

Christians seldom talk about and much less appreciate contributions made by the Jewish people to the New Testament Church. This is, shall we say, a gross neglect.

How often have we shared, preached or showed interest on the following historical facts?

1. "Salvation is from the Jews." (John 4:22)
2. "And from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ." (Rom. 9:5)
3. John the Baptist, the fore-runner of Christ, is a Jew. (Matt. 3)
4. God gives us the Bible through the Jews (II Thess. 3:17)
5. The 12 apostles are Jews.
6. The first generation of missionaries are Jews. (Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy, Phillip, etc.)
7. The Gentiles are the wild olive tree. Because of faith the Gentiles are grafted unto the good olive tree (the Jews) and enjoy the sap of the roots (Rom 11:13-32). The Apostle Paul clearly let the Gentile churches know that the gospel was still "first for the Jews". (Rom 1:16).
8. The upper room prayer meeting in Jerusalem is a Jewish prayer meeting. (Acts 1:12, 13).
9. The early church (beginning from Pentecost) is a Jewish church (Acts 2).
10. The early martyrs of the church are Jewish (Phillip, the 12 Apostles and others).
11. In the future, during the period of the Tribulation, God will send 144,000 Jewish evangelists to preach the gospel and lead multitudes of people to Christ.

We seldom if ever consciously realize the "Jewishness" of our church. It started as a Jewish prayer meeting, held in a Jewish city Jerusalem, attended by about 120 Jewish disciples (Acts 1:15).

At Pentecost, the Jewish church was established

and Peter, the Jewish Apostle was greatly used by God. His preaching led 3,000 people to the Lord (Acts 2:14-42).

During the first century, the Jews accepted the Gentiles as equals in the early church. But gradually, the increasing Gentile members of the church began to reject the Jews. Paul saw the dangerous trend and gave this warning to the Gentile church in Rome: "You do not support the root, but the root supports you." (Rom 11:18).

JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

Thomas Wang

But the trend grew and was further inflamed by the erroneous Replacement Theology and also by the imposed crime of "Diecide" on the Jewish people. Tragically, it resulted in the wide-spread Anti-Semitism throughout the ages which found its climax in the Holocaust during World War II.

The Christian world owes gratitude as well as a deep-seated apology to our dear Jewish brothers and sisters. We have received so much from the Jewish people and from your forefathers and yet we have repaid you with hatred, disdain and animosity. We are deeply sorry!

Dear Jewish brothers and sisters, please forgive us for our foolishness, ignorance and un-Christlike deeds. We love you, we wish to be your friends, we will seek ways to cooperate with you and to be your partner for the Gospel, and also to pray for God's Covenant love to be with you and yours always!

Marannatha!



ANTI-SEMITISM: ITS ROOTS AND PERSEVERANCE

By David R. Reagan

For almost 2,000 years the Church at large, both Catholic and Protestant, has maintained that due to the fact the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah, God poured out His wrath on them in 70 AD, destroying their nation and their temple, and that He has washed His hands of them, leaving them with no purpose whatsoever as a nation. In short, because of their rebellion against God in their rejection of Jesus, God has replaced Israel with the Church, transferring the blessings promised to Israel to the Church.

This is called "Replacement Theology," and those who believe in it constitute the majority of professing Christians today. Accordingly, they consider modern day Israel to be an accident of history, with no spiritual significance whatsoever. And therefore, they would deny that God has any special plans for the Jewish people in the end times. Again, to them, the regathering of the Jews and the re-establishment of Israel are simply accidents of history, with no spiritual significance.

The Origin of Replacement Theology

The roots of Replacement Theology and its fruit of anti-Semitism go back to the very beginning of Christianity.

This is ironic when you consider the fact that the Church began as a Jewish institution. It was founded in Judea by Jews who were followers of a Jewish Messiah, and all its founding documents were written by Jews.

But the distinctive Jewish flavor of early Christianity was not to last long. As the Church began to spread beyond Judea, its message was embraced by more and more Gentiles who had no interest in maintaining contact with the Church's Jewish roots. Even worse, the new Gentile leaders began to turn against the Jews by characterizing them as "Christ killers."

The Middle Ages

By the Middle Ages, two erroneous concepts had become established Church doctrine:

1. The Jews should be considered "Christ

killers" and should be mistreated accordingly.

