

# THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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## Anti-Semitism

*What it means to the Gentile and to the Christian*

By DAVID M. FREEMAN

### HISTORY AND CHARGES

**T**HE word anti-Semitism is of recent origin, but hostility towards the Jewish people goes back to the early ages of history and is recorded in the Book of Esther in the Old Testament, which was written nearly 500 years B. C. Later, the Jews provoked the disdain and persecution of the Romans by their rejection of all worship other than their own, and by their social exclusiveness. During the so-called Christian era, emperors and churches felt duty bound to oppose Jewish influence. In the 14th and 15th centuries the Jews were expelled from France, Spain and Portugal.

The charges against the Jews ranged all the way from the Roman accusation that they emit a peculiar odor and that they are descendants of lepers expelled from Egypt, to the accusation that they murder and crucify Christian children at Easter time. In the 12th and 14th centuries they were accused of poisoning the wells. In the 13th century they were accused of requiring Christian blood for ritual purposes, a charge that has persisted to recent times. The Jew has been accused of being a disintegrating moral force while being accused at the same time of propagating the very idea of moral standards. He has been accused of greed, of economic domination while being accused at the same time of being lazy. He is pictured as a capitalist while at the same time he is presented as being

the very backbone of the communist plot.

In November 1938 in Germany, a country that had seventy years previously granted equality to Jews, 600 synagogues were burned, 30,000 Jews were arrested, while the world sat idle and watched.

No one can imagine the suffering and death-cry of six million human beings. If it were possible to hear the scream of one mother as her child was torn from her breast and dashed against a stone wall, then perhaps we could realize what it means. If we could hear the knock on the door; if we could smell the stench of crowded freight cars; if we could hear a child ask for water when there is no water; if we could smell the gas, feel the injection, dig the mass graves, handle the soap made of human fat, help to make a lamp shade of human skin, or pick the gold out of a dead Jew's teeth, then we might gain a glimpse of what anti-Semitism can mean.

### WHAT RIGHTS, IF ANY, HAVE THE JEWS?

To know what anti-Semitism is, it is necessary first to understand what justice is, for anti-Semitism is a form of injustice. The unjust man is characterized by being unfair and lawless. The just man is law-abiding and fair. When we say that the just man is law-abiding, we do not mean that what is lawful is necessarily fair or right. When the highest standards are human standards, then justice is simply the interest of the stronger, and what is right and just is what those

in power say is right and just. Laws enacted by a legislature may themselves be unjust. Men are unfair when they deprive us of what we have a right to. But where do we get our rights? Our *subjective* rights—our rights as God-created beings—must have an *objective* basis, granted us by the society in which we live. And if all our subjective rights are given to us by the society in which we live, then society may take them away, and this it may do legally. In other words, unless there is some objective basis for our subjective rights, our rights depend upon the whims of the society to which we belong.

Western civilization has been built upon the conviction that there is an objective basis for subjective rights. The objective basis for such subjective rights is formulated in the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, which reads in part as follows:

**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**

We have these rights because we have been created in the image of God. It is God that gives us our rights. It is God that has made every man equal as a man, that is, equal in the sight of God. When men are just, every man receives what he has a right to as a human being. He is given his due.

People are not equal in the sense that they all have the same aptitudes and opportunities in the society to which they belong. They are equal, however, insofar as they are all equally human, and possess a common nature. And to this extent they are to be treated alike.

Before Hitler could do the things he did, he had to deny full humanity to the Jews. This he did. And because he was able to make his followers believe that Jews were not fully human, he was able to take steps to eliminate them.

Anti-Semitism is a form of injustice which deprives Jewish people of their rights as human beings.

### CAN A JEW BE A CHRISTIAN?

**Most people assume that one is born a Christian. Do you know that the Bible teaches that the human race is divided into only three categories — Jews, Gentiles and Christians, and also insists that the terms "Christian" is a matter of faith not race or birth, and that consequently a Christian may be either Jew or Gentile? Would you like to know more about this interesting subject? If so, send for our free folder, "What is a Christian?"**

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### ARE JEWS LESS THAN HUMAN ?

