



## THE HOLOCAUST: HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

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***“In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them;  
In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them,  
And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old”*** Isaiah 63:9

*“For today’s Jewish community there is no other event as important, no other event as disturbing, no other event as horrifying, no other event that has done more to shape self identity and galvanize commitment to Jewish survival and continuity than the murder of six million European Jews, The Holocaust”* MB

For Ariel's Camp Shoshanah 2007: An overview, with an emphasis on a Scriptural understanding.

Reasons for studying Jewish History:

1. To see how history affirms the reliability of scripture
2. To augment and further explain the Biblical narrative
3. To correct misconceptions and prejudice regarding the Jewish people
4. To explain and understand Jewish opposition toward Christendom
5. To give life to Jewish heritage, culture and values
6. To better understand the God of History and His unique relationship to His covenant people
7. To understand the influence of Jewish history upon Western History

### THE GUIDING PRINCIPAL OF JEWISH HISTORY

God has entered into an eternal, unconditional covenant with the Jewish people. This Abrahamic Covenant forms the basis for Gods’ dealing with His Jewish people (the Abrahamic Covenant continues in spite of the Mosaic Covenant “ending” at the death of Messiah Gal. 3:17) The following Scriptures highlight this:

Gen. 12:1-3

Gen 15:4-21

Isa. 49:14-16

Jer. 31:31-37

Rom. 11:1-36

Gal. 3:17

## APPROACHES TO STUDYING JEWISH HISTORY

1. The Martyr Approach- Jews as oppressed victims – Generally: Cecil Roth, Holocaust: Raul Hilberg
2. The Hero Approach- Jews as overcomers – Generally: Max Dimont, Holocaust: Lucy Dawidowicz
3. The Theological/Covenantal Approach- acknowledges the hand of God in Jewish History

## I. THE HOLOCAUST – A DEFINITION

### A. The names

1. The Final Solution
2. The Shoah
3. The Holocaust

### B. The participants

### C. The locations

### D. The time period

### E. One Definition:

The Holocaust is the term used to describe the killing of six million European Jews from 1938 through 1945, as part of a program of deliberate extermination planned and executed by the Nazi regime in Germany.

## II. THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN EUROPE THROUGH 1914

### A. Jewish population, distribution and commerce

1. Periodic outbreaks of persecution
2. Relationship and disputations with the Catholic church
  - a. Enactment of laws against Judaism
  - b. Forced debates and "Christianized" Jewish converts
3. Relationship with the Eastern Orthodox Church
4. Relationship with the Protestant Churches

- a. Martin Luther
  - b. National Protestant churches
  - c. Independent evangelical churches
5. Jewish ethnic divisions in Europe
- a. Sephardic
  - b. Ashkanaz

### III. HISTORICAL PERSECUTIONS

#### A. The Crusades

#### B. The Inquisition

- 1. Forced mass conversions
- 2. The Marranos

#### C. The Pogroms, 1648 through 1946

- 1. Organized violent attacks targeting Jewish villages in Eastern Europe
- 2. Enabled by the “Teaching of Contempt” in the Eastern Orthodox & Catholic Churches
- 3. Initiated by local economic and political upheaval
- 4. Selected Notable Pogroms
  - a. 1648, Khmelnytsky/Chmielnicki Rebellion, 40,000 to 100,000 Jews killed
  - b. 1881, Ukraine, 166 Jewish villages emptied, houses seized, Jews expelled
  - c. 1903-06, Kishinev, Moldova and Poland, 2,000 Jews killed, many wounded
  - d. 1919-1920 Ukraine, 35,000 Jews (many children) killed by Nationalists
    - 1) Ukrainian Nationalists had been fed anti-Semitism since birth
    - 2) Shtetl of Felshtin saw 600 Jews slaughtered horrifically
  - e. 1938-1945 The Holocaust, 6,000,000 killed
  - f. July 1946 Kielce, Poland, 37 Jews killed who had returned home

#### IV. TOPICAL PERSECUTIONS, HOAXES, FALSE CHARGES & LIBELS

- A. Poisoning the Wells
- B. The Blood Libel
- C. They control the economy
- D. They're not patriotic and don't fit in
- E. Exclusion from various occupations & guilds
- F. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion
  - 1. Description
  - 2. Origin
  - 3. Outcome
  - 4. Arabic translation popular in Middle Eastern Universities, serialized on Television
- G. The Jews killed Christ

