

# Early Church anti-semitism and the rejecting of The Torah

By S. Ashira

"It all began with some of the early Church fathers. Some of the things they said were unbelievable. Origen of Alexandria was one of the most influential and knowledgeable of the early Church Fathers. He excelled in the fields of theology and philosophy and stressed Greek philosophy rather than the "Old Testament". Later on this caused a tremendous amount of damage. It played a very important role in severing the Jewish roots of Christianity. Origen came up with a new way of interpreting Scriptures. It was called the allegorical method. The "New Webster's Dictionary" describes the word "allegory" as: a narrative in which abstract ideas are personified; a description to convey a different meaning from that which is expressed; a continued metaphor. Rather than teach the "Word of G-d" literally, he chose to twist it and change it, in any way he so desired. To be sure, this is exactly what HaSatan had been waiting for. His foot was now in the door, the rest would be easy.

Origen refused to take the Scriptures just as they were. Whatever he conjured up in his mind became the "truth" as he saw it. He was labeled a heretic by some people. By other he was highly esteemed. He was excommunicated from the Church on more than one occasion. The only Scripture we know for sure he took literally was Matthew 19: 12. Because of this Scripture, Origen castrated his own self. This was probably one he should have allegorized. One can not help but wonder if Origen was a sane individual. However, his allegorical method of interpreting the Holy Scriptures was accepted and became part of the Church's official doctrines. Origen was able to make the Tanakh (Old Testament) more acceptable to not only the Church, but to the non-Jews, as well. Without any doubt, the allegorical method of interpreting Scriptures is the culprit that caused anti-Semitism to become grounded within the Church.

There were many other Church fathers that added fuel to the fires of hatred against the Jews. Many of them believed they were doing the right thing. They no longer were putting their faith and trust in the "Word of G-d". They were now placing it in man's doctrines and teachings. This of course will never work. One simply can not line the "Word of G-d" up with the "philosophy of Plato" as some of the early Church fathers tried so hard to do! This erroneous way of thinking has certainly played a large role in promoting Christian anti-Semitism. The early Church fathers had little if any knowledge of Jewish traditions and teachings. Therefore, many of them were anti-Semitic in their ways of thinking.

Justin Martyr (100 A.D.-165 A.D.) claimed that G-d no longer had a covenant with the Jewish People. Instead, he taught that the Gentiles had replaced the Jews, and G-d would be dealing with them only in His plan of redemption.

Ignatius, the bishop of the church at Antioch, wrote that anyone caught celebrating Passover with the Jews, would be considered as partakers with the killers of Christ and the apostles.

Tertullian (160 A.D.-220 A.D.) wrote in "Against the Jews", that as far as he was concerned, the whole Jewish race was responsible for the death of Yeshua (Jesus).

Eusebius (263 A.D.-339 A.D.) wrote, "Jews are always cursed by G-d, and thus doomed to perpetual punishment."

Saint John Chrysostom (344 A.D.-407 A.D.) had this to say concerning the Jews: "The Jews are the odious (hated) assassins of Christ and for killing G-d there is no expiation (atonement) possible, no indulgence or pardon. Christians may never cease vengeance and the Jews must live in servitude (servants, slaves) forever! G-d always hated the Jews, so it is incumbent (as duty) upon all Christians to hate the Jews!" Furthermore, he says, "The Synagogue is worse than a brothel...It is the den of scoundrels ... the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults...a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ ... a house worse than a drinking shop... a den of thieves; a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, the refuge of devils, a gulf and abyss of perdition...As for me, I hate the synagogue ... I hate the Jews for the same reason." He continues to say, "Jews are worse than wild beasts. They sacrifice their sons and daughters to devils! Not only every Synagogue, but every Jew as well, is a temple of the devil and I would say the same thing about their souls."

Jerome (345 A.D.-420 A.D.) believed that the Jewish People lacked the ability to understand the "Word of G-d". He felt that they should be severely chastised or tormented until they were forced to become Christians, the only "true" faith.

