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Anti-Semitism in America is not a Jewish problem, sadly now it is undeniably an American problem. Sadly we as Christians can no longer say that anti-Semitism is a secular problem, it is now becoming more obvious that it is a Christian problem. Jews are the litmus test of freedom – their fate is the fate of society. The very small Jewish demographic of any national populace which is between 1 and 2% has been compared to a “canary in the coal mine.” Before good ventilation and high tech air sniffers alerted unsafe air quality, miners had a very simple and effective safety system. They kept a canary with them to warn of toxic air. If the canary died then the miners lives were in danger. The atmosphere had become toxic and would soon be deadly. Christianity has been so devoid of Jews and Jewishness for centuries that we have become accustomed to operating without the canary. We are so deeply entrenched in our own mining operation that we have lost all Jewish Awareness ie ... awareness and appreciation of the Jewishness of Jesus, the apostles, the prophets, the Jewish authors of the Gospels and of the 100% Jewish New Testament Church that accepted Gentiles by faith in Christ alone without the Mosaic requirements of circumcision or the dietary laws etc... (Acts 15).

We as gentile Christians are like the proverbial “fish that doesn’t know he is wet.” We don’t recognize anti-Semitism like a Jewish person who has been conditioned over the last 2000 years to detect the wind change that always preceded their persecution and expulsion or annihilation. We don’t see it until it is nakedly blatant but often too late. “Martin Niemöller was a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany. In the 1920s and early 1930s, he sympathized with many Nazi ideas and supported radically right-wing political movements. But after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, Niemöller became an outspoken critic of Hitler’s interference in the Protestant church. He spent the last 8 years of Nazi rule, from 1937 to 1945, in Nazi prisons and concentration camps. He said “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.” He is remembered as one of the more prominent Germans to publicly acknowledge his moral failures committed during the Nazi era, as well as those of his nation and church. And he continued to speak publicly about the relationship between inaction and Germans’ responsibility for the persecution and murder of Jews in the Holocaust.”¹

The Eyewitness account of Christian Nazism by Oswald J. Smith after he toured Germany in 1936 is chilling. He spoke to German Christian leaders inquiring how they felt about Hitler. He wrote, “They love him. Their confidence in him can't be shaken. They trust him to a man...Every true Christian is for Hitler. I know for it was from the Christians I got most of my information...they endorse Adolph Hitler.” Andre Neher, the French philosopher says "Christian precedent helped Nazism to grow, and that the collective psychoses developed by Christian anti-Judaism fostered those of Nazi anti-Semitism."

Oh, we American Christians are aware that in the Middle East there are people groups that have an utter hatred for Jews and that some Muslim nations have even declared their intention to annihilate Israel. Iran has even threatened to do so with a nuclear weapon. But the problem is no longer just “over there,” it is here and has been on a dramatic increase in the U.S. for decades. The latest example of anti-Semitism is blatantly displayed in the statements of Kanye West a popular and extremely wealthy American rapper, song-writer, record producer, and fashion designer. He is now a professing Christian, and self-appointed evangelist. “West has told reporters that he is a Christian. “I’m definitely born again,” he told GQ earlier this year. West launched weekly gatherings, dubbed “Sunday Service.” The gatherings are part-church choir, part-concert, and drew in other Christian celebrities, such as Justin Bieber. West was met with both praise and criticism about his album *Jesus Is King*. The album marked a hardflip from his original style of rap and is gospel centered. “This album has been made to be an expression of the gospel and to share the gospel and the truth of what

Jesus has done to me,” West said before the album’s release. At an appearance in 2019 at Joel Osteen’s Houston megachurch, West said that he was “now working for God. West said. “We all fall short of the glory. ... Christians are not going to be Christ. We are going to follow Christ and be Christ-like and repent for our sins ...”ⁱⁱ Jewish Awareness Ministries urges Kanye West to repent of the sin of anti-Semitism and to recant his statements: “On Oct. 9, West tweeted that he was going to go “death con 3” on Jewish people, in reference to the defense system used by the United States to signal military defense, and argued that he isn’t anti-Semitic because “black people are actually Jew[s] also.” Jewish Awareness Ministries rejects his claims and the claims of “Black Israelism” which holds that Jews are not the real Jews.

