to Counter Digital Hate (CCDH) found "five major social media companies, including Facebook and Twitter, took no action to remove 84% of antisemitic posts," despite promises and flagged posts.[5]

Social media companies neglected to act on 89 percent of posts associating Jewish people with conspiracy theories about 9/11, the pandemic, and controlling world affairs. These platforms also failed to act on 80 percent of posts denying the Holocaust, as well as 70 percent of posts dealing with neo-Nazi and white supremacist images, according to CCDH.[6]

"If you allow [antisemitism] space to grow, it will metastasize," said Imran Ahmed, CEO of CCDH, to National Public Radio in 2021. "It is a phenomenally resilient cancer in our society."[7] Ahmed also wisely pointed out, "there is a reflexive interaction between online and offline

Overall, antisemitism declined in the United States and Canada during the second half of the twentieth century. Negative stereotypes of Jewish people existed, but they were not pervasive, nor did they gain a strong foothold in society. Hardcore antisemitism was essentially limited to extremist splinter groups. Antisemitism was never systemic or state-sponsored the way it was in Europe for so long. Even at its peak in the 1930s, North American antisemitism rarely posed an immediate threat to the Jewish community.[4]

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The earlier relative mildness of antisemitism in the United States and Canada makes contemporary incidents all the more disturbing. Indeed, the deadliest attack on the American Jewish community took place less than five years ago. The shooting at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue killed eleven people and wounded six. In 2019, the attack on Poway Chabad Synagogue in southern California killed one and injured three others. The hostage situation at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, in January, 2022, again awakened the American and especially the Christian public to growing antisemitism, though it ended relatively well as all four hostages escaped.

Other less severe antisemitic incidents do not make the news. Assault, harassment, and vandalism against Jewish people, just for being Jewish, intensified in the past several years. The Anti-Defamation League recorded 2,717 incidents in the United States in 2021, the highest number since it began collecting this data in 1979. These incidents include swastika graffiti, harassment on college campuses, and street violence. In Canada in 2021, B'nai Brith, another Jewish organization that monitors antisemitism, reported 2,799 anti-Jewish hate crimes, including beatings, vandalism of synagogues, and swastikas painted on the walls of public schools.[5]

Incidents surged in May 2021, when tensions flared between Israel and Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, leading to conflict. No country is perfect, and criticism of Israeli policies is not always antisemitic. Still, negative perceptions of Israel often influence perceptions of Jewish people in the Diaspora. Nearly 40 percent of incidents in the United States reported during the May conflict featured "explicit references to Israel or Zionism."[6]

CONCLUSION

We are living in a time when antisemitism is a serious threat to Jews in North America. The United States and Canada are historically safe havens for Jewish people.

Unfortunately, trends today suggest this might be unravelling. We pray it will not, as God promised to bless those who bless the Jewish people and curse those who curse His chosen people (Genesis 12:3). Our Messiah Himself is Jewish, and we know of His great love for His own people. Only God knows what the future holds, but followers of the Jewish Messiah must be proactive in opposing antisemitism and in their support for the Jewish people.

1 Howard Morley Sachar, *The Course of Modern Jewish History* (New York: Vintage Books, 1990), 200.
2 Jeremy Maron, "The Stain of Antisemitism in Canada: A 1940s Beach Resort Rejects the 'Unwanted,'" Canadian Museum for Human Rights, accessed January 11, 2023, https://humanrights.ca/story/stain-antisemitism-canada.
3 Sachar, *Modern Jewish History*, 404–07.
4 Sachar, *Modern Jewish History*, 407.
5 B'nai Brith Canada League for Human Rights, "Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021," 2022.
6 "ADL Audit Finds Antisemitic Incidents in United States Reached All-Time High in 2021," Anti-Defamation League, April 25, 2022, https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-audit-finds-antisemitic-incidents-united-states-reached-all-time-high.

