



**One New Man Study – Lesson Four**  
**The Church's Ugly Past: The Church Fathers And Anti-Semitism**

*Exodus 20:12 - Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives thee.*

*Romans 9:5 - Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.*

*Malachi 4:6 - And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

The Fifth Commandment says, "Honor your father and your mother." Scripture calls Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the "fathers" of our faith. The church owes a debt of gratitude to the Jewish people. But if the church denies its Jewish heritage it is dishonoring its spiritual "fathers" and violating the commandment of God. Malachi was the last book of the "Bible" the early church read. The New Covenant was not added to the canon of Scripture for nearly 500 years after Messiah was resurrected. The last prophecy in the Old Covenant describes how important this matter is to God:

*Malachi 4:6 - And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*

If the "fathers" are the Jewish people, who are the 'children?' The children are the Christians because they have received a spiritual heritage from the Jewish fathers of the faith. God says if the hearts of the Jewish people are not turned to the Christians and the hearts of the Christians to the Jewish people, He will strike the earth with a curse.<sup>1</sup>

The devil has worked hard to keep the two groups apart. With cunning like a master chess player, he has placed a barrier that seems insurmountable between believers in Jesus and the Jewish people. Jesus came to break down the wall between Jew and Gentile. Ephesians 2:14 says Jesus has made "the two (Jew and Gentile) one." Jesus prayed in John 17:21 "that they all may be ONE - that the **world might believe.**" Whom does "all" refer to? I can tell you now it does NOT refer to the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists and Pentecostals as some try to teach this verse urging unity among denominations. We need unity among denominations but denominations did not exist in Jesus' day. Jesus was not praying for denominations. He was praying for His followers,

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<sup>1</sup> Roth, Sid. *The Last Lap*, Messianic Vision Press, Brunswick, GA, 2001. Chapters 2-5

who were Jewish, and for those who will believe from their words - the Gentiles. The stakes are high. Jesus says when Jewish and Gentile believers are one - THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE. When this happens, the same degree of glory that is on Jesus will be released on the church as stated in John 17:22:<sup>2</sup>

*John 17:20-22 - Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; [21] That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. [22] And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

Not only will God's glory to be released to bring in THE harvest but we will receive that same love that Father God has for Jesus the Son. Messiah Jesus said:

*John 17:26 - And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

#### A. "Christian" Anti-Semitism

God wants to use the Gentile world to bring the Jewish people BACK into the Body of Messiah. This is true unity!

*Romans 11:11 - I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*

God wants us as Gentiles to be so on fire for Jesus that when the Jews see us they will be jealous of the fact we are rejoicing and being blessed by the covenant they once forsook. Somehow this truth has gotten lost. More tragically the church's bitter fight against spiritual gifts and the Holy Spirit is a symptom of a far more sinister problem - Bigotry! You see one way the Jew is provoked to jealousy for the gospel of Jesus is through a SIGN. The Jews require a SIGN to believe, the Greeks require wisdom. Think about it. Most of the problems the American church has in reaching the lost Gentile world is the fact most in America are so "intellectual" in their own eyes they are offended when we tell them they are sinners and must repent before a Holy God.

For the Jew it is different. The greatest stumbling block to the Jew are signs and wonders. The Jewish mind has always required a sign. It's what got the Jewish religious leaders so angry at Jesus when they were demanding He show proof He was the Son of God. When He told them the only sign they'd be given was the CROSS-, it enraged them! The Jewish mind still requires a sign today:<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

*1 Cor. 1:22-25 - For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: [23] But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; [24] But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. [25] Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

Instead of driving the Jewish people to jealousy the church has simply driven them away as we have really Gentiles too. We offer a LIFELESS GOSPEL! We offer "words" instead of demonstrations of the power of God and a connection between the heart of God and man. We want people to adhere to our tenants of faith to be members of our church while we criticize and condemn the Jewish rabbis for all their tradition. Give me a break. At least the Jewish rabbinical tradition is an effort to understand GOD. Both systems are flawed and both will produce death. Our tenants of faith will NOT provoke anyone to jealousy - Jew or Gentile - and it will choke out the life and power we will need in these last days to bring in the harvest for the Lord Jesus.

