

Why Hate the Jews?

By Alfred B. Davis
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Early in the morning, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel. Some 6000 terrorists, including 3,800 Hamas Nukhba terrorists and another 2,200 Gazan civilians breached the border fence between Gaza and Israel in 119 places, sailed in on paragliders, and landed on Israeli beaches, killing 1,200 Israelis and kidnapping 250.



The next day, I was asked by a particular individual what I thought about the attacks. I shared a few thoughts and expressed my sympathy for those killed in and those affected by the attacks. The man looked at me and then said he did not believe that very many people were attacked or killed, that it was blown out of proportion by the Israelis. He went on to say that he really didn't think that the Palestinians killed anyone, but rather the Israelis did it to themselves in order to have an excuse to invade Gaza. Somewhat put off, I paused for moment before saying that one of the ways that we know the Palestinians did it is because they videoed and live streamed themselves doing it, while bragging to family and friends how they just killed some Jews. He gave me a blank stare, as if to say, "And you really believe that?" In retrospect, I should have asked why he was so quick to believe Hamas and the Palestinians rather than Israel and the Jews.

Unfortunately, this guy's attitude is more widespread than you might realize. You can find it on college campuses. You can find it in online chat groups and blog posts. You can even find it in churches. It is called antisemitism, and it has been around a long time.

Reflecting on the one-year anniversary of the heinous terrorist attack on Israel, I gave some thought as to why the Jews are so hated. To understand why, we must first consider where antisemitism comes from. To do so, consider how the new Pharaoh, who "knew not Joseph" in the first chapter of Exodus tried to destroy the Jews by weakening them through hard bondage and then ordering the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male babies. Also consider how King Balak attempted to hire the prophet Balaam to curse the Jews so that the Moabites could defeat them and drive them away in Numbers chapters 22-24. Then, of course, there is Haman, in the Book of Esther, who attempted to manipulate King Ahasuerus into destroying Jews throughout all the provinces of the Medes and Persians. In each of these cases, it seems reasonable to believe that it was Satan who put it into their hearts to oppress, destroy, and eradicate the Jews.

Since the Bible times, we have continued to see attempts to destroy and eradicate the Jews all the way to the present day. After putting down a second Jewish rebellion in 135 AD, Rome attempted to push the Jews out of their homeland, renaming it Syria Palaestina, after their ancient enemies, the Philistines. England and France banished the Jews in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Jews were attacked and expelled from many parts of Germany after the Black Death in 1348 after being

accused of causing the deaths by poisoning the wells. Spain expelled the Jews in 1492, followed shortly thereafter by Portugal and Navarre. Again, it seems reasonable to believe that it was Satan who put it into their hearts to oppress, destroy, and eradicate the Jews.

In the modern era, we have seen the oppression, destruction, and eradication reach new extremes, beginning with the Russian pogroms in the 1880's, continuing well into the 1900's, and with the Nazi persecutions, culminating in the Holocaust, of the 1930's-1940's. It continues to rise with the increasing animosity and hostility of Arab Muslim nations and, more recently, Iran toward the Jews, especially with the attempt to establish a Jewish homeland in the Middle East following World War One and the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. Anti-Jewish sentiment in the United Nations has only served to fuel the oppression, destruction, and eradication. Yet again, it seems reasonable to believe that it was Satan who put it into their hearts to oppress, destroy, and eradicate the Jews.

Now, if Satan is the source of antisemitism, then it would make sense why so many appear to have an irrational hatred for the Jews and the nation of Israel today. It would make sense why so many people are willing to believe blatant lies, half-truths, and outright slander about the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Though Jesus was rebuking the pharisees of His day who were rejecting Him, He may just as well have been speaking of antisemites today when He said in John 8:44:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Now, if Satan is the source of antisemitism, it is reasonable to ask why he hates the Jews so much more than any other people group. It has to be more than the idea that Israel is, according to Zechariah 2:8, the apple of God's eye. Perhaps it has more to do with these three things:

1. *The Jews gave us the Word of God.*
2. *The Jews gave us the ability to read the Word of God.*
3. *The Jews gave us the incarnate Word of God.*

Let's look at the first item: The Devil clearly hates the Jewish people because God used them to give us the Word of God. To understand this point, consider the following verses:

- *And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. (Luke 4:3-4)*
- *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)*
- *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

- *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:22-23)*

In 2 Peter 1:21, the Bible says, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” These holy men of God, from Moses to Malachi, who gave us the rich histories, divine pronouncements, and prophetic revelations of the Old Testament, along with Matthew through John who faithfully recorded the historical events and prophetic revelations surrounding the life of Christ and the early days of Christianity in the New Testament, gave us the Bible by divine inspiration. Or, as Paul puts it in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

You see, it is in the Word of God that we learn about God and our relationship to Him. It is in the Word of God that we learn about the Saviour and the plan of salvation. It is in the Word of God that we learn about our enemy and how to defeat him. It is no wonder that Satan hates the Jewish people because he hates the Word of God!

Now while the first point may seem obvious, what about the second point: The Jews gave us the ability to read the Word of God. What does this mean?

Well, consider what it meant to be fully literate when Moses was growing up as the son of Pharaoh in ancient Egypt. In Egypt, like in much of the ancient world, writing consisted of a number of pictographic symbols known as hieroglyphics. The number of hieroglyphics ranged from several hundred to several thousand. Consequently, while many people could recognize a few commonly used simple hieroglyphics, most people did not have the time and resources to become fully literate. The early Hebrews, however, adapted a subset of Egyptian hieroglyphics to represent the sounds of their language, which eventually became the first alphabetic writing system, consisting of 22 characters representing consonant sounds.

The importance of going from thousands of hieroglyphics to a mere 22 letters was revolutionary. It made literacy possible for the common man. It also took the exchange of knowledge and ideas out of the hands of the elite, enabling farmers, traders, merchants, and laborers to become educated and informed as well. It also made the Word of God available to the common man, enabling them to know who God is and what He wants for us.

Now the Devil understands better than any totalitarian ruler that an illiterate population is more easily controlled than a literate population (just look at our inner cities). Consequently, since “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,” Satan puts a lot of effort in keeping people illiterate. And he hates the Jewish people because they gave us the ability to read and learn the Word of God.

Finally, the third point, which is perhaps the most important: The Jews gave us the incarnate Word of God. This refers to the incarnation of God the Son, also known as the Word of God, as the Messiah, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In Genesis 3:15, God said to Satan, who was in the guise of a serpent, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” This is known as the proto-gospel and is the first mention in the Bible of a coming Saviour or Messiah. Satan, the serpent, was to strike at the heel of the Messiah, the seed of the woman, merely wounding Him. The Messiah, however, would then bruise the head of the serpent, inflicting a mortal wound on Satan. The Devil tried to disrupt this prophecy by corrupting the human race in Genesis chapter six but God intervened and, despite destroying the world with a global flood, saved Noah and his family alive on the ark.

After the flood, God renewed His promise of a Saviour, saying that He would come through the line of Noah’s son Shem. This promise was later narrowed down to Shem’s descendant Abraham, then Abraham’s grandson Jacob, then Jacob’s son Judah, and finally Judah’s descendant King David.

Eventually, a young woman named Mary, who was a direct descendent of King David, was visited by the angel Gabriel and informed that she would bear the Messiah. The Devil, of course, tried numerous times to destroy the Jewish people in order to prevent the Messiah from being born, by stirring up enemies who tried to destroy the Jews. Finally, according to Galatians 4:4, “when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,” and “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:14)”. Satan tried to destroy the Christ child by stirring Herod to destroy the baby boys in and around Bethlehem, but God preserved Jesus by sending an angel to warn Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and the Baby to escape Herod’s killing spree. Then, despite the Devil’s numerous attempts to incite people to kill Jesus before His time, Jesus completed His mission, went to the cross where He shed His blood and died to pay for our sins, and rose the third day victorious over death and sin.

Were it not for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would be lost, bound for hell, and without hope of salvation. “But,” much to Satan’s chagrin, according to Romans 5:8-9, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Yes, it is no wonder that Satan hates the Jewish people because he hates the incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ, who defeated him at the cross of Calvary and brought salvation to a lost and dying world!

So, the next time you encounter antisemitism, consider the source and remember why Satan hates the Jews.

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