FROM ME; I WILL KNOW NO EVIL." PSALM 101:4

racism, they reinforce each other," and "the failure of these companies is a cost that's paid in lives."[8]

Underscoring social media's contribution to the spread of antisemitism, a group of scholars recently published a book entitled *Antisemitism on Social Media*, which examines how these platforms are fueling the rise of antisemitism.[9]

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Part of our responsibility as followers of Jesus is to purge any evil from our midst because we know a little leaven leavens the whole lump (Galatians 5:9). We do not fight against flesh and blood but against cosmic powers overseeing the spiritual darkness at the heart of antisemitism (Ephesians 6:12).

1 "ADL Audit Finds Antisemitic Incidents in United States Reached All-Time High in 2021," ADL, last modified April 26, 2022, accessed January 11, 2023, https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-audit-finds-antisemitic-incidents-united-states-reached-all-time-high.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Deepa Shivaram, "Antisemitic Posts Are Rarely Removed By Social Media Companies, A Study Finds," NPR, August 2, 2021, sec. Technology, accessed January 11, 2023, https://www.npr.org/2021/08/02/1023819435/antisemitic-posts-are-rarely-removed-by-social-media-companies-a-study-finds.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
9 "How Social Media Fuels Antisemitism," The Jewish Experience, May 13, 2022, https://www.brandeis.edu/jewish-experience/social-justice/2022/may/antisemitism-social-media.html; Monika Hübscher and Sabine Von Mering, eds., *Antisemitism on Social Media* (New York: Routledge, 2022).

There are many ways you can OPPOSE ANTISEMITISM:

- Pray the Lord would put a stop to antisemitism.
- Flag and report any antisemitic content you see on social media.
- Report an incident to the ADL (https://www.adl.org/report-incident).
- Sign a petition.
- Join a march or rally.
- Ask your local synagogue how you can help.
- Invite a speaker to discuss with your congregation, small group, or classroom about how to combat antisemitism.

MICAH 4:3-7
ISRAEL'S HOPEFUL FUTURE

Let us continue our study in the book of Micah, chapter 4:3–7, where the prophet Micah offers hope for Israel and the world. Micah wrote, *"And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war"* (Mic 4:3). As the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Messiah will serve as the world's judge, deciding disputes between many mighty nations, even those located far from Israel. What a contrast to the Israelites of Micah's day, who did not want anyone telling them what to do and whose judges perverted justice based on the size of the bribe they received.

In the future millennial kingdom, when Messiah reigns on earth, the nations will transform their weapons of warfare into agricultural tools to promote life, peace, and harmony. They will never again engage in combat or train for battle against other nations. This verse appears on a wall across the street from the United Nations building in New York City and is identified as being written by Isaiah, not Micah. It certainly does not apply to our time, but it is the ideal for the world! Unfortunately, this verse in Micah (and Isaiah) will only be fulfilled once Jesus returns to earth.

Micah continued in 4:4, *"Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken."* The picture here is of Israel being safe and secure, which in Micah's day came with a price. Israel's leaders expected compensation for providing security, yet only the Lord of Hosts could provide it; all He expects is submission to His rule. Contrasting the unbelieving nations with believing Israel in the future millennium, Micah wrote, *"Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god, as for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever"* (Mic 4:5). In the future kingdom, even though pagan nations continue to worship idols, Israel will follow and obey the Lord's standards. This obedience, again, is a significant difference from Micah's time.

Micah began the next verse with the phrase "In that day." Keeping consistent with the previous statements, he emphasized this would be at the time of Messiah's earthly reign, a reference to the millennial kingdom. Then, there will be a great regathering of the people: *"'In that day,' declares the Lord, 'I will assemble the lame and gather the outcasts, even those whom I have afflicted'"* (Mic 4:6). Micah certainly was not sure when this regathering would occur. He might even have hoped the kingdom would begin at the end of the Babylonian captivity. Micah's hope for the kingdom in his time was not to be. He was sure, however, "in that day," the day of Messiah's kingdom, those who had been afflicted and those who had experienced the grief of captivity would be restored. Those afflictions will likely occur during the Great Tribulation, when there will be persecution and scattering of the Jewish nation at the hand of the Antichrist. But when Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom, they will be regathered.

