

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



Volume XXX, Issue 4

MAY 2024

OPPOSE ANTISEMITISM

Stop the Hate

“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God.

“Speak kindly to Jerusalem.” —Isaiah 40:1-2



SAY “NO” TO ANTISEMITISM!

Dear friend,

Shalom in His grace. As the war in Israel continues, our hearts go out to those suffering due to the actions of Hamas and Hezbollah! The impact of the conflict now stretches across the globe. It has caused the rise of new challenges for the worldwide Jewish community and for Your Mission to the Jewish People, as you can see from the following reports about the growing number of antisemitic incidents in the United States. Sadly, I am certain further events will have transpired by the time my letter crosses your desk or kitchen table. *Yet, the pro-Hamas protestors act as if October 7 never happened!*

THE CHILLING TRENDS

The Anti-Defamation League, the world’s leading organization tracking and opposing antisemitism, reported in early January,

In the three months since the Oct. 7 massacre in Israel, U.S. antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed, reaching a total of 3,291* incidents between Oct. 7 and Jan. 7, according to ADL’s (the Anti-Defamation League) preliminary data. This represents a 361-percent increase compared to the same period one year prior, which saw 712 incidents.

The preliminary three-month tally is higher than the total number of antisemitic incidents tracked in any year in the last decade, except for calendar year 2022, when the total number of incidents reached a historic high of 3,697. Since Oct. 7, there was an average of nearly 34 antisemitic incidents per day, putting 2023 on track to be the highest year for antisemitic acts against Jews since ADL started tracking this data in the late 1970s.¹

Although these statistics are from the United States, this dramatic rise in antisemitic incidents is global, especially affecting Western countries where you might not expect this dramatic rise in Jewish hatred.

I am especially astounded by the antisemitism currently raging in England. According to the Community Security Trust, which gathers information on antisemitism in the United Kingdom, there were 3,328 incidents of abusive behavior, 266 assaults, 305 threats, and 182 acts of damage and desecration throughout 2023. The charity said there was a total of 4,103 antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom in 2023, up from the previous annual record of 2,261 in 2021.²

Similar occurrences of antisemitic hatred were recorded in Canada and Australia, home to hundreds of thousands of Jewish people.

MY FAMILY’S STORY

My maternal grandparents emigrated from Belarus to the United States to escape the everyday horrors of antisemitism. Little did they know the most extreme, diabolical, and destructive expression of antisemitism would soon come from Germany, one of the most sophisticated and Christianized countries in Western Europe.

My grandparents left their homes and families behind because of the attacks against Jewish people (called pogroms), which motivated them to make the dramatic move to an unknown country! Like so many Jewish people, they were desperate to get away from those who sought their destruction and build a better life for their children. They willingly left the land, language, and life they knew to live in a land built upon freedom of religion.

The United States still had some re-strictions prohibiting or limiting Jewish people at colleges and fraternal organizations and in certain professions. But my grandparents could still own property, get a better education, and enjoy opportunities in their new homeland they could not get in Europe.



COUNTERING THE CURRENT WAVE OF ANTISEMITISM

So much of the current wave of antisemitism is rooted in the belief in Israel and Jewish people in general as aggressors. We would not suggest every criticism of the policies and actions of the State of Israel, valid or not, springs from the poison of antisemitism. Yet, from what we have seen taking place across the United States, anti-Zionism and the belief Israel is an illegitimate state is often fueled by antisemitism.

I am sorry to say Jewish students on our university campuses are feeling the brunt of a growing, unreasonable anger and hatred. They are often targeted by Hamas sympathizers, who are abetted

by administrations at various—and not just “elite”—schools, which seem to look the other way and tolerate targeted protests.

One of the groups countering the growing antisemitism on campuses across our country is the Brandeis Center in Boston—part of the enduring legacy of the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, the late Louis Brandeis. He was a staunch supporter of Jewish rights and the State of Israel. The Brandeis Center plays a vital role in opposing antisemitism on campus.

