



A Publication of CJF Ministries and Messianic Perspectives Radio Network

Messianic Perspectives[®]

God has not forgotten the Jewish people, and neither have we.

WHY THE WORLD IS AGAINST ISRAEL

BY DR. GARY HEDRICK

It's no secret that for most of the world, no love is lost on Israel.

For instance, consider the record of the United Nations (UN), the official body representing 192 of the world's sovereign states. Since 1948, virtually every time there's been a resolution concerning the Middle East, the community of nations has sided with Israel's enemies.¹

There may be a certain veneer of fairness and tolerance toward Israel in some political circles, but in global centers of power like New York, London, Moscow, and Brussels, that veneer often wears thin.

Make no mistake about it—in smoke-filled rooms, behind closed doors where people can say what they really think, there are powerful individuals who despise all things Jewish.

Occasionally, that suppressed anti-Semitism breaks the surface, like a menacing sea monster rearing its ugly head. Then it disappears once again into the depths below.

In May of 2010, for example, 90-year-old White House correspondent Helen Thomas stunned the world when she blurted out (at a White House Jewish heritage event, of all places) that Jewish Israelis should “get the [expletive deleted] out of Palestine. . . . They should go home to Poland, Germany, America and everywhere else.”

Ms. Thomas was evidently unaware that nearly 70 percent of Israel’s Jewish citizens today are *sabras*—that is, they were born in Israel. They have no homeland other than Israel to which they can return.



Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images

There was an immediate outcry (and yes, we were part of that outcry) over her remarks, and Ms. Thomas was forced to resign several days later. However, that whole unfortunate episode left some people wondering if it wasn’t a bit hypocritical to pile on an elderly and misinformed newswoman who simply had the audacity and absent-mindedness to articulate out loud what much of the rest of the world quietly thinks anyway.

To anyone who’s paying attention, it’s painfully evident that the same hateful, anti-Jewish spirit that gave rise to the Holocaust remains alive and well today. It’s an unfortunate but undeniable fact.

Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism Today

Several years ago, I received a letter from a man who had been raised in an anti-Semitic home. Even in adulthood, he assumed that the things he had learned from his bigoted family members were true. So when he heard me on the radio talking about Zionism one day, it angered him because he had been taught that Zionism was something evil.

Before writing and rebuking me with a stinging letter, however, he decided to look up the term in an encyclopedia. When he did, he learned that “Zionism” simply refers to the movement to restore Israel as a nation in its ancestral homeland in the Middle East—a Land that had been ripped away from the Jewish people millennia ago.

He told me later that he sat at his desk for a long time and pondered the encyclopedia’s entry. He wondered, “What is so wrong with that?”

This gentleman (who was a real estate broker, by the way) said he finally came to the realization that he had been misled. “The Jewish people hold the title deed to that piece of property through the Abrahamic Covenant,” he once explained to me during a visit to our office. “And since there was no expiration date on the covenant, the Land is theirs in perpetuity and every non-Jew who has tried to occupy it since that time has been a squatter on someone else’s land.”

My friend was speaking from his experience in the business world. As a realtor, he knew what a title deed was and what it meant.²

Nevertheless, many people continue to think of Zionism as something evil. To them, it’s more about racism, bigotry, and injustice than it is about a persecuted and maligned race of people who got tired of running for their lives and returned to their ancient homeland and created a safe haven for themselves and their descendants.

Zionism. It’s such a small, simple word. But at the UN, it’s denigrated and treated almost like profanity. In 2001, the UN held an anti-racism conference

in Durban, South Africa, and some of the attendees showed up sporting swastikas and chanting anti-Israel epithets equating Zionism with racism.³

More recently, at the much-publicized 2011 Durban 3 conference in New York City, anti-Zionist forces tried to use the occasion to bypass the Mideast peace process and bring Palestinian statehood to a vote in the UN general assembly. On September 21, 2011, CJF Ministries joined in a protest at the UN’s Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza organized by our friends from the Jerusalem Institute for Justice.⁴

The protest was effective. The Obama administration, along with key US allies, didn’t allow the motion to come to the general assembly floor. But that didn’t stop one UN agency (UNESCO) from voting overwhelmingly, not long afterward, to grant “Palestine” full membership. This may have been the first time a nonexistent country has been voted into the membership of an official UN agency.⁵



San Antonio Express-News, Tuesday November 1, 2011

But it shouldn’t have been a surprise to anyone. Over and over, the UN has shown itself to be in sympathy with organizations and factions that are sworn to the destruction of Israel and its people.⁶

According to the FBI’s recently released report on “Hate Crime Statistics” in the US, 1,409 religiously motivated hate crimes were reported in 2010 and 65.4 percent of them specifically targeted Jewish people—more than any other ethnic or religious group.⁷

All of this in the “enlightened” 21st century!

Messianic Perspectives®

Dr. Gary Hedrick, *Editor in Chief*
Rachel Zanardi, *Editor*
Erastos Leiloglou, *Designer*



Messianic Perspectives is published bimonthly by CJF Ministries, P.O. Box 345, San Antonio, Texas 78292-0345, a 501(c)3 Texas nonprofit corporation: Dr. Gary Hedrick, President; Brian Nowotny, Director of Communications; Rachel Zanardi, Editor; Erastos Leiloglou, Designer. Subscription price: \$10 per year. The publication of articles by other authors does not necessarily imply full agreement with all the views expressed therein. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982). Visit us online at www.cjfm.org. Toll-free OrderLine: (800) 926-5397. © 2012 by CJF Ministries. All rights reserved.



Photo by Jaafar Ashtiyah/Stringer/Getty Images

Anti-Semitism: From Where Does It Come?

Why, then, is most of the world against Israel and the Jewish people?

It's hard to understand why no other group of people has been hounded to the ends of the earth like our Jewish friends. When they've been driven from their Land as exiles, that wasn't enough to satisfy their attackers. Enemies have followed them like bloodhounds wherever they've gone, fomenting hatred and animosity against them.