Although there have been many in the Christian faith who gave their lives in trying to stand up for the Jewish Race (Germany's Dietrich Bonhoffer comes to mind) some of the most anti-Jewish people in the last 2,000 years have been those who have called themselves "Christian." Through the centuries, accusations and statements by the church and its leaders against the Jews have led to a form of vicious "Christian" anti-Semitism:

- **Justin Martyr** (A.D. 167) *was one of the first to accuse the Jews of inciting to kill Christians*
- **Origen** (AD 254) *(See Lesson One) accused the Jews of plotting in their meetings to murder Christians*
- **Eusebius** (AD 300) *alleged that Jews, each year at the holiday of Purim, engaged in ceremonial killing of Christian children*
- **St. Hilary of Poitiers** (AD 367) *said that the Jews were a perverse people, forever accursed by God*
- **St. Ephraem** (AD 373) *wrote many of the early church hymns, some of which maligned Jews, even to the point of calling Jewish synagogues "whorehouses."*
- **St. John Chrysostom** (AD 344-407) *said that there could never be expiation for the Jews and that God had dways hated them. He said it was "incumbent" upon all Christians to hate the Jews; they were assassins of Christ, and worshippers of the devil; In one of his writings, Chrysostom wrote, 'their synagogues are worse than brothel...they are a den of scoundrels and the repair of wild beasts...the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults...the refuge of brigands and debauches, and the cavern of devils.'*
- **St. Cyril** (AD 444) *gave the Jews within his jurisdiction the choice of conversion, exile or stoning.*

- **St. Jerome** (AD 420), translator of the Latin Vulgate, "proved" that Jews are incapable of understanding the Scriptures and said they should be severely persecuted until they confess "the true faith."
- **St. Augustine** (AD 430) said the true image of the Jew was Judas Iscariot, forever guilty and ignorant spiritually. St. Augustine decided that Jews, for their own good and the good of society, must be relegated to the position of slaves. This theme was later picked up by:
- **St. Thomas Aquinas** (AD 1274) who demanded that the Jews be called to perpetual servitude. According to Professor F.E. Talmage, St. Augustine believed that "because of their sin against Christ, the Jews rightly deserved death. Yet, as with Cain who murdered the 'just Abel, they are not to die...for they are doomed to wander the earth...the witnesses of their iniquity and of our truth' the living proof of Christianity.
- **The Crusaders** (AD 1099) herded Jews into the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem. When they were securely inside the locked doors, the synagogue was set on fire. And the misguided Crusaders, with the lies of the perverted sermons fresh in their ears, sang as they marched around the blaze, "Christ, we adore Thee."
- **Martin Luther** (1544) said the Jews should not merely be slaved, but slaves of slaves, that they might not even come into contact with Christians. In his "Schem Hamphoras," he said the Jews were ritual murderers and poisoners of the wells. He called for all Talmuds and synagogues to be destroyed.<sup>4</sup>

Martin Luther said quite a few derogatory things actually about the Jews. In his *Von den Juden und Iren Luegen* treatise of 1543 he wrote, "**what then shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews? Since they live among us and we know about their lying and blasphemy and cursing, we cannot tolerate them if we do not wish to share in their lies, curses, and blasphemy...We must prayerfully and reverently practice a merciful severity.**"

Encyclopedia Judaica comments on Luther's statements: "**Short of the Auschwitz over and extermination, the whole Nazi Holocaust is pre-outlined here.**" In another tirade against the Jews, Luther said, quoting, "**those rulers who have Jewish subjects need to exercise a sharp mercy toward these wretched people...They must act like a good physician who, when gangrene has set in, proceeds without mercy to cut, saw, and burn flesh, veins, bone and marrow...burn down their synagogues...If this does not help we must drive them out like mad dogs.**" (From *Luther Works*, Vol. 47: *The Christian In Society IV*)

Indeed Luther's words were prophetic because in 1933 in Adolph Hitler's infamous book, *Mein Kampf* he wrote, "**hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord**" And in the name of "Christianity"

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

and "God" Adolph Hitler used the nation of Germany to slaughter six million Jewish people through genocide. We are going to take an in-depth look at Hitler's' holocaust of the Jewish people in our next lesson. What makes the holocaust so horrible was the role the church in Germany (AND AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES) played in this demonic demented act of humanity?

## B. All Israel Shall Be Saved

Speaking as part of the church - we need a miracle to remove this wound. Only God can restore the damage between the church and the Jewish people. Repentance is the first step. Maybe none of us reading this are Anti-Semitic, but as members of His Body, we must and need to repent for the sins of the whole church. Daniel did not rebel against God, but he repented on behalf of Israel. Some feel we should not talk of this sad history but I believe its what's holding back God's total glory and blessing on the 21rst Century Church. The church must get rid of this horrible SIN! Repentance will prepare the way for a great Jewish revival. As the Gentiles who believe in Jesus repent and mature in Jesus, the Jewish people will become more open to the Gospel. Step one toward maturity is REPENTANCE! It's the Passover Lamb - YESHUAH - who takes away the sins of the world.

