

Demonism (part 30: the Jews, the Holocaust, the plan of Satan, and the plan of God-1)

Ten ways Satan is effectively paving the way for the Antichrist.

#1, Globalism, One-World Order.

#2, Occultism.

#3, Apostasy.

#4, Worldwide Web.

#5, Animosity towards Israel.

#6, Buildup of the kings of the east, Asian power.

#7, Buildup of the king of the north, Russian power.

#8, Buildup of Europe (the European Common Market), the Revived Roman Empire.

#9, Preparation of the Jews to accept the False Prophet.

#10, Destruction of the United States as we presently know it.

#5, Animosity towards Israel (cont.)

Due to the crucial importance of understanding the nation of Israel (e.g., God's plan for her, divine discipline on her, Satan's incessant plan to destroy her, anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and Israel in contemporary American politics), I have decided to examine Judaism in more depth over the next few weeks. The aim is to provide an understanding of Israel from her biblical beginning through the Holocaust and up to the present time. The events of world history all revolve around the Jews. It is vital that we understand Israel and what God is doing as Satan continues to seek to wipe her off the face of the earth (where have we heard this?). The major source I will be utilizing through this biblical, theological, and philosophical journey is Barry Leventhal's dissertation on the Holocaust.

1. Let's begin this journey by noting words anonymously inscribed on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where several Jews were hiding from the Nazis.

I believe in the sun when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not
I believe in God even when His is silent.

2. The above captures the sentiment of many Jews both during and since the Holocaust. However, some Jews are simply unable to hold on to such a God who they view as being so silent during the full-faced horror of the Holocaust. To exacerbate the problem, Jewish theology is simply unable to provide an adequate explanation for such horrors. Hence, many Jews fall into atheism. This does not mean that they have quit being involved in their synagogues; many claim not to believe in God while at the same time believe in "Judaism"—a Judaism without God, a Judaism of works for the sake of man.

3. Jewish persecution and the Holocaust.

- a) Note how the Encyclopaedia Judaica defines the "Holocaust:"

The "Holocaust" (also known as the Catastrophe, the Sho'ah, the Hurban) is the most tragic period of Jewish Diaspora history and indeed of modern mankind as a whole. It started in Germany on Jan. 30, 1933, with the accession of the Nazis to power, and ended on May 8, 1945, with the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

- b) The Holocaust spread like a malignant cancer to all of Eastern Europe, destroying in its wake all of Eastern European Jewry, some six million Jews, including over one million Jewish children. This was nothing less than a life-shattering experience for the Jews and non-Jews.
- c) The only theodicy (a rational defense of the justice of God in light of the presence of evil in the world) that answers the sufferings of the Jews is one that is biblical, dispensational, and philosophical (realism). This is the approach of this study. The goal of this study is to enable the reader to have a good grasp of the Jews including their biblical and philosophical viewpoints, the biblical and theological data on the Jews, and principles of philosophical realism on the problem of evil.
- d) Four specific reasons have been given for the uniqueness of the slaughter of six million Jews by the Nazis:
 - 1) The Nazi resolution to destroy the Jews was aimed at the Jews as a whole. All eighteen million Jews in the world—men, women, and children—were to be exterminated simply because they were born into a Jewish family.

- 2) While the Nazis made plans to provide find solutions for other groups (e.g., Gypsies, Communists), those groups could wait until the war was over. Not so with the Jews. The thought was that they had to go ASAP.
 - 3) The war against the Jews took precedence over the conflict with all other enemies. Killing Jews was more important than winning the war.
 - 4) With regard to killing Jews, there were no conflicting considerations (e.g., economic, military). The Jews had to be eliminated no matter the cost.
- e) One of the major sources for the rise of Nazism in Germany came from within the Church. The church had bought into evolution and destructive higher criticism of the Bible, and as a result were no longer sympathetic toward the Jews.
 - f) There has been a very long history of anti-Semitism throughout church history not only in the Roman Catholic State Church, but in Protestant Church. Martin Luther in his later years turned upon the Jews in religious fury, and thus in some way paved the way for an Adolph Hitler to consummate his desire to eliminate the Jewish people.
 - g) Adolph Hitler considered Martin Luther a great hero of the German people in *Mein Kampf* and wrote the following about the Jews in that “work”:

Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jews, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.