When social scientists and researchers tackle this topic and seek to explain what gives rise to anti-Semitism, their explanations are generally either socio-psychological, ethnic, or some combination of the two.

Some of the more common suggestions are these:

- *Anti-Semitism stems from the antagonism many people feel toward the State of Israel. Much of the world views the Israelis as racist oppressors and the Palestinians as hapless victims.*

This proposal is hard to take seriously because anti-Semitism (as manifested in the 1940s Nazi Holocaust) gave rise to the modern State of Israel, not vice versa. Israel was founded as a refuge for the Jewish people, with the hope and prayer that nothing like the Holocaust would ever happen again.

Therefore, the State of Israel hasn't given rise to anti-Semitism. Instead, the reverse is true.

- *Many people are suspicious of the Jewish people simply because they are different. They have their own, distinctive culture with some rather unique customs—and people feel threatened by those differences.*

While it's undoubtedly true that many people feel threatened by anyone who's different from them, this type of bigotry cannot fully explain the one-of-a-kind, sustained, and relentless onslaught the Jewish people have endured for

thousands of years. Many cultures are different and unique, yet they haven't attracted the same degree of vitriol as the Jewish people.

The Greeks, for instance, have a very distinct and enduring culture with countless unique and interesting customs and traditions. Many moviegoers who saw *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002) were impressed with the similarities between the Greek and Jewish cultures. Yet the Greeks have not suffered to the extent that the Jewish people have. The isolated instances of attempted genocide against Greek people through the centuries, as sad and tragic as they were, don't remotely resemble the prolonged and sustained attacks the Jewish people have endured over thousands of years.

Therefore, we can't say that anti-Semitism emanates mainly from misguided people who are intolerant of anyone who isn't like them. There's got to be more to it than that.

- *Christians in some quarters hold the Jewish people corporately responsible for the death of Jesus Christ.*

This is true. It's the old anti-Semitic charge of deicide (lit., "God-killing"). Our founder, Charles Halff, wrote in his autobiography that the first time he felt the sting of anti-Semitism was when a "Christian" classmate in grade school called him a "Christ killer." He ran home after school and asked his mom who this Christ was. Young Charles had never heard of Him; yet he had been accused of killing Him!

Nonetheless, today most Christians who have even a smidgen of understanding about the Crucifixion's background know that the Jewish authorities conspired with the Romans to bring about the Messiah's execution. The Jewish Sanhedrin could not have done it alone because they were under Roman jurisdiction and lacked the authority to carry out the death penalty.⁸ So it's unlikely that this alone (that is, the charge of deicide) can account for the existence of persistent anti-Semitism during the past two millennia. Besides, many

anti-Semites are not adherents to any form of Christianity, and therefore have little interest in the question of who was responsible for the Lord's death.

The fact is that anti-Semitism is older than Christianity. One of the most brutal anti-Semitic campaigns of all time occurred in the second century BC, when Antiochus Epiphanes ransacked Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple. Thousands of Jewish people were killed. So alleged "Christian" attitudes cannot fully account for the existence of anti-Semitism.



photo by JCWilmore

- *The Jewish people, historically, have simply been a convenient scapegoat.*

Again, there is some truth here. Jewish people have been the victims of scapegoating in many places where they have lived throughout their long history. In medieval Europe, for example, they were blamed for the deadly Black Death (or bubonic plague) that swept across the continent and wiped out an estimated 25 million people. Because of their adherence to the Mosaic laws pertaining to cleanliness and sanitation, Jewish people were largely unaffected by the plague—and some misguided people decided that they therefore must have caused it!

Still, this does not explain the frequency or consistency of Jewish scapegoating. Why not use Arabs, Persians, Greeks, or any one of a number of other people-groups, all of whom constitute minorities in some parts of the world, as scapegoats? Why must it always be the Jewish people?



A Theory Must Fit the Facts

Anyone who proposes a theory must ensure that it adequately accounts for the known facts. The problem with many theories about such events as the death of Elvis Presley, the assassination of President Kennedy, or the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, is that their proponents have often manipulated the “facts” to fit the theory rather than vice versa.

Anyone who seeks to explain the fountainhead of anti-Semitism, then, must account for the known facts. It’s like putting a puzzle together. Here are some of the pieces:

- Anti-Semitism transcends history. It isn’t limited to one period or era of history. It spans thousands of years going all the way back to the Bronze Age and the time of Abraham (c. 1900 BC). However, it does seem to spike during certain periods.
- Anti-Semitism transcends geography and ethnicity. It isn’t limited to any one locale or culture. No single human being or nation has been responsible. Anti-Semitism is (and has been) found wherever Jewish people live—in many settings all over the world.
- Anti-Semitism transcends religion. Shockingly, some of history’s most notorious anti-Semites have themselves been Jewish (Karl Marx—who was an atheist but nonetheless identifiably Jewish—is one notable example). Others have been nominal “Christians.” Today, many white-supremacist, anti-Semitic groups masquerade as “Christian.” Also, Islamic, black-supremacist factions (like Louis Farrakhan’s Nation of Islam)⁹ are outspokenly anti-Semitic.
- Over the centuries, anti-Semitic views have been based on certain common themes (e.g., alleged Jewish conspiracies against established political and religious institutions) and falsified “evidence,” suggesting a common, transcendent source.

The Spiritual Dynamic Behind Anti-Semitism

So, then, what’s really behind this sad phenomenon? The short answer is this: the world hates Israel because the devil hates Israel.

But does it match the facts? Well, we know that the devil and his minions transcend history—they’ve been active in our world since the Garden of Eden. Also, their influence isn’t limited to any one ethnicity or geographical location. And their activities are not confined to any one religion. The devil is the consummate ecumenist—he can work in tandem with any religion, including nominal “Christianity.”

The Bible tells us that the current world-system is under the control and influence of an unseen, diabolical Superintelligence—“the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). In the OT and NT, he’s known by many names and titles—including the devil (lit., “slanderer”; Matt. 4:1-11), Beelzebub (“lord of the house”; Matt. 12:24), Satan (“adversary”; Mark 1:13), accuser (Rev. 12:10), god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), and Belial (6:15).