*Romans 11:25-26 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. [26] And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:*

## C. Hitler's Holocaust And The Church's Role

***"I do not look upon Jews as animals, they are further removed from animals than we are...therefore it is not a crime to exterminate them, since they do not belong to humanity at all."*** With that declaration, Adolph Hitler removed the Jewish people under Germany's borders from their status as persons. Henrich Himmler got the green light to use his SS troops to exterminate them. The SS were then free to kill Jewish people without break laws and free to exterminate without committing murder. There would be no trials for poisoning "vermin," the land must be cleansed of "filth" so that might be peopled with those who have human blood flowing through their veins." So were the words of a madman who was brought to power by a cross-less Church.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Lutzer, Edwin. *Hitler's Cross and The Holocaust*, Moody Press, Chicago, IL., 2000,

Just as with the abortionist who calls a pre-born infant a "product of conception," so those who were demonically possessed manipulated language in Germany that inspired many to carry out one of history's most treacherous and diabolical acts upon the Jewish race. Adolph Hitler was an expert in calling evil good and good evil. **But he had gotten his energy from the writings of Anti-Semitic church fathers, especially Martin Luther,** whom Hitler quoted often while gassing millions.<sup>6</sup>

Hitler forged a doctrine throughout Germany that would give him permission to vent his rage against the Jewish people with a plan to exterminate them from the very face of the earth. Blending the racist writings of a German composer, **Richard Wagner**, and the evolutionary theory of Charles Darwin with the blood myths of Eastern occultism, Hitler made a pact with the devil in the name of God.

Wagner's views were demonic. With his operas that revealed German heroes and wars with pagan gods and demons, Wagner harbored deep-rooted anti-Semitism. A man of staggering genius, he claimed to have a revelation of Jesus Christ saying He had been born of German stock (Aryan). This was not the Jesus Christ of the New Covenant, but a Christ who shed Aryan blood and would lead Germany back to the greatness that was her right. In one of his most famous operas, "*the Song of the Nibelungs*," Wagner uttered the term "final solution," in a call for national patriotism among German people. Hitler said of Wagner, "***whoever wants to understand the National Socialist Part of Germany (which Hitler headed) must know Wagner.***"<sup>7</sup>

Hitler also accepted Darwin's theory of evolution that he used often in his rhetoric asserting that every man had the right to be "as cruel as nature." With Hitler's lectures to SS troops proving the inferiority of Jews, Aryan skulls were always compared to those of Jewish ancestry to prove on a scientific basis that the latter were hopelessly inferior. But what happened in the wake of this madness and deception was the Holocaust. Six million Jewish people died without an answer to the eternal question of WHY. The Holocaust museums in Israel and Washington, D.C. confront us with the scope of the crimes committed, but when we leave them we still feel we have not done justice to this part of world history. **And the church has not dealt with the curse that I believe we are under as a result of what we allowed to happen then either!**

Most Jews have a deep-rooted resentment to the term "Christian" for in this term all they see are the images of 1933-1945. The non-chosen has appeared to be more blessed. The chosen people of God appear to be the cursed. With the honor of being singled out by God for blessing has come centuries of tears and persecution. And sadly, there is more to come before final salvation comes to the Israeli nation and Jewish people as a whole.

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<sup>6</sup> Roth, Chapters 2-5, Messianic Vision Press, Brunswick, GA. 2001

<sup>7</sup> Lutzer, Chapter 1.

They are the chosen people of God:

*Deut. 7:6 - For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

The Jewish people, despite their faults are the nation GOD chose through which to bless the world. Abraham was a Gentile when God came to him, told him to leave his family, and said to him:

*Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: [2] And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

God's covenant with Abraham was unconditional in that it was wholly dependent on God's faithfulness. In Genesis 15 God alone walks between the pieces of flesh and blood while Abraham sleeps. Thus God was "swearing by Himself," that the terms of the agreement would be fulfilled. Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, had twelve sons, one of whom was JUDAH, from whose name the word, "JEW" was derived. As we have stated earlier in this study, the Gentiles inherit these blessings only because of God's graciousness. We were "GRAFTED" into the olive tree of Romans 11. Israel failed to accept God's Messiah, so we Gentiles are the beneficiaries of God's love and affection.

But God isn't finished with Israel. The only problem is the church must deal with the wounds of the past before we can effectively witness to those of the Jewish race. It will take more than just a tract to set them free. It will take the supernatural love of Yeshuah.

#### **Lesson Four- Study Questions**

##### **Fill In The Blank**

1. The early church fathers were very \_\_\_\_\_; Their writings and statements divided the Jews and the Christians early on.
2. The olive tree of Romans 11 is a picture of national \_\_\_\_\_ and the covenants the Gentiles are \_\_\_\_\_ into.
3. The Gentiles are the beneficiaries of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ and affection because of the Jewish olive tree.
4. Many Jews have a deep-rooted resentment to the Christians because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1939-1945.
5. The book of \_\_\_\_\_ was the last book of the "Bible" the early church read.

6. Hitler used the writings and teachings of \_\_\_\_\_ Luther to further his cause in exterminating 6 million Jews.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first to accuse the Jews of inciting riots and threatening to kill Christians.
8. Origen declared all the scriptures pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Jewish people “allegorical” while proclaiming the curses literal.
9. The chosen people of God are the \_\_\_\_\_ people according to Deut. 7:6.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ will prepare the way for revival among the Jewish people.