To assume that one group of people is less than human, is to deny that God has created a single humanity. There have been criminals, cheats, thieves, murderers, rapists, communists, fascists, whose family trees could possibly be traced back to Abraham. But that Abraham was their father did not make them criminals. Abraham had other children who were not criminals. When a Jew is guilty of a crime, justice demands that he be punished, as everyone else—no more, no less. And when a Jew does something praiseworthy, justice demands that he be rewarded.

There is one question that remains unanswered, however. Is there a single crime for which all Jews are responsible? Do Christians—not Gentile unbelievers, but *real* Christians—hold Jews responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

The answer to this question is complex. To answer it we must now make it clear as to what a Christian is. If the term "Christian" is to have any meaning it must be restricted in its usage to designate those who believe in and are followers of Jesus the Messiah. The historic Christian faith maintains that the Word of God has been given to us, that Moses and the prophets were inspired by God in a unique manner. The Holy Scriptures, the Bible, are God's disclosure of Himself to mankind.

Biblical faith—the Christian faith—to which every true Christian adheres, teaches that there is one, true and living God. He is the infinite, eternal, and Holy Being, the Creator of the heavens and earth, the Creator of all that is. Among the things that God created is man, to whom God gave a moral nature, as the Scripture says in Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." This means that man is responsible to God and is related to Him in a way that no other creature is.

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF "ATONEMENT"?

Nothing is more evident from human history, however, than that man has NOT continued to obey the will of God. Man has become a sinner. He is a fallen creature. Instead of love, he shows hate, envy, malice, cruelty. He engages in war, lying, stealing, murder, and all forms of selfishness. Man seizes every chance he can get to break God's holy law.

It is this teaching of the Bible about man's sin that gives meaning to the necessity of "atonement," a word that occurs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, or Old Testament. See Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16:23:27-32. What does the concept of the Atonement mean in the Bible? It is just this: the deliverance or the saving of man from the consequences of his sinful condition and of the sins which he commits. God in His mercy pre-

scribed and accepted the blood of animals instead of the life of man. This method of "covering" the sin by the shedding of animal blood was, however, only a temporary symbol or type of the eternally true ground of salvation to be accomplished by the Messiah. The blood of animals could never atone for man's sins. When the animal was killed it symbolized man's fitness to die because of his sin and typified the coming Messiah who would really take man's place and die in his stead.

### WHAT DOES THE TRUE CHRISTIAN BELIEVE?

The true Christian faith encompasses the Old Testament faith. It is because the Christian believes the Old Testament that he believes the New Testament to be the Word of God also.

The Christian faith produces a new kind of life in those who embrace it. To be a true Christian one must accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Redeemer with the heart and soul. So deep is the transformation that takes place, according to the New Testament, that it can happen only if a person is "born again." This resultant life of the true Christian believer is marked by obedience to God's commandments. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The bent of the Christian's life is toward righteousness, truth and justice, even though these are never realized perfectly in this life.

All those therefore who persecute the Jews assault the justice of God and betray a thorough antagonism to the true Christian faith. Genuine Christians can have nothing to do with such persecution.

And yet we have not fully answered the question: Do Christians hold the Jews responsible for the crucifixion of Christ? Is there a crime of which the Jews as whole are guilty?

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHRIST'S DEATH?

Yes, there is such a crime. The Jews as a nation did not accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah. And they did play a part in the crucifixion of Christ. The actual crucifixion took place by Gentile hands. Not only so, but all mankind shares in the crucifixion of Jesus, for the purpose of his death was to atone for the sins of each of us.

Judgment belongs to God, not to man. As rejectors of Jesus the Messiah, all mankind, both Jew and Gentile, are under the divine displeasure, but the Christian's attitude is not one of derision or contempt for those who are guilty in the eyes of God. Christ forgave those who crucified him with the words, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Christians do not hold the Jews respon-

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sible for rejecting and crucifying Jesus the Messiah, but Christians believe that God holds the Jews and all mankind responsible for rejecting Christ as the Messiah.