Christians cannot bury our heads in the sand about Christian anti-Semitism with a rebuttal that Kanye professing to be a Christian doesn’t mean is a genuine believer, especially since we were all too silent or even happy about his profession of faith until now. Much of American Christianity was late to the game in testing the sincerity of his conversion and requiring an observable minimum of spiritual growth through discipleship before applauding his novice ministry limelight celebrity. Part of our silence is that he as a black rapper supported Donald Trump which completely sealed our lips as to his theological “indiscretions.” He owned our faith and we now disown him with no vetting or discipleship process in between. Nevertheless, the secular world and Jewish world are listening with glee to our silence in not condemning his anti-Semitic rants, assuming that we are anti-Semitic underneath our hypocritical vestments of Christianity. Why would they assume that? Because, Christendom has an 1800 year track record of theological anti-Semitism that became the foundation of the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, and yes Nazism, resulting in the assembly line slaughter of six million Jews in Europe. Despite the rift of the Reformation, both Catholicism and Lutheranism remained connected by one evil thread, the dogma that the Jews were cursed for killing God’s son. Adolf Hitler wrote, “In defending myself against the Jews, I am acting for the Lord. The only difference between the church and me is that I am finishing the job.” Luther in his book *The Jews and Their Lies* laid out the theological groundwork for Nazism and even urged their persecution, forced labor, property destruction and their murder.

In his book, *Identity Theft*, Jewish believer, Ron Cantor share a conversation with a Jewish man who , “WHO KILLED JESUS? Ariel continued, “While the Holocaust, unlike the Crusades and the Inquisitions, was not explicitly religious, the Church had set the stage. I am sure you have read the old axiom about Jews being called Christ Killers. The Nazis and others throughout the centuries have long enjoyed the employment of this claim as a satanic pretext for blood libels, pogroms, and Holocaust-scale genocide. In short, it is the excuse for nearly every perverted form of persecution that anti-Semitism has ever staged. And the enemy utilized all of this to further alienate Jews from their Jewish Messiah. “Yes, Christ Killer has become a common moniker for Jews during these past 1,900 years. Under this theme, Jewish blood has flowed down the streets of not only Jerusalem, but numerous other cities as well.” “It never made any sense to me,” I shared, “how an entire race of people over thousands of years of existence could be responsible for the killing of one man.” “Well David, who do you think really killed Yeshua?” “I could make a case for the Romans, as Jews were forbidden from enforcing a death penalty. But I do know that it was Jewish people who handed Him over to the Romans.” Ariel helped, “Actually, David, it was primarily the Jewish leaders, not the people, who had a problem with Yeshua.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Sadly the seeds of theological anti-Semitism were sown early by the “church fathers.” Around 167 C.E. Bishop Melito of Sardis composed an Easter homily in which he said, “In rejecting Christ, they rejected God, their election as the people of God, and their salvation. In doing so they earned God’s rejection, and the punishment of bitterness and death. Affirmation of Christian belief meant the denial of the equivalent Jewish belief.”

Nicaea and the Easter Decree

By the fourth century, the Church Fathers appeared to view any expression of Jewish Christianity, as heretical. Prior to 135 C.E., the predominantly Jewish Christian church in Palestine, and the churches of Asia Minor, celebrated Easter on the 14th day of Nisan. (because Jesus

died on Passover) The Jerusalem church decided to shift the celebration of The Resurrection to the Sunday after the 14th of Nisan. In 325 AD The Church leaders at the council in Nicea, rejected the Jewish custom (calculation of Passover/Easter date) "It is our duty not to have anything in common with the murderers of our Lord." The practice of celebrating The Resurrection on the 14th of Nisan was now banned. The Roman practice of the Sunday celebration of Easter was official. Just like the Roman Church determined the new date, the Anglican Church held sway with the KJV Translators when they inserted the word "Easter" which is inserted and not found in any Greek manuscripts. "he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after "Easter" (Greek word is πάσχα – pascha = Passover) to bring him forth to the people." (Acts 12:4) At the Synod of Antioch in 341 C.E., Church Fathers decreed that those who continued to follow the Jewish Christian practice would face excommunication. "We ought not therefore to have anything in common with the Jews, for the Savior has shown us another way: we desire dearest brethren to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews..." The practice of celebrating Easter on the 14th of Nisan was now banned. Only the Roman practice of the Sunday celebration of Easter was allowed. If the Council of Nicaea had signed the death warrant for Jewish Christianity, then Epiphanius was the executioner. With his declaration of heresy against the Nazarenes (ca.376 C.E.), and Augustine's subsequent endorsement (ca. 400 C.E.), the excommunication of Jewish Christianity from the greater Church was complete.^{iv}

Church Fathers of Hatred

Ignatius, the 3rd Bishop of Antioch, 50-117 AD "if any one celebrates the Passover along with the Jews, or receives emblems of their feast, he is a partaker with those that killed the Lord and his apostles."