Let me give you a couple of examples of what they are doing:

The Brandeis Center and Jewish on Campus (JOC) filed a joint complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) on behalf of numerous Jewish students at American University (AU) who have been assaulted, threatened, harassed and intimidated in dormitories, classrooms and campus spaces. According to the complaint, AU was fully aware of the pervasive and hostile environment for Jewish students, and not only ignored it, in some cases, it chose to subject Jewish whistleblowers to harassment and disciplinary proceedings.³

And further,

In another story, on the downfall of Harvard’s and UPenn’s presidents and the double standard applied to Jewish students by campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs, Marcus [president of the Center] stated: “DEI offices have often acted as if Jewish Americans were outside their scope of responsibility.” When Jewish students go to DEI offices seeking support, “they will receive a cold shoulder from administrators who are quicker to support members of other groups such as African American, Hispanics, or gay or lesbian students.”⁴

Whereas we hope all those who feel the pain of discrimination and prejudice will find help, the overt dismissal of Jewish student concerns is intolerable and unfair. I believe followers of Jesus need to spring into action on behalf of Jewish people.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS OPPOSE ANTISEMITISM?

We must ask ourselves the question: “Is opposing antisemitism a spiritual duty for all believers in Jesus?”

Today’s antisemitism, seen in synagogue shootings, attacks on a kosher market in France, the taking of hostages at a synagogue in Dallas, and through the growing presence of antisemitism on social media, is *no longer* merely latent. To a large degree, tensions in the Middle East have exacerbated this growing antisemitism.

However, we would be mistaken in thinking this “oldest hatred” did not exist prior to October 7 or before Israel became a modern state.

After October 7, it did not take long for antisemites to begin targeting Jewish people in the United States, Germany, England, and across the globe. It is apparent their hatred of Jewish people was not new, and the events of October 7 simply sparked what was already there, causing it to rise to the surface. Really, the opposite should have been the case. It is also remarkable how quickly Hamas sympathizers swept the atrocities committed by the terrorist organization on October 7 under the rug.

Jewish people worldwide are now the objects of anger and contempt by these same sympathizers. It seems as if any Jewish event on campus and in various communities is subject to the wrath of radical and violent

advocates who believe their mission is to remove Israel “from the river to the sea.”

This terrible surge of global antisemitism needs to be stopped. First, by our prayers, followed by our actions.

THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS OF ANTISEMITISM

The roots of antisemitism remain deeply woven into our culture and those of many Western countries, as well as those nations part of the Arab world. Yet, the problem goes deeper than this!

As I have mentioned in the past, the root of antisemitism is profoundly spiritual.

We affirm God chose Jewish people to be His people and to accomplish His purposes (Genesis 12:1–3). At the exact moment God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants, the devil chose Jewish people as his target throughout the ages. The devil hates God, our Messiah, the Bible, and Jewish people.

As believers in Jesus, we must support Jewish people globally, even if we have political disagreements with the modern State of Israel. Affirming God’s chosen people is a personal duty for all Christians and requires our standing against antisemitism.

In light of God’s far-reaching purposes for the global Jewish community, we have no option other than to find ways in this hateful environment to defend and protect Jewish people and to oppose antisemitism wherever we see it today.

Thanks for your love, prayers, and support for Israel and Jewish people—and *all who are oppressed by Hamas—especially for the hostages held in Gaza since October 7*. The next section of the newsletter will offer some practical suggestions for ways Christians can support Jewish people and oppose antisemitism.

In Him,



Mitch

Endnotes

*Note: This is preliminary data. An earlier version of this press release was updated on January 17, 2024 to reflect the latest findings.

1 “U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Skyrocketed 360% in Aftermath of Attack in Israel, According to Latest ADL Data,” ADL, January 17, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according>.