According to the Apostle Paul, the end-time Anti-messiah (the “lawless one,” or Antichrist) will operate in the spirit and power of Satan (2 Thess. 2:8).

In Revelation 9:11, there are two additional names—one in Greek (*Apollyon*) and another in Hebrew (*Abaddon*)—both meaning “Destroyer.” John applies them to a supernatural entity known as “the angel of the bottomless pit”—that is, the devil.

So is the devil a real, personal being? Or is he merely a metaphor for the evil that exists in our world?

J. Massynbaerde Ford, professor of NT studies at Notre Dame, observes, “Many modern theologians consider Satan a symbol of evil forces and inclinations rather than a personal spiritual figure.”¹⁰



Luca Giordano

However, mere symbols and metaphors don't do the devil justice. There is simply no good reason to see him as anything less than a real, living angelic (albeit fallen) being. He once held a high position among the heavenly host (Job 1:6; 2:1).¹¹ The sin of pride evidently caused him to fall from Heaven (Luke 10:18).

Peter issued this warning: *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). The simile here is the “roaring lion,” not the devil. The devil is a real and personal being—and the growling, prowling lion symbolizes him. It would be silly (not to mention confusing) to use a figure of speech to describe another figure of speech.

The Devil's Plan (and Yes, He Does Have One)

The character known as “Satan” is important in the Jewish Scriptures and in other ancient Jewish sources.¹²

This diabolical being is cunning and possesses a high degree of intelligence (remember, before his fall, he stood in the presence of God). He is portrayed in Scripture with many traits and schemes (e.g., deception, destruction, and division); however, one of the most prominent characteristics is his intense hatred for Israel and the Jewish people.

In Bible study, we often talk about “the law of first mention.” That is, if you're trying to understand a certain biblical term, go to the first place where it's mentioned.

If you take this approach with the name “Satan,” you'll arrive at its first occurrence in 1 Chronicles 21:1, *“Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.”*

So here are two mighty angels in Scripture—Satan (the cherub who fell) and Michael the archangel. Michael is specifically responsible for watching over Israel. So one of them stands up *against* Israel and the other stands up *for* Israel.

Daniel 12:1 confirms Michael's charge to watch over God's earthly people Israel: *“At that time Michael shall stand up, **The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people**; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book”* (emphasis added).

In a corresponding passage in Revelation 12:7, we find Michael and his angels fighting against the “dragon” (another symbol for the devil, according to v. 9): *“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.”*

The setting here is in the future. So why will these two gargantuan angelic powers—one an archangel and the other a former cherub—be locked in this epic battle?

The fact that Michael (who has been divinely appointed to protect the people of Israel) is involved is a tipoff that they're fighting over Israel.

When we check the context of Revelation 12, we see that this is precisely what the conflict is about. The dragon (Satan) is poised to devour a pregnant woman's child when it's born (v. 4). The child is the Messiah (v. 5), which would make the woman Israel (the physical line through which He came).

Once the Child is born, He comes under divine protection (vv. 5-6). At this point in the prophetic narrative, the

devil marshals all of his forces to oppose the approaching Messianic Kingdom and the authority of God's appointed Ruler, *Yeshua haMashiach* (Jesus the Messiah).¹³ John writes, *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His [Messiah] have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down’”* (v. 10).

No wonder the devil is so intent on preventing the advent of the Messianic Kingdom! He knows that the coming of the true Messiah will mark his final downfall.



Another reason he opposes the coming Kingdom of God is that he wants power and worship directed to himself rather than to the Lord. We see this clearly in Revelation, where the devil repeatedly accepts worship vicariously through his surrogate, the Anti-messiah (the “beast” out of the sea; Rev. 13:8, 12-13).

Furthermore, the devil is the god of this world and he aspires to stand at the head of his own earthly kingdom. Note that when he offered to give Yeshua “the kingdoms of the world” (Matt. 4:8-10), the Lord did not dispute his ownership of them or his right to give them away.

There have been numerous attempts throughout history to preempt God's coming Messianic Kingdom with a counterfeit kingdom. The *caesars* (who came to be worshiped as gods) ruled the ancient Roman Empire (later, this is where the German title *kaiser* would come from). But their kingdom finally crumbled. Charlemagne tried to revive it centuries later with his “holy Roman empire.” In the 20th century, Hitler had a bit of a messiah complex and established his “third reich” (*reich* means “realm” or “commonwealth”), which he said would endure for a thousand years.¹⁴

All of these kingdoms came to an end.

Someday, however, the Messiah himself will arrive and that booming voice from Heaven will declare, “The kingdom of our God, and the power of His Messiah have come!”

Meanwhile, the devil’s strategy is to prevent the coming of Messiah’s Kingdom by eradicating Israel and her people. Without the Jewish people (and their nation), the following prophecies (among many others) could never be fulfilled:

- **Matthew 23:37-39**—Yeshua says in this passage that He will not return until the Jewish people officially recognize Him as their Messiah and Savior (cp. Psalm 118:26). In the first century, the Sanhedrin—whose leaders came from the leading clans of Israel—were given the responsibility of either accepting or rejecting the Messiah on behalf of the nation (Luke 22:66-71). Another Sanhedrin (or similar representative body) will have that responsibility in the future. Obviously, Israel’s removal from the scene would invalidate this whole process.

Summary

The world is against Israel because the devil is against Israel. And the devil is against Israel because of what she represents—specifically, God’s amazing grace (in spite of the nation’s sins and shortcomings) and His promise-keeping power.

The devil despises Israel because of the pivotal role that tiny nation plays in God’s plan—and ultimately in his own demise.

Another reason he hates Israel is that he knows how much God loves them:

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deut. 7:6-8).

The devil’s grudge against God is intensely personal. He would like nothing better than to stamp out the “apple of (God’s) eye” (Zech. 2:8).