Origen, a church father, lived from 184 A.D. to 254 A.D. He was the most responsible for the early growth of anti-Semitism in the Church. He interpreted Scriptures allegorically. He believed the Church had replaced Israel.

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon after A.D. 177, declared that the Jews were "disinherited from the grace of God"

Hippolytus of Rome around A.D. 200 wrote, "Many a time does thou boast thyself that thou didst condemn Jesus of Nazareth to death...Of what retribution does Jesus speak? Manifestly of the misery which has now got hold of thee."

Augustine (354-430 A.D.), famous Bishop of Hippo, "the Jews were marked by God when they murdered Christ so that they cannot be destroyed. Yet their dispersion and misery serve as testimony of their evil and Christian truth."

John Chrysostom (344-407 A.D.), patriarch of Constantinople, wrote 8 sermons that showed a violent hatred of the Jews based on the Christ-killer accusation. "The Jews are the most worthless of all men. They are perfidious murderers of Christ. They worship the devil, their religion is a sickness." (Sermons delivered in Antioch in 387.) His seventh sermon began, "The man who does not have enough of loving Christ will never have enough of fighting those who hate Christ."

Salacious Charges of "Deicide" during the medieval period

- 1) **Blood libel** - the allegation that Jews murder non-Jews, especially Christians, in order to obtain blood for the Passover. It led to trials and massacres of Jews in the Middle-Ages and early modern times. It was revived by the Nazis.
- 2) **Host desecration** - The charge that the wafer used in the mass, which was believed to be the actual body of Jesus by the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215, was often stolen by Jewish people so they could stab, torment, and burn it thus inflicting additional pain on Jesus. This charge was leveled against Jewish people all over the Roman Catholic world, frequently bringing with it persecution and massacres.

The Crusaders - In the first crusade (1096-1099 A.D.) viciously plundered and killed the Jews of Europe to finance their trip. Once in Jerusalem, they rushed through the streets killing every human being in sight - man, woman, or child. They burned the Jews alive in the chief synagogue, circling the screaming, flame tortured humanity singing 'Christ We Adore Thee!' with their Crusader crosses held high.

Martin Luther - In 1543 he wrote, among other treatises, 'On the Jews and their lies'. Among some of his suggestions were: "What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews? I shall give you my sincere advice. **First, to set fire to their synagogues** or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom...**Second, I advise that their houses also be razed...Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings...be taken from them. Fourth, I advise that their Rabbis be forbidden to teach** henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb...**Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews...Sixth, I advise that usury be prohibited to them,** and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them..."

PROTESTANT PRE-HOLOCAUST THEOLOGY

Raul Hillberg in 'The Destruction of the European Jews', says, "The missionaries of Christianity had said in effect, You have no right to live among us as Jews. The secular rulers who followed had proclaimed, You have no right to live among us. The German Nazis at last declared, You have no right to live."

Ernst Helmreich in 'The German Churches Under Hitler' summarizes the 1920's: "There were few denunciations of anti-Semitism in German churches in the 1920s, or for that matter in most pulpits of the Christian world."

Michael Kaufman writes, in the Dec. 5, 1992 *Jerusalem Post*, "The Role of the Church's teachings in antisemitism": "The Holocaust was largely the product of the incessant teachings of hatred by the Church, and the Church's instigation of their legal, economic and physical persecution over the previous 1500 years."

Knox Theological Seminary - signed by over 150 theologians, pastors, and prominent individuals.

An Open Letter to Evangelicals and Other Interested Parties: The People of God, the Land of Israel, and the Impartiality of the Gospel. "The present secular state of Israel, however, is not an authentic or prophetic realization of the Messianic Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, a day should **not** be anticipated in which Christ's kingdom will manifest Jewish distinctives, whether by its location in 'the land,' by its constituency, or by its ceremonial institutions and practices."