#### V. THE RESULT OF WORLD WAR ONE

- A. National disgrace for Germany
- B. Political and Economic chaos for Germany
- C. Jewish community recovers more rapidly than most other Germans
  - 1. German Jews had served in the German Army in the first World War
  - 2. German Jews were usually assimilated into German society

#### VI. THE RISE OF THE NAZIS, THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKERS PARTY

- A. Adolph Hitler becomes Chairman of the Nazi Party in 1921
- B. Early Goals of the Nazi Party under Hitler
  - 1. Overthrow of the Weimar Republic German Government
  - 2. Nationalism – The expansion of Germany

3. The removal of Jewish people from Germany

C. The 1923-24 failed coup d'état and Hitler's imprisonment spread his ideas

D. Hitler writes "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle) in prison, it becomes a best-seller

1. Racist worldview, with German "Aryans" at the top of the hierarchy
2. Calls for Germany, Britain and Italy to unite against Bolsheviks and Jews
3. Calls for German rearmament and territorial expansion
4. Hitler presents himself as an "Übermensch", a "Superhuman" mystical figure
5. Arabic translation on best seller list (# 6) in Palestinian Territories in 1990's.

E. Nazi Party rebuilt in 1926 with Hitler as sole Führer, pledges to use legal means to power

F. Hitler runs for President in 1932, losing to Hindenburg but receiving 35% of the vote

G. Hitler ascends to power in 1933

1. Economic and Civil unrest
2. Hindenburg reluctantly appoints Hitler as Chancellor of a coalition government
3. Marshall Law declared, Stormtroopers terrorize those who resist

H. Gradual fusion of the Nazi Party and the German state from 1933 to 1939

## VII. THE HOLOCAUST

A. The beginnings

B. The first period: anti Jewish laws

1. "The Aryan race" and the Nuremberg Laws
  - a. Imagined a hierarchy of races, some superior, others inferior
  - b. Used Darwinian evolutionary theory to support racism
  - c. Stripped Jews of German citizenship
  - d. The SS sought to combine Nordic Paganism w/ Church symbolism
2. Kristallnacht - November 9-10, 1938

- a. Deliberately planned by the SS, launched at an opportune moment
  - b. Germany: 267 Synagogues destroyed, hundreds more ransacked, Bibles thrown in the street for bonfires, 91 Jews killed, 30,000 sent to Concentration Camps
  - c. Austria: Vienna's 94 synagogues/prayer-houses partially or totally destroyed
  - d. Words of Martin Luther used to justify the barbaric carnage
3. Western nations largely refuse Jewish immigrants
  4. The Nazi regime learns that the World community will not actively help the Jews
- C. Jewish population forced into Ghettos
1. September 1, 1939, Germany invades Poland, World War Two begins
  2. Polish cities begin Ghetto process in 1939
- D. The second period: Nazi conquests and deportations
1. The Wehrmach (regular German Army) rolls through Europe
  2. Einsatzgruppen (task forces) were paramilitary groups overseen by the SS
- E. The third stage: "The Final Solution"
1. Wannsee Conference, January 1942 plans for the "Final Solution"
  2. Ghettos
  3. Transport to Death Camps
  4. Other groups targeted for death
- F. Jewish resistance
1. Treblinka revolt
  2. The Warsaw Ghetto revolt April - May 1943
- G. Reaction to Nazism from within Christendom
1. Protestant Reich Church
  2. The complex stance of the Roman Catholic Church

- a. The Reich Concordat was ratified on September 10, 1933.
- b. The uneasy relationship with the Nazi regime
- c. Vatican concern over Communism

### 3. The Confessing Church

### 4. The Righteous Gentiles

- a. Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- b Corrie ten Boom
- c. Oskar Schindler
- d. Village of Le Chambon (Huguenots & Darbyite Brethren)

### H. Jews in Allied Armies

### I. Jewish believers during the Holocaust

### J. The aftermath of World War II

## VIII. HOLOCAUST DENIAL AND REVISIONISM

### IX. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST

- A. The reality of the sin nature
- B. The sobering reality of Deuteronomy 28
- C. The reliability of the protection of the Abrahamic Covenant
- D. The outworking of the judgment phase of the Abrahamic Covenant
- E The plan of Satan to thwart the return of Messiah

## GLOSSARY

**Einsatzgruppen** (German for "task forces") were paramilitary groups overseen by the SS to execute civilians in the field after the regular German Army (Wehrmacht) came through.