But the Lord himself promises that this will never happen:

Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night. Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): “If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Thus says the LORD: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD (Jer. 31:35-37).”

endnotes on page 12

*Dr. Gary Hedrick
is president of
CJF Ministries.*



The devil’s grudge
against God is
intensely personal.
He would like nothing
better than to stamp
out the “apple of
(God’s) eye.”

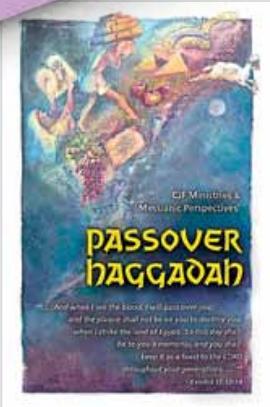


- **Isaiah 11:10-12**—The Prophet presents a beautiful millennial (“in that day”) scenario in which the Messiah (the “Branch” of v. 1) will gather the exiles of Israel into their own Land. A “highway” will lead from Egypt and Assyria to Jerusalem (v. 16; see also 19:23-25). At long last, Arabs live in peace and prosperity with their Jewish cousins in the Middle East—with no more barriers or border checkpoints! This prophecy doesn’t make sense if Israel doesn’t exist.
- **Jeremiah 31:33-34**—All of the people of Israel (both Judah and Ephraim) will know and serve the Lord when the Kingdom comes. This will be made possible through the enactment of a New Covenant through which Israel’s sins will be forgiven and forgotten. Again, this cannot happen without the Jewish people.

- **Romans 11:24-26**—Paul refers here to a series of eschatological events. First, the Jewish people reject their Messiah and are temporarily set aside because of unbelief (i.e., the natural branches are “broken off” in v. 17). Second, God suspends His dealings with Israel for a time and turns to the Gentiles, who are “grafted in” to the Olive Tree when they believe in the Messiah (v. 19). And third, when the natural branches (Israel) come to faith in Yeshua (v. 26), God grafts them back into the Olive Tree once again (v. 23). So in the end, the Olive Tree of Abrahamic faith has both Jewish and non-Jewish branches. But if the Jewish people are removed from the equation, this cycle is irreparably broken.

Experience for yourself the stunning relevancy & blessing of the 3,500-year-old Passover Seder!
For the most up-to-date list, visit cjfm.org/passover.

**PASSOVER
HAGGADAH**
edited by
Barry Berger



It's not too early to start thinking about Passover, which will be celebrated in early April this year. CJFM's *Passover Haggadah* (a guide to the Passover Seder service), edited by Barry Berger, is a synthesis of his nearly 25 years of experience in leading Passover Seders. As Barry takes you through the Passover service from start to finish, he shows Messiah Jesus at every step in this significant observance.

As you celebrate Passover as a believer in Messiah Jesus, you will be reminded in a powerful way how Jewish our Messiah, our Bible, and even our faith, really are. (Also available in the Russian language.)

Book (#PH) 32 pages \$5
Book-Russian (#PHR) 32 pages \$5

Order by calling (800) 926-5397
or visit MessianicSpecialties.com.

If you have questions, or need more information about scheduling a Passover presentation in your area, please call CJFM at **(800) 497-8766**.



Richard Hill

Bullhead City, NV 3/4
Trinity Baptist
(928) 758-2541

Las Vegas, NV 3/18
Aliente Community Baptist
(702) 933-3272

Henderson, NV 3/25
First Henderson United Methodist Church
(702) 565-6049

Las Vegas, NV 3/25
Grace Valley Church
(702) 454-9328

Kingman, AZ 4/1
Connection Point
(928) 757-3475

Las Vegas, NV 4/1
Liberty Baptist
(702) 647-4522

Las Vegas, NV 4/6
Centro de Victoris
(702) 898-8878

Las Vegas, NV 4/8
Northstar Baptist
(702) 606-8854

Las Vegas, NV 4/11
Beth Yeshua Congregation
(702) 256-0840

Mesquite, NV 4/15
River Valley Bible Church
(702) 346-0339



Barry Berger

Phoenix, AZ 3/30
Moon Valley Bible Church
(602) 494-1243



Michelle Beadle

Metairie, LA 3/22
Sheraton Galleria Hotel
(800) 926-5397 ext 137

Greenwell Springs, LA 3/24
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church
(225) 261-2246

Kenner, LA 3/25
New Covenant Fellowship Church
(504) 466-4122

New Orleans, LA 3/28
Grace Baptist Church
(504) 810-7888

Slidell, LA 3/31
New Horizon Christian Fellowship
(985) 781-3172

Slidell, LA 4/1
New Horizon Christian Fellowship
(985) 781-3172

Monroe, LA 4/4
First Baptist Church
(318) 325-3126

New Orleans, LA 4/5
First Baptist Church
(504) 482-5650

Deridder, LA 4/6
New Life Baptist Church
(337) 463-6050

River Ridge, LA 4/8
Amazing Love Church
(504) 261-0064



Rob Styler

Toronto, ON 3/31
Willowdale Baptist Church
(416) 225-8857



Peter Parkas

Mountain Lakes, NJ 3/28
King of Kings Lutheran Church
(973) 334-8333

Moscow, PA 3/30
First Baptist Church of Hollisterville
(570) 689-3071

Mount Olive, NJ 4/4
Mount Olive Community Church
(973) 252-4414

Basking Ridge, NJ 4/5
Covenant Chapel
(908) 766-6174

Easton, PA 4/13
The Father's House Christian Fellowship
(610) 253-1651

Blairstown, NJ 6/3
Blairstown Evangelical Free Church
(908) 362-8979



Eric Chabot

Dayton, OH 3/25
Airway Baptist Church
(937) 253-1481

Akron, OH 3/28
Springfield Baptist Church
(330) 784-3114

Prospect, OH 3/31
Prospect Baptist Church
(740) 494-2549

Gahanna, OH 4/1
Camden Baptist Church
(440) 774-5732

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 4/4
Broadman Baptist Church
(330) 671-0505