Billy Graham The Richard Nixon tapes revealed a 90 minute discussion after a prayer breakfast in which Billy Graham said "the Jewish stranglehold on the American media has to be broken... or this country is going down the drain". He uses the phrase "Satanic Jews". Many other negative comments were made. He advised Nixon to get rid of the "D---- Jews" from his administration. Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League said "a trusted spiritual leader of America ... has been playing a charade for all these years." A late very weak statement from Graham that he never felt that way toward Jews (contradicting his taped conversation with President Nixon) further angering the Jewish community.

Christian Palestinianism

A group of Palestinian Christians associated with the Bethlehem Bible College in Bethlehem Israel, has been hosting high-profile "Christ at the Checkpoint" conferences that bring evangelical leaders from around the world to "reclaim the prophetic role in bringing peace, justice, and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel." What this means in practice is unceasing criticism of perceived Israeli injustice, racism, and occupation, peppered with special disdain for evangelical Zionists who allegedly exacerbate the conflict by cheerleading Jewish oppression of Palestinians.

Jim Fletcher, a long-time Christian publisher, in this interview with Israel National News, warns, "If something isn't done soon, in 10 years, pro-Israel support among American Evangelicals will all be over." *Christian Evangelicalism Making Dangerous Pro-Palestinian Swing* by Joseph Lanza. Other protestants, evangelicals and Christian leaders that are pro-Palestinian and opposed to Modern Zionism/Israel theologically to name a few are –

Reformed/Replacement Theology, Relevant Magazine, Presbyterian Church USA, Dr. Gary Burge -Wheaton College, Oral Roberts University President - William Wilson, Hank Hanegraff, Tony Compolo, Frank Schaeffer, John Piper, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church.

BDS Boycott, Divest, Sanction is an international movement that crosses all sectors of business, politics and religion to delegitimize and harm Israel economically, politically and geographically in support of the "Palestinian" peoples by establishing a Palestinian Nation on the Biblically designated land of the state of Israel. Since the Palestinian people have rejected Israel's two state proposals five times on the last four decades it is obvious Israel's complete removal is the goal.

Summary It is a wonder that any Jew would listen to a true believer sharing the Gospel of Christ. They fear us like we view ISIS enforcing conversion by the sword. In America" Evangelical" Christianity has made great strides to separate itself from this history but it keeps popping up from within our ranks. Our response must be no less than outright condemnation of all forms of anti-Semitism and calling to task all within our circles as well as those we politically align with. In my article in Israel's Messenger posted as a blog on www.jewishawareness.org, I unveiled anti-Semitism in the Democratic party. There are three other blog articles stating the theological position of J.A.M. dealing with anti-Semitism in Evangelicalism and in Christian theology as well.^v

1. God has promised to curse those who curse His chosen people Genesis 12:1-3
2. God rebukes churches who become exclusive against the Jewish believer. Rom. 11:16-25
3. Catholic and Lutheran and Anglican Churches should completely renounce all forms of theological anti-Semitism.
4. Evangelical and Baptist churches should become actively supportive of the safety and freedom Jewish people and of Israel's right to exist securely in every part of the Land originally deeded to Abraham by God in (Genesis 13:14-17;15:18;17:8; Deut. 11:24).
5. Bible believing churches should reprioritize all evangelism and missions to be in line with the Romans 1;16 mandate of the Apostle Paul's doctrine and practice.
6. Bible Believing churches need to increase their Jewish Awareness of the Jewish context of the Gospels and the New Testament, their Jewish Awareness of the Biblical Jewish holy days as observed by Jesus and by modern Jews today and thereby bridge the communication gap regarding the Jewishness of Jesus and the early church for the sake of making Jewish people aware of how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies and types in the Jewish scriptures.
7. Bible believing churches should recognize their exclusiveness and arrogance against Jewish people and understand the historically negative connotations that our traditional "icons" of the cross and the Christian flag identify us with false Christianity that has so severely persecuted the Jewish people. Jesus despised the cross and the shame and curse it represented and begged 3 times to not experience it but only submitted to the will of the Father for the joy of salvation that it would mean to us. No early Christian Jews wore symbols of the execution of their Messiah and of the instrument of the execution of thousands of their countrymen.

ⁱ Martin Niemöller: "First they came for the Socialists..." | Holocaust Encyclopedia (ushmm.org)

ⁱⁱ Things Christians Should Know About The Faith of Kanye West, www.christianheadlines.com

ⁱⁱⁱ Identity Theft By Ron Cantor, Chapter 7-1

^{iv} Jewish Christianity in the Early Church, Kenneth W. Howard , Jewish Christianity, March 15, 1993

^v www.jewishawareness.org/blog