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3 “February 2024 Brandeis Brief,” *Brandeis Center* (blog), February 8, 2024, <https://brandeiscenter.com/february-2024-brandeis-brief/>.

4 “February 2024 Brandeis Brief.”

Antisemitism around the World—and How to Oppose It

Antisemitism comes in all shapes and forms. In different times and places, people have given various reasons for their hatred of Jewish people. But whether cloaked in misguided theology or racist agendas, antisemitism has been a deadly problem over the millennia, and it is once again on the rise around the world today.

To oppose antisemitism most effectively, we must understand what is happening. Though there are some differences, hatred of God's chosen people is the common thread. In a world growing increasingly hostile to Israel and Jewish people, Christians must stand with the Jewish community against this age-old hate. Let us look at what is occurring around the world and give you some practical steps you can take if you encounter antisemitism in your own community.

EUROPEAN ANTISEMITISM

From medieval times until the Holocaust, most Jewish people in the world lived in Europe. They often endured antisemitism thinly disguised as political agendas under a “Christian” banner, including blood libels, accusations of causing the Black Death, or the Crusades. For centuries, particular theological views in the church stirred disdain for Jewish people, like supersessionism or the belief God rejected Israel due to corporate rejection of Jesus. Casting blame on all Jewish people for the death of Jesus also fueled the flames. In the nineteenth century, racially motivated hatred of Jewish people emerged, which set the stage for the Holocaust, the most devastating antisemitic event in history.

In recent years, antisemitism has re-emerged. Jewish cemeteries and institutions in Europe have been vandalized with swastikas or other antisemitic messages. The soaring of anti-Israel fervor following October 7 has exacerbated the situation. Shortly after the war began, rioters stormed a Russian airport where a flight from Israel was landing. In one video of the incident, someone said, **“We are here for the Jews; we came to kill them with knives and shoot at them.”** In the same region, rioters met at a hotel where they thought Israelis were staying. Rioters only left after checking passports to ensure no Israeli citizens were present.¹

Recent anti-Israel views have especially erupted in the United Kingdom, to the point of interfering with its democratic

government. Massive demonstrations gathered tens of thousands of people, rocking London and other major cities. In February, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak warned Britain was falling into “mob rule” as Jewish officials or those who support Israel feared for their safety.² For instance, Mike Freer, a Conservative member of Parliament representing an area with a large Jewish community and who defended Israel, resigned after an attempted arson attack at his office.³

NORTH AMERICAN ANTISEMITISM

The United States and Canada have historically been havens for Jewish people fleeing persecution in Europe. Though North America has never harbored the kind of state-sponsored antisemitism common in Europe, Jewish people have faced discrimination. For decades, many colleges had quotas limiting the number of Jewish students they would accept. Some country clubs, hotels, and other businesses would not accept Jewish members or customers.

Overall, though, antisemitism in North America rarely gained acceptance or caused violence. Jewish people have lived peacefully in the United States and Canada for generations and have significantly contributed to North American culture. However, attacks on American synagogues since 2018 signaled a shift. They caused many Jewish people to worry about the basic physical safety of their families and institutions. The Canadian Jewish community has had similar concerns. Shimon Koffler Fogel, president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, explains: “Antisemitism isn’t just a real and present threat today, it’s a problem growing at a frightening rate. In Canada alone, anti-Jewish hate crime has increased 52 percent since 2020.”⁴

Hamas’ horrific massacre on October 7, 2023, was another turning point for North American Jewish people when antisemitic views became acceptable and mainstream. Especially on social media and college campuses, many



voice support for Hamas. According to one poll, more than half (51 percent) of eighteen- to twenty-four-year-olds say Hamas' attacks on October 7 "can be justified by the grievance of Palestinians."⁵ Reasoned criticism of Israeli policies is appropriate. Denying, minimizing, or justifying the bloodiest assault on Jewish people since the Holocaust is contemptible.