2. The Church has replaced Israel, and God has no future purpose for the Jews.

These concepts were reinforced throughout the Middle Ages through the Crusades, the Inquisition, passion plays, the black plague epidemic, and blood libels.

The New Anti-Semitism

The horror of the Holocaust tended to mute the most radical forms of anti-Semitism among Christian leaders. But in reality, anti-Semitism continues today in a new sophisticated form called anti-Zionism. Whereas anti-Semitism sought to drive out the Jews from the lands where they lived, anti-Zionism refuses to accept their right to live in their own land.

The Jewish Attitude

I hope now you can understand why it is so difficult to share the Gospel with Jews. Because Jews have been persecuted and killed throughout history in the name of Jesus, the Jewish people look upon Christianity as their mortal enemy. This is the reason that the Messianic Jewish Movement today is such a miracle. Beginning only in 1971, it has successfully shared the Gospel with over a million Jews worldwide and has established over 500 Messianic congregations. In the next issue of this magazine, the Lord willing, we will take an in-depth look at this remarkable movement.

The Response of Scripture

With regard to the allegation that the Jews are "Christ killers," the Word clearly identifies who murdered Jesus and makes it plain that they were not exclusively the Jews. In Acts 4:27 we are told that Jesus was killed through a conspiracy that involved "both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel." In reality, all of us have the blood of Jesus on our hands, for all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23), and Jesus died for all sinners (1 Corinthians 15:3).

God has preserved the Jews in His grace because He loves them. In Zechariah 2:8 God proclaims that the Jewish people are "the apple of His eye," and

He warns against anyone trying to harm them.

In summary, the Word of God makes it clear that Israel definitely has a role and a future in the end times.

Crucial Questions

1. The Jewish people will be regathered in unbelief from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11: 11-12). This is the most prolific prophecy in the Old Testament. Incidentally, if God has no purpose left for them, why would He go to the trouble of regathering them?

2. Their state will be re-established (Isaiah 66: 7-8).

3. They will once again occupy the city of Jerusalem (Zachariah 8:7-8).

4. All the nations of the world will come against them over the issue of the control of Jerusalem (Zachariah 12:2-3).

5. The Antichrist will come to their rescue by guaranteeing them peace and allowing them to rebuild their temple (Daniel 9:27).

6. But at the end of 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist will declare himself to be God, and the Jews will reject Him (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

7. The Antichrist will then attempt to annihilate the Jews, and he will succeed in killing two-thirds of them (Revelation 12:13-17 and Zechariah 13:8-9).



On April 1st, 1933, the National Socialistic Party announced: "Germans, defend yourselves, do not buy from Jews." *New York Times, Paris Bureau Collection. Credit: National Archives and Records Administration*

8. At the end of the Tribulation, when the Jews have come to the end of themselves, they will turn to God and receive Jesus as their Messiah (Zechariah 12: 10).

9. Jesus will return at this point in time, and He will regather all believing Jews to Israel where He will establish them as the prime nation in the world (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).

10. The blessings of God will flow out to the nations through the Jews during the Millennium (Zechariah 8:22-23).

As you can see, the Jewish people have a very central role in end time Bible prophecy.

The Perseverance of Anti-Semitism

Satan hates the Jews with a passion. He hates them because God provided both the Bible and the Messiah through them. He hates them because God called them to be His Chosen People. He hates them because God has promised to save a great remnant of them. He hates them because God loves them.

The result is that he works overtime to plant seeds of hatred in people's hearts toward the Jews. He is determined to destroy every Jew on planet earth so that God cannot keep His promise to save a great remnant. He tried to annihilate them in the Holocaust. He failed. He will try to destroy them once again during the last half of the Tribulation. He will fail again.

Conclusion

God is in control, not Satan. God has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Satan and Mankind to the triumph of His perfect will in history.

The Jews will be preserved. A great remnant will be saved. All the promises to the Jews will be fulfilled.

And when will this occur? At the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to triumph over Satan. On that glorious day, the Jewish remnant will cry out "Baruch Haba Bashem Adonai!" meaning "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 23: 39).

Maranatha!

(abridged)

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THE AUSCHWITZ EXP



I wasn't prepared for the sobering shock that pulsed through my mind that day. Surrounded by the tattered remnants and silent monuments still standing as a testament to unspeakable atrocities, the "pit" in my stomach felt hollow and empty. But my heart was filled with a contradiction of emotions – anger and indignation, but also deep sorrow and despair. In retrospect, I don't think anything could have truly prepared me for the reality of what I would see during my day at Auschwitz.