**Nazism** was not a monolithic movement, but rather a mainly German combination of various ideologies and groups, centered around anger at the Treaty of Versailles and what was considered to have been a Jewish/Communist conspiracy to humiliate Germany at the end of World War I. It therefore consisted of a

loose collection of incoherent positions focused on those held to blame for Germany's defeat and "weakness": anti-parliamentarianism, ethnic nationalism, racism, collectivism, eugenics, antisemitism, an inconsistent opposition to economic and political liberalism, a racially-defined and conspiratorial view of finance capitalism and anti-communism.

**SA - (Sturmabteilung)**(Storm division/Stormtroopers), functioned as an early paramilitary organization of the German Nazi party and played a key role in its rise to power. SA men were often called "brownshirts". In 1934 the SA tried to press its National Socialist agenda and surpass the power of the German Army. Hitler formed the elite SS to keep the SA in check and then ultimately executed errant SA leadership.

**SS – (Schutzstaffel)** (Protective Squadron), was a large security and military organization with absolute loyalty to Hitler and his rulership of the Nazi regime. The Gestapo Police force was an arm of the SS.

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 Rydelnik, Michael. They called me Christ Killer. Discovery Series, RBC Ministries 2005  
 Wiesenthal, Simon. Every Day Remembrance Day: A Chronicle of Jewish Martyrdom  
 Wiesel, Elie. Night

### SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR GENERAL JEWISH STUDY

Dimont, Max. JEWES, GOD AND HISTORY. A very readable complete overview  
 Gilbert, Martin. ATLAS OF JEWISH HISTORY. Excellent maps, a must for your library.  
 Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. JEWISH LITERACY. Highly acclaimed book of 346 short chapters, each one a "to the point" explanation of some crucial portion of Jewish history and practice.

### **INTERNET WEB SITES WITH SUBTANTIAL HOLOCAUST INFORMATION**

Note: Just a few of the better websites, though not all the info on these sites may be unbiased. Please be aware that many of the photos & accounts on these sites are horrific and disturbing.

[www.remember.org](http://www.remember.org) - A Cyber Library of the Holocaust  
[www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) - Yad V'Shem Memorial & Museum, Jerusalem  
<http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/holocaust/default.htm> - A Teachers Guide to the Holocaust, University of South Florida, hundreds of pages, thousands of images  
[www.holocaust-trc.org](http://www.holocaust-trc.org) - Holocaust Teacher Resource Center, Virginia  
[www.isurvived.org](http://www.isurvived.org) - A Tribute to Survivors of the Holocaust

<http://www.isurvived.org/TOC-I.html> - Archive of Photos and documentary evidence  
[www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com) - Anne Frank Center, USA website  
[www.annefrank.org](http://www.annefrank.org) - Anne Frank Center, Euro website

### INTERNET WEB SITES WITH GENERAL JEWISH HISTORY CONTENT

[www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org](http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org) The Jewish Virtual Library, well done & comprehensive. Among the many resources here is the online version of “Myths & Facts”, a guide to the Arab-Israel Conflict  
[www.JewishHistory.org.il/](http://www.JewishHistory.org.il/) Encyclopedia style. One ‘quirk’ is that some Biographies are placed into alphabetical order by the subjects first name.  
[www.CJH.org](http://www.CJH.org) Center for Jewish History – ‘Features’ style, with archive access  
[www.MessianicAssociation.org](http://www.MessianicAssociation.org) - Features a historical timeline page of prominent Messianic Jewish believers

### ADDENDUM

John Chrysostom (347–407) is considered the greatest preacher of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He was known as the “Golden-Mouthed Preacher,” and his sermons are still studied and memorized today by men entering the priesthood of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He wrote eight Homilies Against The Jews, which form the worst of all anti-Jewish writings in the church.

He said:

“The Jews are the most worthless of all men. They are lecherous, greedy, rapacious. They are perfidious murderers of Christ. They worship the devil, their religion is a sickness. The Jews are the odious assassins of Christ, and for killing God there is no expiation possible, no indulgence or pardon. Christians may never cease vengeance, and the Jew must live in servitude forever. God always hated the Jews. It is incumbent upon all Christians to hate the Jews” The church fathers so effectively entrenched the Christ-killer charge into the thinking of the early church that by the Medieval Period the idea was undisputed.

**Rydelnik, Michael. They called me Christ Killer. Discovery Series, RBC Ministries 2005**

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#### **The Writings of Martin Luther (1483-1546) show a shift in his attitude toward the Jewish people**

In 1519, Luther wrote: "Absurd theologians defend hatred for the Jews. ..What Jew would consent to enter our ranks when he sees the cruelty and enmity we wreak on them—that in our behavior towards them we less resemble Christians than beasts?"