A true Christian, to the extent that he is faithful to his profession of faith, can have nothing but love and compassion for the Jew. And yet it would not be honest to overlook the fact that Christians, even true Christians, do not always act as Christians.

Anti-Semitism takes many forms, from petty social discrimination to gas chambers, but the worst form of anti-Semitism that a Christian can be guilty of is withholding that which rightfully belongs to the Jew: Jesus the Messiah. The greatest crime that a Christian can commit against the Jew is refusing to share the new life he has found in the true Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ.

The Christian's calling in life is to spread the good news of God's salvation to all men, "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek," or unbelievers. The Christian attitude to the Jew is fully expressed in the invitation, "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good" for "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph," and also the son of David, the son of Abraham, the Messiah and Saviour. "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus . . . both Lord and Christ."





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# רעה ישׂראל

וְהִקְמֵתִי  
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יחזקאל ל"ד, 23

א מאנאמליך בלאט צו ערקלעהרען צו ישראל דעם אמת'דיגען משיח

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## די געשיכטע פון אנטיסעמיטיזם

פון דוד פרימאן

ווייל עס וויל א ביסל וואסער צום טרינקן און קיין וואסער איז נישטאָ; ווען מען וואָלט געקענט זיך צוזען ווי מענטשן גראָבן זייערע אייגענע קברים און דייטשן קוקן זיך צו און לאַכן פון יידישן צער, ווייטאָק און בלוט. אָדער ווען מיר וואָלטן געקענט זען ווי דייטשן רייסן אַרויס גאָלדענע ציין פון מתים, וועלכע זיי האָבן ערמאָרדעט, דאָמאָלס וואָלט מען געקענט האָבן אַ שטיקל השגה וואָס אַנט־סעמיטיזם מיינט אין דער ווירקליכקייט.

### וואָס פאַראַ רעכט האָבן די יידן?

כדי צו פאַרשטיין וואָס אַנטיסעמיטיזם איז מוז מען פריער פאַרשטיין וואָס גערעכטיקייט איז, ווייל אַנטיסעמיטיזם איז אַ פאַרם פון אונגערעכטיקייט. דער אַנטיסעמיטיזם איז אונגערעכט און ממילא קעגן געזעץ, אַ געזעץ־היטער קען נישט זיין קיין אַנטיסעמיט, ווייל אַנטיסעמיטיזם איז געזעצלאָז־קייט. געזעצן קעגן יידן זיינען קעגן דער גערעכטיג־קייט און ממילא געזעצלאָז. געזעצן פון מערדער און קינדער־שלענער זיינען געזעצן פון טיוול, אַ געזעץ וועלכעס ווערט אָנגענומען כדי אוועקצורויבן די רעכט פון אנדערע איז נישט קיין געזעץ און איז קעגן די עלעמענטאַרע רעכט פון מענטשן־מין. די רעכט וועלכע איז געגעבן געוואָרן צו אונז פון

האַט מיט 66 יאָר צוריק געגעבן צו יידן גלויכהייט און רעכט ווי אַלע בירגער, דאָס זעלבע דייטשלאַנד האָט פאַרברענט 600 יידישע סינאָגאָגען. 30 טויזנט יידן זיינען אַרעסטירט געוואָרן און אַ וועלט האָט געשוויגן אָדער גאָר זיך געפרייט מיט די יידישע צרות.

עס איז זיך שווער פאַרצושטעלן די גרויסע ליידן פון דעם יידישן פּאָלק, עס איז שווער צו פאַרשטיין די טויט־שרעק פון יידישע קינדער און פרויען ווען דאָס „קולטורעלע דייטשלאַנד“ האָט אַרויסגעגעבן אַזעלכע קינדער און פרויען־מערדער, און מיט אַ שמיכל אויף זייערע ליפן געשפּאַלטן קליינע קינד־דער'ס קעפלעך אין דער וואַנט.