We walked with our knowledgeable guide through the labyrinth of buildings well-preserved by the Polish government and scattered throughout the camp.

With much to see and hear, the moments of greatest emotional impact were different for each visitor in our group and countless others. Everything we saw ripped at our souls, but there were moments when stoic reverence gave way to a flood of uncontrolled tears.

For some of us, it was seeing the deplorable living conditions that were imposed on the prisoners, who were mostly Jews, but also included a significant number of Poles and other nationalities. Buildings that today would be considered inhumane horse stables were each crammed with hundreds of Jewish prisoners with

Excerpted from "Vantage Point".
Zion's Fire, Sept-Oct 2007.
Reprint with permission



PERIENCE

by David Rosenthal

stacked 4 and 5 "beds" high with barely enough room to breathe between levels.

For others, it was hearing the details of horrific, Nazi-conducted experiments on children (especially twins) and pregnant women – torturous, despicable acts that anyone with a sane mind could never even fathom.

Still others of our group were chilled by walking into the gas extermination chambers and seeing human scratch marks on the inside walls. Men, women and children, thinking they were being given a much needed shower after being herded like cattle on trains to the camp, were stripped naked and packed into concrete rooms with small openings in the ceiling. Nazi soldiers would drop poisonous chemical agents in through these openings which would react to the body heat given off by the mass of humanity below - producing a lethal gas. Those who survived the panic and deadly fumes for a few extra seconds had left their marks of desperation on the walls for us to see as evidence to their murders.

As the son of a Jewish father, that day was a life-changing experience for me, and I will never forget the things I saw.

little heat in the bitter cold of winter and muddy dirt floors in the rainy summer. Here, wooden planks formed communal bunks

FOR EVER LET THIS PLACE BE
A CRY OF DESPAIR
AND A WARNING TO HUMANITY,
WHERE THE NAZIS MURDERED
ABOUT ONE AND A HALF
MILLION
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN,
MAINLY JEWS
FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
OF EUROPE.

AUSCHWITZ--BIRKENAU
1940-1945

World Mission News

Mekong River: The people in the 5 nations around the river are mostly Buddhists (ranging from 52% in Vietnam to 95% in Cambodia) and young people. Their populations, median ages and % of Protestant Christians in millions, years and % are: Myanmar (47, 27.4, 3), Laos (6.5, 19, 1.3), Thailand (65, 32.4, 0.7), Cambodia (14, 21.3, 1-2), and Vietnam (85, 26.4, 1.2). Young people are very eager to learn English, Chinese, computer and other technical skills. Persons with these skills as well as social, youth and Children's workers are needed and welcome to the region.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, Spring 07>

China: With official Chinese approval a seminary in Dallas offers online courses to train pastors. The courses are regular courses videotaped with Chinese subtitles. Last fall, 30 students in China and others in Taiwan, Malaysia and Ukraine enrolled. Students who complete a program of 20 courses will get a Certificate of Graduate Studies and can apply to pursue a master degree by studying on campus or an extension site in US.

<Dallas Morning News, 11/24/07>

Middle East: Some estimate that there are 10-15 million Christians among the 293 million people. But this number has been in decline for decades, in some areas by 75%, and will continue the downward spiral for the next 50 years. 50 years ago, Lebanon had a Christian majority. It has dwindled from 58% in 1914 to 39% today. In Bethlehem, it shrunk from 85% in 1948 to 15% today. There were 1.2 million Christians in Iraq before the war. Now tens of thousands are now refugees. Despite large number (10%+) Christians in Egypt, they suffer hard restrictions and persecution prompting many to leave the nation.

<Christianity Today, December/07>

Iraq: Stable due to a strong, secular government and a homogeneous population, Kurdistan in North Iraq allows Christian groups to operate. Not only many Christians from the south have moved there, the Kurds are spreading the gospel among themselves. One agency has seen 1,000+ Kurds coming to Christ. But religious rights are tenuous and Christians are discriminated with property confiscated.

<Christianity Today, December/07>

Kazakhstan: The leader of 350 Korean churches and de-facto leader of Protestants in that nation is charged with high treason along with one other pastor and 2 members. He faces sentences up to 10-15 years. Authorities view members of minority religions increasingly as unpatriotic. Traditionally Kazakhs (60%) are expected to be nominal Muslims, Slavs (35%) Orthodox. Yet some believe Kazakhstanis are more receptive than ever to the gospel.

