

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP STOP THE HATRED?

Think globally. Act locally! You can help put a stop to antisemitism in your community. Here are a few suggestions:

- Sign our "Stop the Hate" Petition at canadaforisrael.ca.
- Educate your church on the evils of antisemitism.
- Encourage your pastor to preach about this issue from the pulpit.
- Pray for the Jewish people in your community.
- Attend Jewish community events in order to build bridges with the Jewish people.
- Say something if and when antisemitism arises in your community.
- Make sure the Holocaust is taught in your local school systems and especially at Christian schools and homeschooling associations.
- Encourage your church to teach about the history and current expressions of antisemitism from a biblical perspective.

It is critical that we make our Christian community aware of the problem and that you positively engage the Jewish community where you live so that you can build loving and respectful relationships with the Jewish people.

Your love will be used by God to create a bridge for the Good News.

For more information and resources related to antisemitism, please visit us at chosenpeople.ca.

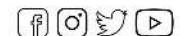
Chosen People Ministries (Canada)



Mail: Dufferin-Lawrence PO Box 58103,
Toronto M6A 3C8
Toronto Messianic Centre:
225 Bridgeland Avenue, Toronto M6A 1Y7
416-250-0177 1-888-442-5535
info@chosenpeople.ca
www.chosenpeople.ca
www.canadaforisrael.ca



#STOPTHEHATE



WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.CA

WHERE DOES ANTISEMITISM COME FROM?

Antisemitism, called "the oldest hatred," has been around for thousands of years. Social commentators, both Jewish and Gentile, have developed numerous theories concerning why antisemitism persists. But they leave out the most critical reason of all: antisemitism is the devil's invention.

When God called Abram to be the father of His chosen people (Genesis 12:1-3), Satan made the Jewish people the target of his fury. The evil one has tried to annihilate the Jewish people in every age and in endless ways to prevent God from using us as His instruments of redemption through the Jewish Messiah.

Sadly, one of his ugliest tactics has been to use the Church to promote the hatred of Jewish people. It is tempting to look back and view those who persecuted our ancestors as true representatives of the Christian faith. A recent podcast by Orthodox Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe represented this sentiment: "Jew-hatred is a fundamental, theological principle of the Christian faith." [1]

Rabbi Wolbe is right about the dark past of Judeo-Christian relations, yet mistaken about the true nature of the Gospel and the person of Jesus. Yeshua (Jesus) was Jewish, as were His followers!

So, immediately we understand that there must be a difference between those who claimed to follow Yeshua and yet persecuted Jewish

[1] The Jewish History Podcast by Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe, Episode 25: A History of Christian Anti-Semitism Part I. Starting circa 11:20. <https://rabbiwolbe.com/history-christian-antisemitism-part-one>.

people and the true message of Messiah. Let us examine what the New Testament teaches and how the true message of Yeshua is antithetical to antisemitism.

IS THE NEW TESTAMENT ANTISEMITIC?

First, it is important to point out that the New Testament is a *Jewish* book, written by *Jewish* people, about the life and teachings of the *Jewish* Messiah. Yeshua is *Jewish*. His disciples and most of His early followers were *Jewish*, as were the writers of the New Testament, with the possible exception of Luke. They observed the Torah, worshipped in the Temple and synagogues, and celebrated the Jewish holidays. Nevertheless, some passages in the New Testament have been misconstrued to encourage antisemitism.

Also, it is important to remember that the Jewish people did not kill the Messiah. In John 10:18, Yeshua told His followers, "*No one has taken [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative.*" He freely gave up His life because of His love for the world, and especially for His Jewish brethren.

THE NEW TESTAMENT OPPOSES ANTISEMITISM

An accurate reading of the New Testament reveals a very Jewish Messiah with a deep love for His own people and the nation of Israel. When approached by a Gentile woman during His ministry, Yeshua responded, "*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (Matthew 15:24).

During a moment of intense rejection by the Jewish leaders, Yeshua demonstrated compassion and a broken heart for His people,

saying, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling*" (Matthew 23:37). And, while He was being crucified between two thieves, He prayed for mercy upon the religious leaders and those in the Jewish community who supported His death: "*Father; forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34).

ANTISEMITISM IS ON THE INCREASE

On October 27, 2018, a hateful act of antisemitism shocked North America. An armed man entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and took the lives of eleven innocent Jewish people observing the Sabbath. Exactly six months later, a shooter opened fire in a San Diego Chabad synagogue. This shooting took the life of one woman and injured two others. Then, in December 2019, an attacker entered the New York State home of a rabbi during a celebration of Hanukkah and stabbed five people, one severely.

In Canada, we have not seen such violence ... yet, but antisemitic acts continue to be counted as a significant percentage of all hate crimes in the country. Statistics Canada has reported that Canadian Jews were the most targeted group for hate crimes in 2018. [2] Sadly, antisemitism is on the rise around the world. In France alone, antisemitic acts increased in 2019 by 27%. [3]

[2] https://www.bnaibrith.ca/canadian_jews_most_targeted_group_for_third_year_in_a_row

[3] <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/france-sees-increase-in-number-of-anti-semitic-acts-1.8447161>