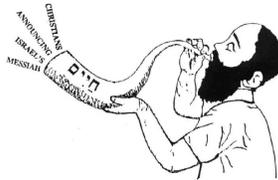


# CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHristians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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## Why Does the Devil Hate the Jews?

We are all reeling from the recent horrible slaughter in a historic synagogue in Pittsburgh. We mourn the dead and pray for the survivors. Such an atrocity against Jewish people is nothing new. Each year one week is set apart in the Jewish calendar as Holocaust Remembrance Week. Yom HaShoah is the annual day for remembering Holocaust. The horrible tragedy of the six million was not by any means the first time the Jewish people had been slaughtered. There have been many attempts to annihilate the Jewish people throughout history. Passover, Hanukkah and Purim are also Jewish holidays associated with attempts to wipe out the Jewish people and God's faithfulness to deliver. The Jewish history of persecution and survival has resulted in the cliché about Jewish holidays: "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!"

Pharaoh sought to kill all male babies born to Israel (Ex. 1:9-16).

Haman tried to completely wipe out all of the Jewish people (Esther 3:5-6, 13). Antiochus IV, the Syrian-Greek tyrant tried to make all Jews become Greeks or else die (The Hanukkah Story). Herod, the Edomite king who had converted to Judaism, killed thousands of Jewish children in an attempt to prevent the Messiah's coming (Matt. 2:16). Then there is the awful history of so-called "Christian" persecution of the Jewish people. It will shock you if you are not aware of it. (I recommend Edward Flannery's book *The Anguish of the Jews* on this topic.)

Hanukkah, the eight-night celebration that begins on the evening of December 2 in 2018, is mentioned in John 10:22. The passage reveals that many Jews at that time were looking for a new deliverer who would save the nation from Roman oppression. God, however, had a greater plan, a plan to save the elect from all nations, including Israel, from death itself.

In spite of centuries of persecution and attempts to wipe out the Jewish people, "Am Israel Chai," the people of Israel live. But why has there been such a virulent hatred and

persecution of the Jewish people? Could there be a spiritual dimension? I believe there is.

Some have suggested the Jewish people have incurred the wrath of God through rejecting Messiah Jesus. But why have Jewish believers in Jesus also suffered? Why did at least five million Gentiles die in the Holocaust? Why then were there 200 pastors in the Dachau concentration camp? Clearly that theory must be completely rejected.

God created the Jewish people to be those through whom His revelation to mankind would come. He chose the Jewish people to bring the Messiah to the world. Jesus was -and still is- a Jew. His ascension did not change his

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genealogy! This goes a long way toward understanding the spiritual dimension of anti-Semitism. The Jews are hated by the evil one because his nemesis, the Messiah, came through them.

I suggest an additional answer is to be found in Romans Chapter 11. We are told there that God did not reject the Jewish people --in spite of unbelief and disobedience. Paul tells us this clearly in verses 1-6 and 28-32. A believing remnant remains which follows Messiah, and, even in unbelief, they are still chosen because the "gifts and calling of God are irrevocable." God's love and faithfulness toward the people of Israel in unbelief should certainly encourage believers!

The great Reformed theologian Geerhardus Vos wrote this about the restoration of the Jewish people to faith:

*To the events preceding the parousia belongs, according to the uniform teaching of Jesus, Peter, and Paul, the conversion of Israel (Matt. 23:39; Luke 13:35; Acts 1:6,7; 3:19, 21; where the arrival of "seasons of refreshing" and "times of restoration of all things" is made dependent on the [eschatological] sending of the Christ to Israel), and this again is said to depend upon the repentance and conversion and the blotting out of the sins of Israel; Romans 11, where the problem of*

*unbelief of Israel is solved by the twofold proposition: (1) that there is even now among Israel an election according to grace; (2) that in the future there will be a comprehensive conversion of Israel (vss. 5, 25-32)."*

(Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation, The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos, p. 35, edited by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., (c) 1980, Presbyterian and Reformed Pub. Co.)

So many great Reformed theologians also believed in a revival of the Jewish people before Jesus returns: John Owen, Matthew Henry, John Calvin, John Murray, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Hodge, Charles Spurgeon, Herman Witsius, and others. (See [www.chaim.org/refpersp.htm](http://www.chaim.org/refpersp.htm) for more quotations.)

God had a purpose in the unbelief of Israel. Through their transgression, salvation came to the Gentiles. Non-Jews who believe in the Jewish Messiah have been grafted into the tree of believing Israel. They are connected to the root of the patriarchs and have become spiritual descendants of Abraham. But they are the wild branches and the Jewish people, even in unbelief, are still the natural branches. God has promised that before Jesus returns, many Jewish people will accept Jesus as Messiah. This will be a great boost to the advancement of the gospel.

If you were the Devil and wanted to stop the gospel from going forward and Messiah from coming again, what would you do in regard to the Jewish people? First try to wipe them out; failing that, persecute them in Jesus' name so that they won't want to hear it mentioned. That is what Satan has done. Herod was a clear example of this strategy: kill Jewish people in order to prevent the Messiah from coming. Just as the devil had attempted to destroy the Jews, he attempted to destroy their Messiah. Satan hates both Jews and Christians because he hates Jesus. As believers, we have a moral responsibility to commit ourselves to the survival of the Jewish people and to promote revival among the natural branches, beloved even in unbelief. We look to a day when the Jewish people will say with us: "They tried to kill us, we survived, and let's celebrate what God has done for us through Jesus!"

**Please remember CHAIM in your year-end giving. Our ability to continue in this work depends on the prayers and support of friends like you! We can also accept gifts of stock, which can be a tax advantage. Email Director Fred Klett at [fredklett@verizon.net](mailto:fredklett@verizon.net) for more information.**

## CHAIM Ministry Updates

CHAIM and the Rock of Israel PCA Congregational Plant had an outreach at the Matryoshka festival for Russian-speaking immigrants. We were ready to give away hundreds of Russian Bibles! However, it rained HEAVILY, so we only gave out about a dozen Bibles. Few showed up for the festival, but all who received a Bible, mostly Russian Jews, heard the gospel clearly presented from Isaiah 53.



Under our tent at the local Matryoshka festival for Russian-speakers. The pouring rain did not prevent us from making an effort. We hope for better weather next year! Left to right: Intern Paul Quiram, Rev. Vitaly Kalinovsky, & Rev. Fred Klett.



Don't forget to pray for ongoing street evangelism! Rev. Rick Anderson is pictured in action on the left! Below is a tract we'll be using in December. Email [fredklett@verizon.net](mailto:fredklett@verizon.net) for a pdf file you can download print and use this season.

A personal note from Director Fred Klett: Jean and I just celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! I am very thankful for her and also for all the great help she has been to this ministry over the years!

It's My  
Rabbi's  
Birthday



and he wants to give you a present.