<Christianity Today, November/07>

Afghanistan: Last July, radical Islamic insurgents kidnapped 23 members of a Korean medical team. During 40+ days they were beaten, endured forced labor, and 2 male members were murdered. After direct negotiations with the Korean government the rest were released with the conditions of banning future Korean missionaries to that nation and \$20 million ransom (as claimed by the Taliban). In Korea, the blame fell on the released missionaries and the sending church. They felt pressured to issue a public apology for embarrassing the nation. Mission experts say other missionaries around the world now are more at risk of being kidnapped for ransom and any government telling them where they can or cannot go is a huge problem.

<Christianity Today, November/07>

Jesus Film: The chaplain group in Washington, DC has shown the film in the chapels of both of their international airports 24 hours a day. The 93 million passengers yearly including many foreigners passing by can see it through the glass window. One Muslim man came in and was loaned a copy in his own language. Months later he made a decision for Christ. Most affected are the 38,000 employees who will watch and ask questions. The chaplains follow up with Bible studies reaching some 3,200 of them.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 12/5/07>

Filipinos: For economic reasons, 2,000 leave the country for work overseas every day. Churches have developed programs to give some basic mission training to Christians among them before they go. They make good tent makers, as they can get into nations in Asia and the Middle East that refuse missionaries, adjust more easily in these nations than westerners and are better accepted.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 10/5/07>

Senegal: A Bible translator one day took a walk in the marketplace that led to reading the Scriptures to stall holders. As he started the women vendors came and listened intently, probably at the novelty of a foreigner speaking their language. Afterwards, they retold the stories accurately and one woman asked what they have to do to believe. Later he passed 5 young men who had heard the reading earlier asking him questions also. In both cases he was able to share the gospel.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 10/3/07>

China: According to official data, at the end of 2006, the population in Fujian is 35.6 million, and 650,000 Christians (others estimate one million plus).

<Far East Broadcasting, www.liangyou.net, 10/07>

—Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling



About 290 attended the Inauguration Ceremony in San Francisco Bay Area.



Rev. John Kao gave thanksgiving prayer for Rev. and Mrs. Wang's over 50 years of full-time service at the celebration banquet in Toronto.



GCCI Board members prayed for the new president, Dr. Sharon Chan and vice-president (voluntary) Dr. Enoch Wan.

**Inauguration of GCCI's New President,
Dr. Sharon Chan
Retirement Ceremony of Founding President,
Rev. Thomas Wang
held on Jan 20 in San Francisco Bay Area
and Jan 27 in Toronto, Canada**

**UNDER-
STANDING
JEW
SEMINAR**



**了解猶太人
講座**

Friday, March 28, 2008,

19:30-21:00 From Abraham to 1948

Saturday, March 29, 2008,

9:00-10:15 Jews in Eschatology

10:30-11:30 How to be involved in Mission to the Jews

11:45-12:30 Q & A

Lunch

14:00-15:15 Jews in Diaspora

15:30-16:30 Dos & Don'ts in Jewish Evangelism

Dinner

19:00-19:30 Gentiles and Jews Friendship Ceremony

19:30-21:00 Israel-1948 till Now, A Spiritual Perspective

Sunday, March 30, 2008,

14:30-15:45 History & Outlook of Jewish Messianic Movement

16:00-17:00 How to Resolve (or Minimize) The Emity and Distrust
Between Jews and Non-Jews

17:00-17:45 Q & A

Dinner

19:00-21:00 Israel-God's Time Clock For The End Age





UNDERSTANDING JEWS SEMINAR

English

With Mandarin Interpretation



“If I forget you,

Theme: **O Jerusalem !** —Ps137:5

—Past, Present, Future of the Jews—



Amnon Shor
Founder
Burning Bush Ministries



Sandra Teplinsky JD
President
Light of Zion



Aaron Abramson
Director of Ministries
Jews For Jesus

Speakers:

Time: 2008 March, 28 (Friday) 7:30PM

March, 29 (Saturday) 9:00AM~5:15PM, 7:00PM

March, 30 (Sunday) 2:30PM~5:45PM, 7:00PM

Location: **Lord's Grace Christian Church**

1101 San Antonio Rd., Mountain View, CA 94010

FREE ADMISSION

Sponsor: *Great Commission Center International*

Co-Sponsor: *Lord's Grace Christian Church*