ISLAMIC ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism is a central part of modern Islamic extremism. Hassan al-Banna founded the Muslim Brotherhood in 1928 and influenced countless like-minded groups. Hamas itself emerged from the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987. Al-Banna idolized Adolf Hitler; he translated *Mein Kampf* into Arabic as *My Jihad* and spread the antisemitic cartoons of the Nazi newspaper *Der Sturmer*.⁶ The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, was also an ardent supporter of Nazism. He met with Hitler in Berlin, where the two spoke of their shared "life and death struggle with . . . Jewish power."⁷

This antisemitic thinking fueled Muslim extremist groups for decades to come. The Hamas charter, for instance, claims "the Zionists" are to blame for every war in the world.⁸ Less than a month after the October 7 massacre, the Palestinian Authority, which has a strong track record of financing terrorism, instructed Muslim preachers to speak of "the Muslim destiny to exterminate Jews."⁹ Violent, radical Islam represents a comparatively small part of the Muslim world, but it has taken a devastating toll on Israel and the world.

Increased sympathy for Islamic extremism in the West has spread this form of antisemitic fervor around the world. Young adults, especially, are propagating age-old stereotypes about Jewish people through social media. In one TikTok trend, users affirmed a letter Osama bin Laden wrote more than twenty years ago, which blamed Jewish people for 9/11. It also decried "the devastating Jewish control of capital [wealth]," appealing to the antisemitic trope of greedy Jewish bankers secretly ruling the world.¹⁰ Hamas has many defenders who ignore or gloss over their explicitly antisemitic aims.

Action Steps

These unfathomable acts of hatred toward Jewish people must end! If you hear about any antisemitic activities in your local community, please address them as you are able—and deem safe—in the following ways:

- Ask the folks at your church to pray about the situation.
- Contact your local authorities, asking them if they know about it and what they are doing about it.
- Let your local synagogue or Jewish institution know your church is praying about the situation and you support the Jewish community.
- If it is a protest, you might want to ask your church if you could set up a prayer table around the event's perimeter. This way, protestors or Jewish people who would like prayer can stop by.

Chosen People Ministries is happy to provide resources to help you combat antisemitism. You might ask your pastor if you can provide our materials to help your church understand the conflict in Israel and the rising antisemitism. For example, these resources could be used in a Sunday school class or small group. You can also invite a Chosen People Ministries speaker to your church to discuss these issues and what the Bible says about antisemitism.



We are also happy to send along a couple of books about antisemitism for your church library, including the excellent book by Dr. Michael Brown, *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, which describes the church's long history of antisemitism. We also have a few booklets to equip you to help your brothers and sisters in Christ understand the role of Jewish people in the plan of God. All you need to do to receive these materials is call our church ministries department at 1-888-405-5874. You can also write to us at 241 E. 51st St., New York, NY 10022.

Chosen People Ministries also has educational videos, articles, and podcasts to pass along to your local church, Sunday school, or prayer gathering. Visit chosenpeople.com/stopantisemitism to view these resources.

Endnotes

- ¹ "Russians Storm Airport in Attempt to Attack Passengers of Israeli Flight," *Jerusalem Post*, October 29, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-770738>.
- ² "Mob Rule' Replacing Democracy in Britain, Warns PM Sunak," *Reuters*, February 28, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/mob-rule-replacing-democracy-britain-warns-pm-sunak-2024-02-28/>.
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- ⁴ "Jews Remain Most Targeted Religious Group for Hate Crime in Canada, Second Overall," Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, August 2, 2023, https://www.cija.ca/jews_remain_most_targeted_religious_group_for_hate_crime_in_canada_second_overall?utm_campaign=2023_10_16_ncr_release&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cija.
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- ⁸ "The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement," The Avalon Project, August 8, 1988, https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp.
- ⁹ Itamar Marcus, "PA Teaches about Muslim Destiny to Kill Jews just 2 Weeks after Oct. 7 Massacre of Jews," *Palestinian Media Watch*, October 22, 2023, <https://palwatch.org/page/34677>.
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Micah 7:7-13

A Confident Prophet

In contrast to the impatient Israelites of his day, the prophet Micah resolved to “watch” and “wait” for God to act as He had promised. He wrote, *“But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me”* (Mic 7:7). One might question why, amid the awful circumstances in his time, Micah was so optimistic. The answer lies in his determination to trust in God. His faith was focused on the God of his salvation.