Amelia, OH 4/5
Amelia United Methodist
(513) 753-6770

Eric Chabot continued

Rio Grande, OH 4/6
Fellowship of Faith Church
(740) 245-0900

Cambridge, OH 4/8
Trinity Baptist
(740) 439-2963



John Kanter

San Antonio, TX 3/11
Madison Hills Baptist Church
(210) 656-3946

Frisco, TX 3/25
Lebanon Baptist Church
(972) 335-5777

Mineola, TX 3/25
Harvest Acres Baptist
(903) 569-5351

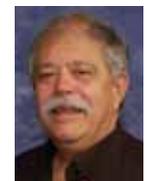
Frisco, TX 4/1
Harvest Bible Chapel
(972) 468-0776

Midlothian, TX 4/1
Midlothian Bible Church
(972) 775-8295

Flower Mound, TX 4/4
First Baptist Church
(972) 539-0641

Mansfield, TX 4/5
Mansfield Bible Church
(817) 473-8980

Dripping Springs, TX 4/29
Hill Country Bible Church
(512) 843-0035



Mike Campo

Edmond, OK 3/25
Fairview Baptist Church
(405) 348-1745

Valparasio, IN 4/14
Valparasio Baptist Church
(219) 462-7460

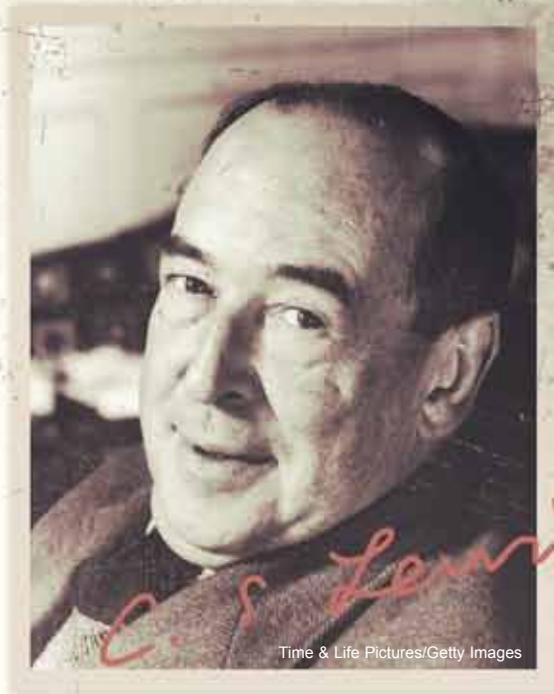
Screwtape

REVISITED

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), a literature professor at Cambridge in England, became a Christian later in life. After his experience with the Lord, he wrote prolifically, and his works quickly became a favorite of believers worldwide.

One of his books, *The Screwtape Letters*, was set in England during World War 2.¹ It's a fictional recounting of an ongoing correspondence between a "senior" demon (named Screwtape) and one of his underlings (Wormwood, who also happens to be his nephew).

We wondered what an exchange between Screwtape and Wormwood might have looked like if it had included the topics of anti-Semitism, Israel, and the Jewish people. Here's one possibility:



SCREWTAPE: I don't mean to be abrupt, but I'm in a bit of a hurry at the moment. What is this about?

WORMWOOD: Sorry to bother you, your Royal Lowness, but I have a question.

SCREWTAPE: Quickly, Nephew, what is it?

WORMWOOD: Well, this man I've been assigned to has become a Christian. I trust you read about it in my last report.

SCREWTAPE: Yes, I did. I'd like to know how that happened.

WORMWOOD: Me, too. But wait—it gets worse.

SCREWTAPE: Worse? What could be worse?

WORMWOOD: Well, now this fellow has become friends with one of *them*. They met recently through a mutual acquaintance.

SCREWTAPE: When you say "one of them," I assume you mean . . .

WORMWOOD: That's exactly what I mean—a Jew. Now our subject has a Jewish friend.

SCREWTAPE: Shhhh . . . don't say that too loud. Someone might hear you.

WORMWOOD: Sorry. I didn't mean . . .

SCREWTAPE: Now let's not panic. It's not the end of the world—at least, not yet. But it does require a shift in strategy.

WORMWOOD: Agreed. What should we do?

SCREWTAPE: Well, let me think. I'd say, first of all, we need to drive a wedge between this man and his Jewish friend. So I'd suggest that we begin by convincing him Jews are evil—they're conspiring to rule the world and all that sort of thing. That has worked well for us in the past.

WORMWOOD: We already tried that. We made sure he saw a copy of *Protocols* just the other day, in fact. He even picked it up and read a few pages.²

SCREWTAPE: Excellent! So that did the trick?

WORMWOOD: No, I'm afraid not. He called it "balderdash," as I recall.

SCREWTAPE: So not only has he become a follower of the Enemy,³ but he's already developing a dangerous sense of discernment. And now you tell me that he's made friends with one of them. I find this all very disconcerting. You don't appear to be doing your job very well, Wormwood.

WORMWOOD: Apologies, Uncle. Believe it or not, I'm doing my best. As you know, the Enemy often takes us by surprise. He's profoundly unpredictable. Sometimes it's like He knows what we're thinking. I mean, what's a demon to do? It's all very frustrating.

SCREWTAPE: Stop whining, you little twit.

WORMWOOD: Sorry.

SCREWTAPE: I'm going to have to take this matter to my superiors—before the situation degrades any further.

WORMWOOD: Do you really think that's a good idea? Why draw attention to ourselves over something so trivial? Besides, what is so dangerous about the Jews anyway?

SCREWTAPE: You seriously don't know? Did you sleep through "Origins of the Conflict 101" in demon school? How many times have I told you that we must know the Bible even better than the mortals do?⁴

WORMWOOD: Many times, Your Lowness. And I agree with you. I know about the promise the Enemy made in the beginning. My professor used to call Genesis 3:15 "the despicable text."⁵

SCREWTAPE: I like that. Sounds like he understood the value of quoting chapter and verse so we can turn it against them. That particular passage is where the Enemy said "the Seed of the woman" would destroy our Master.