In his 1523 essay That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew, Luther condemned the inhuman treatment of the Jews and urged Christians to treat them kindly. Luther's fervent desire was that Jews would hear the Gospel proclaimed clearly and be moved to convert to Christianity. Thus he argued:

“If I had been a Jew and had seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner have become a hog than a Christian. They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property. When they baptize them they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but only subject them to popishness and monkery...If the apostles, who also were Jews, had dealt with us Gentiles as we Gentiles deal with the Jews, there would never have been a Christian among the Gentiles ... When we are inclined to boast of our position [as Christians] we should remember that we are but Gentiles, while the Jews are of the lineage of Christ. We are aliens and in-laws; they are blood relatives, cousins, and brothers of our Lord. Therefore, if one is to boast of flesh and blood the Jews are actually nearer to Christ than we are...If we really want to help them, we must be guided in our dealings with them not by papal law but by the law of Christian love. We must receive

them cordially, and permit them to trade and work with us, that they may have occasion and opportunity to associate with us, hear our Christian teaching, and witness our Christian life. If some of them should prove stiff-necked, what of it? After all, we ourselves are not all good Christians either”

In 1536, Luther's friend Prince John Frederick of Saxony issued a mandate that prohibited Jews from inhabiting, engaging in business in, or passing through his realm. Rabbi Josel of Rosheim, asked reformer Wolfgang Capito to approach Luther in order to obtain an audience with the prince, but Luther refused every intercession. In response to Josel, Luther referred to his unsuccessful attempts to convert the Jews: "... I will not contribute to your [Jewish] obstinacy by my own kind actions. You must find another intermediary with my good lord."

In 1543, Luther writes: the Jews are a "base, whoring people, that is, no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and law must be accounted as filth." They are full of the "devil's feces ... which they wallow in like swine, "the synagogue is an "incorrigible whore and an evil slut ..."their synagogues and schools should be set on fire, their prayer books destroyed, rabbis forbidden to preach, homes razed, and property and money confiscated. They should be shown no mercy or kindness, afforded no legal protection, . . . these "poisonous envenomed worms" should be drafted into forced labor or expelled for all time. "we are at fault in not slaying them" "we must drive them out like mad dogs”

#### **400 Years later the Nazis followed Luther’s advice down to the letter**

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"The anti-Jewish riots in Kishinev, Bessarabia (modern Moldova), are worse than the censor will permit to publish. There was a well laid-out plan for the general massacre of Jews on the day following the Orthodox Easter. The mob was led by priests, and the general cry, "Kill the Jews," was taken up all over the city. The Jews were taken wholly unaware and were slaughtered like sheep. The dead number 120 and the injured about 500. The scenes of horror attending this massacre are beyond description. Babies were literally torn to pieces by the frenzied and bloodthirsty mob. The local police made no attempt to check the reign of terror. At sunset the streets were piled with corpses and wounded. Those who could make their escape fled in terror, and the city is now practically deserted of Jews."

#### **The New York Times description of the First Kishinev pogrom of Easter, 1903**

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In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me - and by that time no one was left to speak up.

This statement attributed to Pastor Martin Niemöller, has become a legendary expression of the Holocaust. Ironically, Niemöller had delivered antisemitic sermons early in the Nazi regime. He later opposed Hitler and was sent to Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps. Near the end of the war, he narrowly escaped execution. After the war, Niemöller emerged from prison to preach the words above. He was instrumental in producing the "Stuttgart Confession of Guilt", in which the German Protestant churches formally accepted guilt for their complicity in allowing the suffering which Hitler's reign caused.

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Country or territory	Estimated Pre-War Jewish population	Estimated Jewish population annihilated	Percent killed
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000	90
Baltic countries	253,000	228,000	90
Germany & Austria	240,000	210,000	90
Bohemia & Moravia	90,000	80,000	89
Slovakia	90,000	75,000	83
Greece	70,000	54,000	77
The Netherlands	140,000	105,000	75
Hungary	650,000	450,000	70
Belorussian SSR	375,000	245,000	65
Ukrainian SSR	1,500,000	900,000	60
Belgium	65,000	40,000	60
Yugoslavia	43,000	26,000	60
Romania	600,000	300,000	50
Norway	1,800	900	50
France	350,000	90,000	26
Bulgaria	64,000	14,000	22
Italy	40,000	8,000	20
Luxembourg	5,000	1,000	20
Russian SFSR	975,000	107,000	11
Denmark	8,000	?	?
Finland	2,000	?	?
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,861,800</b>	<b>5,933,900</b>	<b>67</b>

Chart from The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945 by Lucy S. Dawidowicz

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