- h) This does not mean that Nazi anti-Semitism was Christian in its core. It was not. Nazis also persecuted Christians. Hitler just hated the Jews more than Christians. However, centuries of Christian persecution of the Jews certainly paved the way for the Hitlerian extermination of 6,000,000 Jews. It is estimated that over 1,000,000 were children. Many Jews will not even consider Jesus Christ as the Messiah because of centuries of Christian persecution. Furthermore, many do not believe any Messiah is worthy of consideration because of letting so many of their people suffer and die.
- i) Jews continue to ask if God were a God of love and power, why wouldn't He halt the suffering of the Holocaust for His *chosen* people.
- j) Those who have persecuted the Jews have included Christians who said that the Jews had *no right to live among us as Jews*, secular rulers who followed and proclaimed that the Jews had *no right to live among us*, and then the Nazis declared that the Jews had *no right to live*. The Nazis did not act in a vacuum, some say they simply completed the process. How can so many Jews be stripped of their German citizenship only to be summarily exterminated without bothering many of their fellow German countrymen?

- k) Today Israel is facing increasing existential threats from her neighbors, most notably Iran, Egypt, and Syria. Yet our president does not have time to meet with Benjamin Netanyahu—although he does have time for an interview with Pimp the Limp. I believe we are moving closer to a major world war that will include nuclear and chemical weapons. It is only a matter of time.
- l) Jewish remarks about the Holocaust.

Anne Frank: Who has inflicted this upon us? Who has made us Jews different from all other people? Who has allowed us to suffer so terribly up till now? It is God that has made us as we are, but it will be God, too, who will raise us up again.

Hasidic rabbi: For the faithful, there are no questions; for the non-believer, there are no answers.

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor: could not have been without God, nor could it have been with God, it cannot be conceived on any level.

Viktor Frankl, a psychotherapist and survivor of the Holocaust: The truth is that among those who actually went through the experience of Auschwitz, the number whose religious life was deepened—in spite, not to say because, of this experience—by far exceeds the number of those who gave up their belief with regard to love, one might say that just as the small fire is extinguished by the storm whereas a large fire is enhanced by it—likewise, a weak faith is weakened by predicaments and catastrophes whereas a strong faith is strengthened by them.

*N.B. I will continue with the various Jewish remarks in the next DDR. Before we move into all of the passages regarding the covenants and God's promises of blessings and cursings on His elect nation, I want us to have a good feel of the Jewish mentality. The last statement by Frankl substantiates what I have been saying about post-traumatic growth as well as the need for top-down truths. Testing, suffering, and trauma all have a way of manifesting to us the true nature of our spiritual lives. However, apart from top-down truths it is all subjective. These Jews suffered miserably, but because of lack of understanding top-down truths about the nature of God and His plan, they were not objectively brought closer to the true nature of God and thus Jesus Christ—though they may have felt closer. We desperately need to parlay tests and sufferings into a closer relationship with God while at the same time grasping those more difficult top-down truths on the true nature of God.

If you are facing difficulties, I want you to know that there are two issues before you: handling the test through Bible doctrine and learning about God through the biblical data coupled with philosophical realism: short term stability for the now and long-term growth in true knowledge of the nature of God. For the short term, here are a few passages to faith-rest in:

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Psalm 31:14 But as for me, I trust in Thee, O LORD, I say, "Thou art my God."

Psalm 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalm 40:4 How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

These are wonderful passages that help us daily. However, apart from growth in the object of trust, the nature of God (as we have been developing) these are only quick fixes which really do not solve the long-term spiritual maladies. No long-term problem can be solved apart from theological answers and those answers are systematic and involve accurate and hard thinking about the true nature of God.

What is wonderful about these promises is that a Christian can even think of God in pagan terms and still use them. However, with that pagan mindset (and virtually every modern American Christian has major pagan views of God due to lack of metaphysical development) you will find yourself in the same mess twenty years down the road. Faith-rest is for short term; it does not really communicate to us about the true *nature* of God. One can trust in God and enjoy the great *feeling* of resting in Him while at the same time have very pagan views of God. Don't make the mistake many Jews have made in equating their religious experiences with objective reality on the nature of God. We simply cannot afford to be ignorant about the nature of the God we love and worship.

Acts 17:23 "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Safe and Sound in Him,

Pastor Don