In this final chapter, Micah concluded his book by writing a liturgical hymn consisting of expressions of assurance, prayer, and worship. He said, *“Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me”* (Mic 7:8). Micah’s enemies rejoiced when they saw him discouraged over the sins of his people. He told them not to rejoice because, though he seemed to have fallen, the Lord Himself would make him and his nation rise again. Amid the dark situation, the Lord would be his light and illuminate his path. This hope echoes what the psalmist said in Psalm 119:105: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

As a representative of the people of Israel, Micah confessed their sin (Mic 7:9). As a part of his nation, he was with them in their guilt, even though he had not committed the sins of his fellow Israelites. However, he would have to bear some of the consequences of divine discipline upon the nation. Ultimately, the Lord who indicted the Israelites earlier in this book (Mic 6:1–2) would be his divine advocate. Micah would not suffer the same level of punishment as the guilty leaders of the nation. Eventually, he would come out of those dark circumstances and into the light of God’s presence. He wrote, *“He will bring me out to the light, and I will see His righteousness”* (Mic 7:9). He would see God demonstrate His justice and faithfulness to His promises. In the end, God will vindicate the faithful.

Micah’s enemies would see God’s righteousness and feel ashamed for accusing the God of Israel of abandoning His prophet and his people. Micah would also see these enemies humiliated and brought low. *“My eyes will look on her; at that time she will be trampled down like mire of the streets”* (Mic 7:10). His enemies would be stepped on like mud in the streets. Micah’s critics and those skeptical of his prophecies would see they were wrong when their

city walls were rebuilt, and the boundaries of Judah extended. This event refers to the distant future when Messiah returns, and God regathers and reestablishes Israel in her land.

Israel’s former enemies from all over the world—represented by Assyria and the Euphrates River in the northeast, and Egypt and its cities in the southwest—would come to Israel (Mic 7:12). They would come from “sea to sea and mountain to mountain,” a figure of speech for visitors from everywhere on earth. The nations will come to worship the reigning Messiah Jesus, seated on the throne of David (Psalm 2:12; Revelation 5:9–10). However, before the Messiah returns to establish His messianic kingdom on earth, Micah said God would judge the world for its sinful deeds: *“And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, on account of the fruit of their deeds”* (Mic 7:13). This judgment of the nations will occur during a time of tribulation before and immediately following the Lord’s glorious second coming.



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NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

HUNGRY SOULS FIND SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT IN TEL AVIV

Like many big cities, Tel Aviv has a large homeless population. Some of our staff in Israel partner with other ministries to provide hot meals to those in need. At a recent event, one of our staff sang from the book of Psalms and



Isaiah 53, stopping to explain what they meant. Sitting next to our staff, Shaul* knew several psalms by heart. He did not want to believe in Jesus because, in his own words, “I am a Jew,” but he listened eagerly and sometimes joined in. Our staff explained how Jesus and the gospel are very Jewish! Shaul had once been active in synagogue and Jewish traditions but fell into darkness and mental problems through dabbling in the occult. Please pray for his salvation. He said, “Thank you so much for everything; you are so kind and thoughtful.”

A Jewish, not-yet-believing friend of our staff volunteered at the same event and heard the gospel as she was serving. Although our staff had tried to study the Bible with her in the past, this experience was like words of Scripture coming alive for her. She was amazed by the testimony of one gentleman Jesus rescued from the darkness of addiction and hopelessness. Now, he lives with purpose and serves God. Our volunteer did not know it was even possible for these men and women to escape the prison of addiction. Please pray for our staff and volunteers and the people they serve.