Once again, Micah described a contrast between the weak Israel of his day, who were spiritually lame and forced into exile, and the Israel of God's future earthly reign. Micah declared, *"I will make the lame a remnant and the outcasts a strong nation"* (Mic 4:7). The returning Jewish remnant will be a strong nation under Messiah's rule. Micah concluded with the statement, *"And the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever"* (Mic 4:7). That rule would begin with Jesus' reigning from the throne of David in Jerusalem for a thousand years and continue into eternity.

Walking down to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives

Rich Freeman, DMin, serves as the vice president for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

NEW BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

HOSPITAL STAY LEADS TO TALK ON HEALING OF THE NATIONS

After a long stomach infection, one of our staff members ended up in a hospital in the north of Israel. While he is doing well and recovered nicely, he did end up spending three days in a medical facility where most of the very caring nurses and doctors were Arab or Bedouin. Several had served in the Israeli military and were proud of their service. One lovely Muslim nurse talked to our staff member about the healing properties of different plants. Since they were talking about God using plants to heal, our missionary shared about the ultimate healing for the nations, which will come from the tree of life (Revelation 22:1–2). The nurse's response was very positive; our staff couple's belief in Jesus intrigued her. We pray for this attitude to spread among other Muslim Israelis and Palestinians.

WHAT DO NUMBERS AND MATH HAVE TO DO WITH MESSIAH?

"I am a logical man. I was a math professor. I know facts and figures. Spirituality is something different, something harder to prove. It does not work on that type of logic." Saul, a Jewish eighty-two-year-old, made these statements to our missionary. He meant it is hard for him to believe in Jesus because he could not verify the validity of the gospel message. What would you say? Prior to his comment, while they were speaking, our staff member asked the Lord to give him wisdom, discernment, and divine understanding. People meet Jesus all the time in diverse ways, but how was God going to get through to Saul? What our missionary said next came from the Lord in answer to his prayer. He said he understood trying to accept God through logic was challenging, but it was not impossible. The man was immediately curious and asked how. Our staff member replied, "My father thought similarly to you. But it was ultimately numbers and math that convinced my dad Jesus was the Messiah." "Really?!" Saul responded. "How?" "Well, it was not until my dad read Daniel chapter 9, in which God lays out the exact time the Messiah would come and die after a specific number of years, when He recognized the Messiah's identity. My father realized if the Messiah was to come, it had to be between 30 and 33 AD." Saul finished the sentence, "That is the time Jesus is said to have died on the cross." Exactly! Saul put it together for himself. He told our staff member he had never heard the Scriptures prophesied the timing of the Messiah's arrival. Please pray for Saul as our missionary continues to minister to him, and as his believing wife continues to pray for him.

***Names changed**

A RABBINIC REDACTION: YOU ARE STILL JEWISH IF YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS!

"We call it the 'Hotel California' doctrine—you can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." These famous lyrics, from the 1977 song by The Eagles, were the words several rabbis used to describe their understanding of what it means to be Jewish at a recent pastor/rabbi roundtable in which one of our staff members was honored to participate. These lyrics communicate how these rabbis believe if you are born Jewish then you stay Jewish, even if you come to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Several older rabbis strongly disagreed with this position. They held to a more traditional view—if a Jewish person becomes a Christian, then they are ***no longer Jewish.*** Most of the rabbis we interacted with were willing to admit a Jewish believer in Jesus is still and always will be Jewish. This statement represents a huge shift in thinking within the Jewish community. One of the biggest obstacles to Jewish people placing faith in Jesus is it means giving up Jewish identity, and by extension connection with family and culture. But here was a group of rabbis saying they no longer think in this manner! This revelation is very good news. It means one of our mission's core messages is bearing fruit—for a Jewish person to believe in Jesus as the true Messiah of Israel is the most Jewish act possible. It means the hearts of these Jewish leaders are beginning to accept their brothers and sisters as Jewish believers.