WORMWOOD: Which of course is impossible. No one can destroy His Infernal Majesty (may he be praised). We will ultimately prevail!

SCREWTAPE: (silence)

WORMWOOD: It *is* impossible, right?

SCREWTAPE: (more silence)

WORMWOOD: Uncle, please answer me.

SCREWTAPE: Yes, yes, whatever. My main concern right now is how this whole fiasco makes me look in the eyes of our higher-ups.

WORMWOOD: There could be consequences for both of us.

SCREWTAPE: Tell me about it! I can't believe this is happening! Can you explain how our subject⁶ met his Jewish friend?

WORMWOOD: Of course I can, but you're not going to like it.

SCREWTAPE: Oh, great. Just what I need—more bad news.

WORMWOOD: The Jewish man's wife and children were evacuated from London before the war—in '39, I believe—so he was left living alone in a flat at Oxford. A mutual friend introduced him to our subject, as I said, and the two quickly became friends.

SCREWTAPE: But what could they possibly have in common?

WORMWOOD: Excellent question. The short answer is that once our subject became a follower of the Enemy, he began studying his Bible. The more he studied, the more he became interested in its predictions about the future. And the more he learned about the predictions, the more he became fascinated by the future role of the Jews as the Enemy's point of contact on earth.

SCREWTAPE: Unbelievable.

WORMWOOD: Now, here's the part you're really not going to like. All of this led our subject to become interested in the Zionist movement and the notion of the Jews returning to Palestine to form a nation.

SCREWTAPE: That is simply disgusting.

WORMWOOD: He's just as committed to the Zionist cause as his Jewish friend is—and he's not even Jewish. I've never seen anything quite like it.

SCREWTAPE: What? How can a gentile Christian be a Zionist? Isn't that a—what's it called?

WORMWOOD: An oxymoron?

SCREWTAPE: That's it—"Christian Zionist" is an oxymoron.

WORMWOOD: I just report these things, Uncle; I don't try to figure them out.

SCREWTAPE: But it's such an absurd notion.

WORMWOOD: I couldn't agree more.

SCREWTAPE: If those sneaky Jews succeed and get their own State in Palestine, it will be our worst setback since the Resurrection.

WORMWOOD: (after a stunned pause) I thought we weren't supposed to talk about that whole "empty tomb" thing.

SCREWTAPE: You're right. Forget I said it. The point is that another Jewish State in Palestine—after all of these centuries—would be an utter catastrophe for us.⁷

WORMWOOD: No doubt.

SCREWTAPE: It makes me nauseous when they talk about "the Holy City." That disgusting place represents everything we're against. Don't you remember how we all shrieked with ecstasy when the Roman army destroyed it back in the old days? We danced with glee as the stones from the Temple fell into the valley below. We vowed then that the Jews would never return to their Land again.

WORMWOOD: I remember. But that's something I've never understood, Uncle. Why is it so important to us that the Jews never have their own country again? There are many other countries and theirs would be so small.

SCREWTAPE: Oh, my poor boy, didn't you just say you've studied the Bible? So surely you know that the Enemy made certain promises that were never kept in the past and can only come to pass if the Jews are in their Land.

WORMWOOD: You're speaking of what they call the "millennial" prophecies—the kingdom of you-know-who on earth, right?

SCREWTAPE: Yes, the Enemy's so-called kingdom on earth.⁸

WORMWOOD: So as long as the Jews don't have their own land, we don't have to worry about those predictions coming to pass. Is that it?

SCREWTAPE: In an oversimplified sort of way—yes, that's it. No land, no promises.

WORMWOOD: Wouldn't it be smarter and more efficient simply to kill all of the Jews? After all, genocide is one of our specialties, is it not?

SCREWTAPE: My dear nephew, I have never been more proud of you than I am at this moment. Your thinking is so utterly and deliciously . . . well, depraved! Yes, killing the Jews would solve the problem forever.

WORMWOOD: Then why don't we do it?

SCREWTAPE: Haven't you been paying attention? We *are* doing it—even as we speak.

WORMWOOD: Ah, yes. You're talking about *Die Endlösung*.

SCREWTAPE: Yes, the "Final Solution." Our Nazi allies have been extremely accommodating and I'm sure we will think of ways to show them our deepest gratitude. But since we've tried genocide against the Jews before, and it has never worked, we must remain vigilant and ensure no one survives to establish a nation in Palestine.

WORMWOOD: Another Israel would be problematic.

SCREWTAPE: Problematic? It would be a disaster. It would open the door for the fulfillment of all of the remaining predictions the Enemy made eons ago.

WORMWOOD: And that's a door that must definitely remain shut.

SCREWTAPE: I'm glad you're finally beginning to understand.

WORMWOOD: That's why I said earlier that you would not be happy when I told you that our subject now has a Jewish friend and that both of them are involved in the dangerous Zionist movement.

SCREWTAPE: You're right, Nephew.

WORMWOOD: About what, Uncle?

SCREWTAPE: I'm not happy.

G.H.



Endnotes

¹ *The Screwtape Letters* was originally copyrighted and released in 1942.

² *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* is a fictional, anti-Semitic diatribe that purports to expose a secret Jewish conspiracy to control the world. Various versions are readily available on the Internet. *Protocols* has been exposed repeatedly as a hoax and forgery (see *Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion* by Norman Cohn [London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1967]).

³ Remember that from the viewpoint of a demon, God is the "Enemy."

⁴ The devil exhibited his own knowledge of the Bible during his futile temptation of the Messiah in the wilderness (Matt. 4:6).

⁵ Genesis 3:15 says, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

⁶ The "subject" is the human to whom Wormwood has been assigned.

⁷ The setting of this imaginary conversation is London during World War 2, which ended in 1945. Israel was reborn as a nation in May of 1948, three years later.

