

Explaining The Sin Of Anti-Semitism

Daniel 2:44: 'In the days of these final ten kings (that was during the Roman Empire) will the God of heaven set up a Kingdom which will never be destroyed, nor will its sovereignty be left to another people but it will consume all these kingdoms and it will stand forever'.

We will take a look at each segment of the above verse. In the days of the Roman Empire God set up the Kingdom of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Kingdom of God will never be destroyed. The sovereignty of the Kingdom of God will never be given to another people, or to another nation, nor another language. The Kingdom of God will take over and one day rule all other kingdoms, and the Kingdom of God will last forever. Jesus really is the King of all kings.

What are the real reasons for anti-Semitism? It means anti-Semite – or a dislike for the descendants of Shem, one of Noah's three sons and from whom the Jews originated. All Caucasian peoples around the world came from Shem. There are many Arab people who also came from Shem so they are in effect, disliking themselves, so anti-Semitism is not really the correct word. Anti-Semitism should be said as anti-Judaism or in reality 'anti-Messiah'. It is the dislike and fear of the coming Messiah. For centuries, the Jews have been persecuted and they and many others are baffled as to why. The reasons for anti-Semitism are four-fold, and once we learn the reasons why, that should give us a whole new positive outlook in regards to the Jewish people. One reason is, the Messiah. It was prophesied the Messiah and therefore salvation, would come from the Jews and from nowhere else, plus, the Messiah would overcome the devil. Another reason is rulership. 'The Lord (Jesus) will be King over all the earth' (Zechariah 14:9). The third reason is spiritual jealousy and fourth reason is worship.

The Kingdom of God was prophesied about in the Old Testament and established by Jesus as recorded in the New Testament. The above verse (Daniel 2:44) states emphatically, the sovereignty will not be left to another people – it will forever be Jewish. 'Salvation comes from the Jews' (John 4:22). We know Jesus was born a Jewish Man and He will be a Jewish Man forever. Zechariah 6:12 claimed: "Behold the Man" ... Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold the Man" (John 19:5). When Jesus became a human Man, He became a Man forever. He will never cease to be a Man. After His resurrection he was seen by hundreds of people as a Man. Thomas saw His wounds (John 20:27). Jesus has ushered in the Kingdom of God; He is God but He is also a Man (John 20:28). 'The first man (Adam) was created out of the dust of the earth. The second Man is the Lord from out of heaven, and just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so will we also bear the image of the Man of heaven' (1 Corinthians 15:47 & 49). 'There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus the Messiah' (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus will be a Jewish Man forever. The eternal Kingdom of God is therefore now, and will forever be ruled by a Jewish Man, Who is also our Sovereign King (Luke 19:38). God will not allow another people to rule His Kingdom. Essentially, the Kingdom of God is Jewish and all Gentiles have to be adopted by salvation into His Kingdom (Ephesians 1:5).

The rebellious hearts of mankind do not want to be ruled over – and especially by a Jewish Man. The problem of anti-Judaism is a spiritual dislike of the coming Messiah Who happens to come from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). The Jews did not choose themselves to bring forth the Messiah – God chose them out of all the nations on earth (Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2). The only Person the devil really fears is the Messiah, because the coming of the Messiah spelt the devil's defeat and he will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). From the days of Adam, the scriptures prophesy of the Messiah coming through the Jews (first known as Hebrews) and the Messiah would defeat the devil (Genesis 3:15). The devil tried to destroy the Jewish people before the Messiah came and has tried to destroy them since, in a desperate effort to stop Jesus from coming again. The first time was in Egypt under Pharaoh who decreed all the male Hebrew babies should be drowned in the Nile River (Exodus 1:22), and a people without any males is no longer a nation. The second time was in the Persian Empire under Haman who decreed all the Jews in the Persian Empire should be killed (Esther 3:6 to 9). At that time, the Persian Empire ruled the whole known world so that decree would have included all the Jews.