HURTING JEWISH MAN RECEIVES HEALING IN JESUS

About seven years ago, a Jewish man started coming to the congregation where one of our staff in Chicago serves. Yakov* came on a bicycle because his license had been taken away after a car accident. He talked about antisemitism in Ukraine and how, as a boy, he had to stand up for his mother. Then he disappeared. No one knew what happened to him.

Three years ago, Yakov called our staff, who had a hard time recognizing him. He had suffered several heart attacks and strokes and was in a nursing

home. When our staff member visited him, he left with a heavy heart. Yakov could only move around in a wheelchair, could not speak very well, and swore often. He did not want to talk about God. He only needed our staff to do favors for him.

Because of the pandemic, our staff could not visit him often. However, each time our staff member came to visit, he laid hands on Yakov and prayed for Jesus’ mercy on this man. Miracles began to happen gradually. Suddenly, his speech began to improve, and he eventually stopped swearing. He started asking questions about God, about forgiveness of sins, and about Jesus (Yeshua).

For the first time, for an entire hour, they talked only about God and eternal life. “I want to pray to Yeshua,” he said before our staff member left, and they prayed. Another Jewish soul was saved!

We never cease to marvel at how Yeshua answers prayer. Please pray for Yakov, for his growth in faith, and for his health.

UNEXPECTED DETOUR LEADS TO DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Often when our staff travel, they look for opportunities to present the gospel to individuals God brings across their path. After a recent Chosen People Ministries national staff leadership meeting in San Francisco, a couple from our staff attempted to drive down the scenic Pacific Coast Highway to another town, but they were disappointed when they realized their navigation system rerouted them away from the ocean drive they were anticipating.

So, they ended up going on a hike instead. On the trail, a woman stopped to talk to them. She was interested in spirituality but was not a believer. Her mother was Jewish from Europe. When she heard our staff was Messianic Jewish, she said, “Tell me about your Jesus experience.” She took our staff’s contact information, and they left with joy in their hearts. This was just one of several opportunities to talk about the Lord our staff enjoyed on this one short hike.

At first, our staff members were upset, thinking they missed God’s plan for them to experience one of the most scenic drives in the country. But after this hike, they knew they were just where God wanted them to be. The Holy Spirit has an adventure in Jesus the Messiah for all of us. Many times, what we see as “detours” in life serve as God’s guidance to better experiences.



*Names changed

You are bringing the good news of MESSIAH to God's chosen people!

You are making a positive, life-changing impact on Jewish people here in the United States and around the world at a time when antisemitism is tragically on the rise.

Today, as you pray for, evangelize, and serve Jewish people, you may be able to do so and also receive a tax advantage—by making a distribution gift from your IRA.

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If you are 73 or older, this kind of gift also counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Whether you donate through your IRA or another option, we encourage you to give by June 30, the end of our fiscal year, to maximize your impact on ministry.

With your help, we will continue proclaiming the good news through Jesus the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide.

For answers to your questions regarding giving from your IRA or other strategic giving options, contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208, or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!



MESSIANIC RESOURCES

Stop the Hate booklet + *Never Again, the Holocaust Remembered*

■ two-book special: \$9.95^{US}



Never Again: the Holocaust Remembered is a collection of stories from the Chosen People Ministries archives detailing the courage, bravery, and grace found in the midst of the unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust. This book reminds us the Lord was at work even then, and encourages us to stand with Jewish people, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and oppose antisemitism today. ■ PRICE: \$7.95^{US}

Antisemitism, particularly in the United States, is skyrocketing! We need to fight this deadly disease. It is time to stop the hate! *Stop the Hate* is a wonderful tract to pass out during street outreaches as well as personal one-on-one evangelism. ■ PRICE: \$2.95^{US}



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