⁸ Isaiah 11, for instance, foresees a time when a Davidic King (the Messiah) will rule over the earth from His seat of government in a restored Israel (vv. 1-5; cp. 9:6-7). The earth will be transformed; it will be full of God's righteousness, like the waters cover the sea (vv. 6-9). The nations will rally behind Messiah's government (vv. 10-12; cp. Jer. 3:16-17). Most of these events don't even remotely resemble anything that has happened in the past; therefore, they must be yet future. The fulfillment of this prophecy—and many others—requires an end-time restoration of Israel as a nation.

Fruit from the Harvest



© iStockphoto.com



by Violette Berger

We thank and praise the Lord for His faithfulness—for the numerous opportunities He continues to give our missionaries to present the Gospel message throughout the world “to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). May we claim His future promise for Israel’s renewal and restoration.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God” (Ezek. 36:26-28).

A Reunion in Eternity

Michelle Beadle, CJFM missionary (New Orleans), relates an encounter that only God could have orchestrated. It began 12 years ago when Michelle met Mr. Moise Dumas while presiding over his brother’s funeral service. Michelle and Mr. Dumas kept in touch for a number of years, but eventually lost contact. Two years ago, Michelle was asked to lead a small-group Bible study. Unbeknownst to her, Mr. Dumas’ first cousin attended the study and enjoyed it so much that she asked Michelle if she would like to meet the rest of her family for dinner at a certain restaurant.

Michelle writes: “You cannot imagine my surprise as I walked into that restaurant and saw Mr. Dumas. I had not seen him in 10 years!” Following dinner, after the family had left, Mr. Dumas remained so that he and Michelle could talk. He told Michelle that he missed his deceased wife very much and was concerned he might not see her again, and wanted to be reunited with her in Heaven.

As they discussed spiritual things, Michelle explained that he could see his wife again, but “needed to get his life right with God.” Michelle shared, in detail, the Good News—the sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus, affirming life after death. That very day, Mr. Dumas prayed and placed his faith and trust in Jesus the Messiah. During the past year, he and Michelle had been meeting weekly to study the Bible.

Mr. Dumas’ health eventually began to fail, and he passed into glory in October. Michelle presided over his funeral and shared the Gospel message, Moise’s spiritual journey and the prayer

of salvation. Michelle says, “When I asked for everyone who had prayed that prayer, and really meant it with their entire being, to raise their hand, almost every hand (70-plus) in the room was raised. I was astounded! I have never seen a response like this. I am grateful that Moise will be reunited in Heaven with so many of the people he loved because of the commitment they made to Jesus at his funeral. To God be the glory!”

A Family Affair

Richard Hill, CJFM missionary and pastor of Beth Yeshua Congregation (Las Vegas), and his wife, Oanh, are rejoicing in how God blessed a reunion in Seattle with Oanh’s family. They had the opportunity to share the Gospel with 10 family members, of which two—Oanh’s sister and a niece—prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Oanh also had the privilege of leading Pat to the Lord. God’s timing was perfect, Pat and her sister—who is a member of the same church as Oanh—had been having personal issues. Even though Pat was terminally ill, she had hardened her heart toward God. However, she did agree to a visit from Oanh. As Oanh shared the Gospel with her, God softened Pat’s heart and she prayed to receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

As Pat’s body began shutting down, Pat’s sister visited her one last time and all of their issues were settled. The next day, Pat entered into glory, but not without demonstrating, to the amazement of her caretakers, a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Shopping for Souls

Rich, Oanh, and their friends have also been blessed through their evangelistic sorties in shopping malls—especially in sharing the Gospel with many Israeli Jewish people working in the kiosks. Recently, God opened the door for Oanh to spend a half hour with an Israeli Jewish girl, “Tal.” Oanh shared the Gospel and CJFM’s tract, *Chesed (Lovingkindness)* which has many Scriptures written in Hebrew.

Following their conversation, Tal prayed to receive the promised Jewish Messiah right there at her kiosk. Rich and Oanh add, “Then she told us we should share this information with her fellow Israelis in the mall, and directed us to the kiosks where they worked. Our God is such a wonderful, faithful God!”

Bible Questions AND Answers

by DR. GARY HEDRICK

Have a Bible question?

Submit it to Dr. Hedrick at garyh@cjfm.org, or mail it to 611 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78215.

(You may even see your question addressed in a future issue of *Messianic Perspectives*.)

QUESTION: *I attended a Messianic congregation for the first time recently, mostly out of curiosity, and a portion of the service consisted of something they called “Davidic dance.” The dancers were modestly dressed women, and I must say it was tastefully done. They said this practice is named for King David of Israel, who danced before the Lord. Maybe I’m having some difficulty with it because our church teaches that dancing is worldly and wrong. Can you help me sort this out?*

ANSWER: Some forms of dancing are wrong because they are crude, sensual, and seductive. The daughter of Herodias, for example, danced before King Herod and it brought him so much pleasure that he had John the Baptizer beheaded at her request (Matt. 14:6-11). This type of dancing appeals to people’s baser instincts and has no place in a believer’s life. Your church is right about this.

Dancing has always been part of Israel’s national culture. In fact, the Hebrew word *chag* . . . comes from a root that means to “dance,” “reel,” or “be giddy.”

However, the Bible also refers to other forms of dancing as an expression of joy and worship. King David said, “*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness*” (Psalm 30:11). And in the famous story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus said that when the father and his wayward son were reunited, they threw a party that included “music and dancing” (Luke 15:25).

You’ll find references to dancing as an expression of praise and joy in Judges 21:21, 1 Samuel 21:11, 2 Samuel 6:14, and Jeremiah 31:13—just to cite a few examples.

Dancing has always been part of Israel’s national culture. In fact, the Hebrew word *chag* (which means “feast” or “celebration,” as in Chag Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles) comes from

a root that means to “dance,” “reel,” or “be giddy” (*Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament* [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979], 260). So one of the ideas underlying the Old Testament feasts was that of joyful dancing and celebration before the Lord.