Then in 167 BC, the Jews saw the battle of the Maccabees when the dictator of the Syrian Empire, Antiochus Epiphanes tried to destroy the Jews through assimilation. Antiochus decided the whole of the known world should become one union, and the way to unite them was to make everyone speak Greek and adopt the Greek culture, including their forms of worship. Antiochus desecrated the Jewish temple and sought to pull the Jews away from Judaism with the hope of assimilating them all into the Hellenistic culture. He outlawed aspects of Jewish observance – including the study of the Old Testament – which then began to decay the foundation of Jewish life and practice. Unfortunately, some Jews went along with it, took Greek names and married non-Jews. Antiochus' plan was initially working well but there was a band of courageous Orthodox Jews, who believed what God says in the Bible. Matitياهو, his son Judah Maccabee (the Hammer) and a few others who refused to go along with Antiochus, resisted the might of the Syrian army of

thousands, and prevailed. Israel was preserved as an independent nation, with its own religious beliefs, culture, language (Hebrew) and the Maccabees rededicated the temple with a celebratory feast. From that time onwards the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) was observed by Jews. Jesus observed Hanukkah (John 10:22) and the feast is still observed today. Jesus Himself was dedicated as a baby in that same new temple. God had to preserve the Jews, their language and their culture. Had all the Jews adopted the Greek culture, they would have been worshipping idols, so Jesus could not have been born into Greek culture. God had to choose and prepare a very special people to send His Son to, so He could correctly obey His parents without disobeying God. Remember, God said He would never give the sovereignty to another nation, and that included the language of another nation. The residual outcome of Antiochus' reign is the incorrect belief the New Testament was written in Greek, when in fact it was written in Hebrew and translated into Greek about 300 AD. For more on that subject, see the Bible study called 'The whole Bible was written in Hebrew' on this website.

Another attempt to eliminate the Messiah occurred after Jesus was born. When Herod learned the Messiah had recently been born in Bethlehem as the scriptures foretold, Herod sent soldiers to kill every male Jewish baby less than two years of age. God foresaw that event and to protect His Son, sent Joseph, Mary and Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2:13 to 16).

Before Jesus died on the cross, there were three attempts to eliminate the Jewish people because they were to bring forth the Messiah; then there was the one attempt to destroy all the male babies in Israel during the time of Herod. If the devil could have eliminated the Jewish people, he would never have been defeated, but through Jesus' death and resurrection, he has been defeated (Colossians 2:15). It was a complete and total victory but the final application of that victory is yet to come. That will be the return of the Messiah and the devil is doing all he can to stop that occurring. He will do all he can to prevent the return of the Messiah by preventing the situation that will open the way for the Messiah to come. It is almost a repeat of what happened under Antiochus – to destroy Israel and the Jews, and he had a good try under Hitler. Another way is to stop Israel from becoming ready for the Messiah to come because the Jews have to be in Israel before the Messiah comes back. In our day we have seen Israel become a nation once again but we have also seen some countries exercise incredible opposition to the Jews returning to Israel. Another way is to make Gentile Christians so complacent about the return of Jesus they do very little to work towards increasing the Kingdom of God. We must work to hasten the return of the Lord (2 Peter 3:12). The church has an obligation to do what Jesus said in Matthew 24:14 – go out and preach the Gospel to the whole earth. That is the responsibility of the Gentile Christians and we are equally responsible to preach to and love the Jewish people into the Kingdom of God.

So what can we do? Pray for Israel (Psalm 122:6). Intercede intelligently with knowledge of the Word of God. 'I have set watchmen on your walls O Jerusalem, who will never hold their peace day or night. You who put the Lord in remembrance, do not keep silent until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her a praise in the earth' (Isaiah 62:6 & 7). Every Christian and every church needs to accept our responsibility to pray and intercede for Israel. It has to be a worldwide prayer network. That is why the scripture says they pray day and night. While some people are sleeping at night, others on the other side of the earth are awake and praying. The second obligation we have is to offer intelligent support to Israel. The Lord says to, "Comfort, comfort My people" (Isaiah 40:1). God is talking to the Bible believing Gentile Christians. We are to comfort or help the Jewish people because Israel has now been pardoned (Isaiah 40:2). We owe it to the Jewish people. Every Spiritual blessing we have received as well as our salvation has come via the Jews. We cannot change what ignorant Gentile Christians in the past have done to the Jews, but we can change our attitude and show the Jews our gratitude from now on. By ignorant, we mean they were ignorant of how God feels about His people, the Jews. We as Christians have a part to play in shaping history and our part involves helping and praying for the Jews.