BRINGING LIFE-SAVING AID TO UKRAINE

We trust you—our dear friend and co-worker in the ministry—are praying for the wonderful people of Ukraine (believers and non-believers, Jewish and non-Jewish) who are suffering from life without electricity, water, and heat most of the time during their very cold winter. Chosen People Ministries is working hard to provide help in this difficult time. We supplied more than 500 people with generators, wood and gas ovens, thermal underwear, sleeping bags, winter clothes, boots, flashlights, power banks, and many other necessities. We praise the Lord we have overcome many monetary and logistical problems. Thank you very much for your prayers and faithful help with this program. Despite all the difficulties, our congregations in Ukraine have not only survived, but some continue to grow. Please pray for new people who have begun to come to our Messianic congregations in Lviv, Ternopil, Kyiv, and Yagotin.

Our annual Simcha Retreat

is an *in-person* time for believers to celebrate the joy (*simcha* in Hebrew) we have as the body of Messiah. Our worship, workshops, and teaching this year will focus on the life we have in Messiah based on Galatians 2:20, *"I have been crucified with Messiah; and it is no longer I who live, but Messiah lives in me."*

We also schedule fun activities throughout the days and evenings to promote relaxation and fellowship. We are confident this weekend together surrounded by the serenity of nature will provide some much-needed refreshment! Come join us this Simcha weekend as we explore the empowering Life who lives in us. Check out the details below:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Early Bird / March 31 2023
Regular / May 5, 2023

DATES: Friday, May 26, 2023 at 4 PM EDT through Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10 AM EDT

WHERE: Bongiorno Conference Center
(430 Union Hall Road, Carlisle, PA 17013)
This is an in-person event *only!*

THEME: "L'Chaim—To Life" based upon Galatians 2:20

COST:

Single adult occupancy:	$365
Double adult occupancy:	$310
Triple adult occupancy:	$265
Teen (ages 13–18):	$180
Child (ages 5–12):	$155
Infant (up to age 4):	$ 60

Find all the details and register at chosenpeople.com/simcha.

MESSIANIC RETREAT
Simcha

Introduce Jewish people to their Messiah . . . Save on taxes . . . Generate a regular income for life.

You have a great passion for telling Jewish people about Jesus—and it shows in the way you support Chosen People Ministries worldwide.

Now there is a way you can invest in introducing Jewish people to their Messiah while receiving a regular lifetime income.

How? Through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

How a CGA works—and why it is good for *you* and for Jewish people everywhere

If you are 65 years of age or older, you can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity at Chosen People Ministries today with a minimum gift of $10,000. This gift vehicle will provide you with an income on a regular basis and will ultimately help Chosen People Ministries proclaim Jesus among the Jewish people.

- Your one-time investment of $10,000 or more will pay the standard fixed rate of return.
- You will receive an immediate tax deduction for your gift.
- You are guaranteed a steady source of income for your lifetime, regardless of fluctuations in the market. The same holds true if you establish a two-life annuity.
- Additionally, you will have the joy of knowing your gift will serve to bring the good news about Messiah long into the future!

The amount of your lifetime income will be based on your age at the time you create the annuity and the CGA's rate of return. Rates have recently increased, so now is a great time to establish a CGA as you can see in this chart:

Age	Rates of Return	Age	Rates of Return
65	5.4%	80	7.6%
70	5.9%	85	8.7%
75	6.6%	90+	9.7%

Current Rates for a Single-Life Annuity as of March 1, 2023. Source: ACGA (American Council of Gift Annuities)

We would be happy to help you set up your Charitable Gift Annuity or answer other questions about strategic giving or estate planning. Contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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