The Babylonian Talmud (in Tractate Sukkah 5:3-4 of Neuser’s translation) describes the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in ancient Israel:

Out of the worn-out undergarments and girdles of the priests they made wicks, and with them they lit the candles. And there was not a courtyard in Jerusalem which was not lit up from the light of *bet hasho’ebah* (v. 3).

The pious men and wonder-workers would dance before them, with flaming torches in their hand, and they would sing before them songs and praises. And the Levites played on harps, lyres, cymbals, trumpets, and [other] musical instruments beyond counting, [standing, as they played] on the fifteen steps which go down from the Israelites’ court to the women’s court. Corresponding to the fifteen Songs of Ascents which are in the Book of Psalms—on these the Levites stand with their instrument and sing their song (v. 4).

So again, singing and dancing were part of the observance of Sukkot. Interestingly, the Messiah himself participated in this celebration. In fact, it was during Sukkot (sometime around AD 29 or so) that He stood in the Court of Women under the flickering flames of the Temple’s huge oil lamps, with joyful worshipers dancing and singing all around Him, and delivered His “Light of the World” discourse (John 8:12-59).

We sometimes take our tour groups to Israeli folk dance festivals in Jerusalem. These presentations are very beautiful at night with all of the lights and creative choreography—and there is nothing sensual or unholy about it. This type of dance can be incorporated into worship in a way that glorifies the Lord.

Our missionaries in the New York/New Jersey area, Peter and Diann Parkas, have a ministry in churches that includes (upon request) a presentation of Davidic dance. Diann shared a demonstration with us at our Branson conference last year—and it was an amazing experience for all of us who were there. For more information, feel free to email the Parkases at PeterP@cjfm.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

**Why the World Is
Against Israel**
by Dr. Gary Hedrick
Page 1

Passover Schedule
Page 7

Screwtape Revisited
by Gary Hedrick
Page 8

Fruit from the Harvest
by Violette Berger
Page 10

Bible Q&A
by Dr. Gary Hedrick
Page 11

CJF Ministries®

Post Office Box 345
San Antonio, Texas 78292-0345

continued from page 6

ENDNOTES

¹ Fortunately, the United States has been able to keep this anti-Israel lopsidedness in check by repeatedly exercising its veto power in the Security Council.

² Even today, property law typically requires some form of conveyance by the owner of record to transfer a title deed to another party.

³ A March 12, 2009, documentary on National Public Radio (“Zionism Debate Clouds UN Racism Forum” by Alex Helmick) began with this introduction: “The upcoming United Nations Conference on Racism in Switzerland may be mired in charges that it is anti-Israel. Some countries say they won’t participate in the conference because many attendees equate Zionism with racism” (www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=101794922).

⁴ For information about JIJ’s 2011 Durban 3 protest, see jjj.org.il/blog/?p=667.

⁵ The militant Islamic government of Iran refers not to “Israel” and “Palestine,” but to “Israel-Palestine.” To them, Israel and Palestine are one and the same because they reject the two-state solution (see *The Tehran Times* for December 10, 2011, volume 11315, at www.tehrantimes.com). This reflects the view of many Palestinians (and others in the Arab world) that Jewish and Palestinian states cannot exist as neighbors and therefore Israel must be destroyed.

⁶ According to the UN’s own records, the world body issued 249 security resolutions from March of 1948 to January of 2009 addressing various Arab-Israeli issues in the Middle East. Of those 249 resolutions, only one (Resolution 95, denouncing Egypt’s blockade of the Suez Canal in 1951) was in Israel’s favor. In the other 248 instances, the world body sided with Israel’s enemies (i.e., 99.6 percent of the time). Furthermore, the UN observes an “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People” each year on November 29 (see www.un.org/en/events/palestinianday/background.shtml). Not surprisingly, there is no day of solidarity for the Jewish people.

⁷ In comparison, only 13.2 percent of reported hate crimes were perpetrated against Muslims and 4.3% against Catholics. Source: “Hate Crime Statistics” by the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI (downloaded from www.fbi.gov).

⁸ However, it’s true that members of the Sanhedrin carried out a mob-style execution several years later when they killed Stephen (described in Acts 7). The Romans’ grip on “Palestine” wasn’t as firm during the latter years of Pilate’s rule, and on this occasion the Sanhedrin may have “felt free to overstep its legal authority” (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981] at Acts 7:57-58).

⁹ For a summary of the Nation of Islam’s anti-Israel and anti-Jewish views, see “Nation of Islam Leader Reprises ‘Vintage’ Anti-Semitism; ADL Says Farrakhan’s Racism ‘As Ugly As It Ever Was’” (Anti-Defamation League press release for March 1, 2010 [http://www.adl.org/PresRele/NatIsl_81/5711_81.htm]).

¹⁰ *Encyclopedia of Catholicism*, Richard McBrien, general editor (San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995), 1163.

¹¹ Some commentators see an allusion to Satan in Ezekiel 28:16: “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.” If this interpretation is correct, Satan once served as a cherub—perhaps the highest angelic order—in the very presence of God. See also Isaiah 14:12-15.

¹² “Devil, Gk ‘diabolos,’ equivalent to Heb ‘satan,’ ‘accuser’ (see Num 22:2; Zech 3:1; Job 6:1; Ps 109:6; 1 Chr 21:1; b. *Shabb.* 89b)” (*The Jewish Annotated New Testament* edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler [New York: Oxford University Press, 2011], 7).

¹³ The fact that these verses seem not to differentiate between the first and second comings of the Messiah (that is, His birth and kingdom-rule appear to be within the same time-frame rather than separated by 2,000 years) is consistent with other passages where we see a kind of prophetic time-compression which telescopes beyond the events of the Church Age (e.g., Isa. 61:1-3).

¹⁴ The Nazis were fond of calling the Third Reich the *Tausendjähriges Reich* (“Thousand-Year Reich”). As it turned out, however, their millennium was short-lived, only lasting for 12 years.