Some of the people who promote the most negative attitude towards the Jews are the media. They are wickedly biased against the Jews. Shame on the media and shame on their organisations for allowing such biased reporting. Make no mistake! God will deal with them. God said He would judge the nations on the basis of their treatment of Israel (Joel 3:1 & 2). For those nations who have not shown mercy towards Israel and its people, the Lord speaks some of the hardest words in scripture, "Depart from Me you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). Jesus specifically calls the needy, "My brothers" and there, He is referring to His biological family, the Jews. That means Jesus will curse all who refuse to show mercy to Israel and the Jews. If we give them (His brethren) as little as a glass of water, Jesus said it is as good as giving Him a drink. On the flip side, if people refuse to help the Jews, it is as serious as refusing to help Jesus Himself. 'The King will reply to them, "Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it for Me ... Solemnly I declare to you, in so far as you failed to do it for the least of these, you failed to do it for Me" (Matthew 25:31 to 46). That is something everyone needs to think about.

The Lord said, 'Let all who hate Zion (Israel) be put to shame' (Psalm 129:5). 'For the nation and kingdom that does not serve you (Jerusalem) in that day, will perish, yes, those nations will be utterly laid waste' (Isaiah 60:12). All nations will be judged according to their attitude to Israel. The whole of history is littered with 'wrecks' of great nations and empires that have ignored God's warnings. Look at how Germany was divided into East and West for so many years, which only came to an end after they accepted Israel as a nation. The destiny of all nations depends on their relationship with Israel. At the end of the 1800's, British Christians founded the first Christian church in Jerusalem because they had a deep conviction, the Jews would one day return to their homeland and they wanted a Christian church there for a testimony to the Jewish people. The church's first minister was a Rabbi and he had a powerful impact on the Jewish people. After that, Britain became an empire. Today, hundreds of Jewish Christians gather in that church on Saturdays to worship God. In 1917, 800 Australian Light Horse Brigade riders overcame 4,000 Turkish soldiers and freed Bathsheba and Jerusalem for the Jews and Australia has been mightily blessed ever since.

It is a sad but real indictment on the Gentile Christian church, many are against Jews but will not admit they are anti-Semite. Just being passive towards Israel and Jews is enough to be an anti-Semite. Being passive is not standing up for what is right; being passive is not interceding for Israel; being passive is to allow hundreds of Jewish children to go hungry in the time of war; being passive is not comforting God's people. If you are a Gentile Christian and are passive in your attitude – you are an anti-Semite. We need to repent before God on behalf of our nations and cry out to Him for mercy. We need to pray for the leadership of the Christian churches around the world to begin to recognise their sin and repent.

Gentile Christians who dislike the Jews will not be comfortable in heaven – which is the Kingdom of God – and many Gentile Christians will not enter heaven. Why? Look at these facts. Jesus, the precious Cornerstone and King, is Jewish (Isaiah 28:16; Luke 20:17). The Old Testament prophets, plus the New Testament apostles, all Jewish men, are the foundation of the Kingdom (Ephesians 2:20). The twelve tribes of Israel are the pillars (Exodus 24:4). There are twelve gates in heaven engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel (Exodus 28:21; 39:14; Revelation 21:12). The apostles sit in heaven on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30). The altar is made up of twelve huge stones representing the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) (1 Kings 18:31). The foundations of the New Jerusalem are the twelve apostles, who were all Jewish men (Revelation 21:14). We can see the whole of heaven is filled with Jewish people with Jewish names and Gentile Christians are being built into this whole structure that is made up of Jews (Ephesians 2:21 & 22). Jesus calls heaven, "My Father's house" (John 14:2). If Christians reject God's beloved and chosen nation, then God would naturally have to think twice before permitting anti-Jewish people to live in heaven. We can look at this analogy logically. We have been invited to dwell in God's house and join in with His family as adoptees. No father of a household would invite guests in to live among his children, if they showed a blatant dislike for some of his children, because that would cause friction within the household. So logically, God will not permit anyone to share His household who dislikes the Jews, so anti-Semites cannot live in the Father's house. That is why God will reject Gentile Christians if they reject the Jews. Heaven is God's house and if people reject God's family then they will not be welcome in God's house. Study Matthew 25:31 to 46 again, because this is precisely what Jesus was saying. Paul inferred the exact same concept – that a person can preach the Gospel for years, yet still be unfit for the Kingdom of God. 'I buffet my body and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel, I myself should be found unfit (for the Kingdom of God)' (1 Corinthians 9:27).

The hatred of Jews is not sociological; it is spiritual. That is the reason for anti-Semitism, or more accurately, anti-Judaism. As written earlier, there is a four-fold reason for the dislike of the Jews. Firstly: Salvation through Jesus our Messiah comes from the Jews and He has soundly defeated the devil. The devil has an overwhelming fear of the Messiah and has a terrible dread of being sent to the lake of fire in judgement after Jesus returns again.