קינדער קען נישט זיך פאַרשטעלן דעם טויט געד־שריי פון זעקס מיליאָן יידן, מענער, פרויען און קינדער וועלכע זיינען געפּאַלן פון די ברוטאַלע אונגענטשן. ווען עס וואָלט מעגליך געווען צו הערן דאָס געוויין פון אַ מוטער ווען מען רייסט אַוועק דאָס קינד פון איר ברוסט עס צו טויטן אין אירע אויגן, ווען מיר וואָלטן זיך געקענט פאַרשטעלן פּראַכט־וואַנגאָגען אָנגעפילטע מיט לעבעדיקע יידישע מענטשן וועלכע מען האָט געפירט צום קאַלך אווון זיי צו פאַרברענען, אָדער ווען מיר וואָלטן געקענט הערן דאָס געוויין פון אַ קליין קינד וועלכעס וויינט

### פאַר וואָס ווערן מיר יידן געהאַסט?

דאָס וואָרט „אַנטיסעמיט“ איז אַ ניי וואָרט, אָבער דאָס האָטן יידן איז זייער אַלט, עס שטאַמט נאָך פון די אַלטע צייטן. מיר ליינען וועגן דעם אין מגילת אסתר, אַ ספר וועלכעס איז געשריבן געוואָרן פינף הונדערט יאָר פאַר דעם געבורט פון ישוע המשיח. שפּעטער האָבן די רוימער פאַר־פּאַלט די יידן ווייל די לעצטע האָבן נישט געוואָלט אָננעמען דעם געזעצנדיגערישן גלויבן פון די רוימער. די יידן זיינען אַזויאָרום אויסגעשלאָסן געוואָרן פון דעם סאַציאַלן לעבן און ממילא פאַרהאַסט געוואָרן. אין די אַזויגערופענע קריסטליכע עראַ האָבן די רענידער געפונען פאַר נויטיק צו פאַרפּאַלן די יידן כדי צו פאַרמיידין דעם יידישן איינפלוס אין דעם לעבן פון די אַזויגערופענע קריסטליכע לענדער. אין דעם 14טן און 15טן יאָרהונדערט זיינען די יידן אַרויסגעטריבן געוואָרן פון פּראַנקרייך, שפּאַַניע, און פּאָרטוגאַל.

די באַשולדיקונגען זיינען געווען פאַרשידענע. די רוימער האָבן געזאָגט אַז די יידן לאָזן פון זיך אַרויס אַ שלעכטן גערוך, און אַז זיי שטאַמען פון אַן עניפּטישן שבת פון קרעציקע, און די „קריסטן“ האָבן באַשולדיקט די יידן אַז זיי ערמאָרדן ניט־יידישע קינדער פאַר דיטועלע צוועקן אין די פּסח־טעג. אין דעם 13טן יאָרהונדערט זיינען יידן באַ־שולדיקט געוואָרן אַז זיי פאַרסאַמען די ברונעמער, כדי די ניט־יידן זאָלן אומקומען. די יידן זיינען באַשולדיקט געוואָרן אַז זיי פאַרדאַרבן די מוחות פון די נויים, און אין דער זעלבער צייט זיינען זיי באַשולדיקט געוואָרן אַז זיי פאַרשפּרייטן צופּיל מאַראַל צווישן די פעלקער. מען האָט געזאָגט אַז די יידן זיינען געלטיגניציק און אַז זיי זיינען פּויל. דער ייד איז אַ סימבאָל פון אַ קאָפיטאַליסט און אין דערזעלבער צייט אַ קאָמוניסט. אין נאַוועמבער 1938 האָט דייטשלאַנד, וועלכע

### פאַרוואָס ליידן מיר?

מיר זיינען שטאַלץ דערמיט אַז גאָט וועט נישט דערלויבן אַז אונזער פּאָלק זאָל אונטער־גיין. אין יעדער גענעראַציע איז געווען אַ היטלער י"ש אָבער גאָט האָט אים פאַרניכטעט. גאָט וועט אויך פאַרניכטן אַלע יידישע פּיינט. אָמן. אויב איר ווילט וויסן מער דערפון, ביטע שרייבט און מיר וועלן אייך שיקן אַ ביכעלע וועלכעס באַהאַנדלט די פּראַגע.

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