Secondly: Pride and jealousy. Jesus is a Jewish Man Who rules the entire universe when the devil wants to but cannot. The devil's pride, arrogance and sin had him cast out of heaven. God said, "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly in the highest heaven! I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!' But you will be brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit' (Isaiah 14:12 to 15).

Thirdly: Spiritual jealousy. The Jews were chosen because God loved them. 'You are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people to Himself out of all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you and choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the fewest of all people but because the Lord loves you and

because He would keep the oath which He had sworn to your forefathers' (Deuteronomy 7:6 to 8). The Jews are a chosen and loved people, they will always be God's people and He has mercy on them. 'The Lord will have mercy on Jacob and will again choose Israel and set them in their own land' (Isaiah 14:1). Jacob is another name for Israel (Genesis 35:10). The scriptures explain how the devil was filled with pride, rebelled and was rejected from heaven and will end up suffering a horrible end in the lake of fire, with no mercy shown to him or to his evil followers (Isaiah 14:9 to 20; Ezekiel 28:14 to 19; Revelation 20:10). Here we have the two extremes. The devil was once loved by God, was the anointed and chosen cherub but rebelled and was eternally rejected out of heaven, and will not be shown any mercy. Israel was later chosen and loved by God, rebelled and after they have repented, will be shown mercy, welcomed back into fellowship with God and will end up in heaven, as all Israel will one day be saved (Romans 11:26). The jealousy and anger felt by the devil towards Israel because the Jews have been pardoned, something that will never happen with the devil, explains why the devil uses people to hurt and kill the Jews, and because Christians have accepted Jesus Who is Jewish, as our Saviour, we too are often under attack and suffer persecution. The devil is spiritually jealous of Israel because the devil has been eternally rejected, but God has shown mercy towards Israel. All of Abraham's offspring were called Hebrews but only the children of Jacob (Israel) and his son Judah went on to become known as Israelites and Jews. 'Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers' (Matthew 1:2). Although the Hebrews spread out, only Jacob's descendants moved to Canaan from Egypt and stayed there, then the land was renamed the Land of Israel (Ezekiel 11:17). Most of the Hebrew descendants of Abraham became known as Arabs as they assimilated with the multitudes of native Arabah tribes living in the vast area now called the Middle East. Abraham had eight sons (Isaac, Ishmael and six sons to his second wife Keturah) but only Isaac's descendants were the children of promise, called or chosen to carry the oracles of God to the whole earth and to bring forth our Messiah. Abraham's nephew Lot had two sons, Moab and Ben-Ammi. God rejected all of Abraham's seven other sons, plus Lot's two sons, plus Isaac's son Esau. Those ten rejected sons and nephews produced many thousands of offspring who all hated and became jealous of the sons of promise – the descendants of Isaac, and that hatred continues today in the form of intense anti-Semitism.

The fourth reason for anti-Semitism is worship. The devil desires to be worshipped and pleaded for Jesus to worship him just once, and he would have given Jesus everything, but Jesus rebuked the devil instead and quoted scripture. 'The devil took Jesus to an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give You all of these things, if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus replied, "Get behind Me Satan! For it is written, "You will worship the Lord your God and you will serve Him only"' (Matthew 4:8 to 10; Luke 4:7 & 8). Here is a strong message to everybody. If Jesus overcame the devil by quoting scripture – we should all do the same. So the fourth reason for the dislike of Jews and Christians is this: we never worship the devil and nor will we, ever, and he hates that, hence the persecution of Jews and genuine born-again Christians. The devil desires to be worshipped and the Jews will never worship him. All of these spiritual reasons are played out in the natural earthly realm in the form of anti-Semitism. The logical reality is, only those under the influence of the devil, hate the Jews. People who truly love God and His Son Jesus, will truly love the Jews and will do all they can for them.

The judgement that will come to anti-Semites is eternal and shocking. "The King will say to them, 'Truly I tell you, when you did good things for one of the least of these My brothers (the Jewish people) you did it for Me.' Then Jesus will say also to those on His left hand, 'Depart from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire (Lake of Fire) prepared for the devil and his angels ... Truly I tell you, when you did not do things for one of the least of these (Jewish people), you did not do it for Me.' They (anti-Semites) will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:40 & 41; 45 & 46).

Amen and God bless you.

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