Saint Augustine (354 A.D.-430 A.D.) said, "The true image of the Hebrew (Jew) is Judas Iscariot who sells the L-rd for silver. The Jews can never understand the Scriptures, and forever bear the guilt of the death of Yeshua (Jesus)." He further believed that they deserved death. He thought it was their destiny to always roam the world, with no hope of ever having a permanent home. Like Origen and the other early Church fathers, the erroneous teachings of Augustine are still taught in many Bible Colleges and Seminaries, in our very day.

(14)Martin Luther (1483 A.D.-1546 A.D.), in the beginning was a defender of Jews. He spoke up about the inhumane Catholic persecution of the Jewish people. He appeared to be sympathetic towards their problems. He felt they may have become Christians, if Christianity had been presented to them in the right manner, not as the Catholic Church presented it. In his essay, "Jesus Was Born a Jew", Martin Luther had this to say, "Were I a Jew and saw what blockheads and windbags rule and guide Christendom, I would rather become a pig than a Christian. For they have treated the Jews more like dogs than men. Yet the Jews are kindred and blood brothers of our Saviour. If we are going to boast about the virtues of race, Christ belongs more to them than to us. However, as the years rolled by, it became obvious to Luther that the Jews were not going to believe as he wanted them to. They were simply not going to convert to Christianity, no matter how nice he might be to them. As a result, he became very bitter towards the Jewish People. He lost all patience with them. It was at this point that he wrote an article entitled, "What then shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews?" As a result of his answers, much damage has been afflicted upon G-d's Chosen People. These were his firm suggestions as to what the Christians should do with the Jews:

"Since they live among us and we know about their lying and blasphemy and cursing," he wrote, "we cannot tolerate them... Let me give you my honest advice. First, their Synagogues or Churches should be set on fire... secondly, their homes

should likewise be broken down and destroyed... thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer books and Talmuds ... fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more.... fifthly, you ought not, you cannot, protect them, unless in the eyes of G-d you want to share all their abomination... sixthly, they ought to be stopped from usury... seventhly, we ought to drive the rascally lazybones out of our system. To sum up, dear princes and nobles who have Jews in your domain, if this advice of mine does not suit you, then find a better one so that you and we may all be free of this devilish burden- the Jews." Obviously, Martin Luther no longer had a love in his heart for the Jewish People, which leaves one to wonder if he truly cared for them, to start with.

The charge against the Jews was that they killed Christ. Hatred towards them grew and grew. There was no stopping this "demonic" hatred that was spawned from hell, itself. It was believed by many of the early Church fathers that the Jews deserved to suffer. St. John Chrysostom stated that, "the martyrs especially hate the Jews, for the reason that they love so deeply the one who, by them, was crucified." He taught that Jewish suffering was a divine punishment, and that the Jews were in a state of disgrace and dishonor. He, also wrote the following:

"If someone had killed your son, could you stand the sight of him or the sound of his greeting? Wouldn't you try to get away from him as if he were an evil demon, as if he were the devil himself? The Jews killed the Son of your Master.... Will you so dishonor Him as to respect and cultivate His murderers- the men who crucified Him?"

This was the prevailing sentiments of many of the early Church fathers. For centuries Christians believed that the Jews as a nation, were rejected by G-d, Himself. However, this idea is contrary to the "Word of G-d." Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our G-d stands forever." G-d's Word never changes and it is established, forever. Romans 11:1-2 says, "I say then, G-d has not rejected His People, has He? May it never be! For I, too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. G-d has not rejected His people whom He foreknew..." It would seem that many of the early Church fathers overlooked these two Scriptures. Perhaps, they "allegorized" it away.

The Jewish people who followed Yeshua became the original Church, so to speak. In the beginning, the Church was comprised of only Jews. Thousands and thousands of Jews loved their Messiah, contrary to what one often hears. All the first missionaries were Jewish. They were reluctant to leave Jerusalem to carry the Gospel to the world. However, the Church could not stay in Jerusalem. Yeshua had decreed a command to His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The twelve disciples left Judea and all that was familiar to them to spread the Gospel, just as Yeshua told them to do. They entered the Greco-Roman world, a world totally different than their own.

Romans 1:16 tells us that the Gospel was given to the Jew, first, then to the Gentile. Yeshua told His disciples in Matthew 10:6-7, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." There are those who fail to see the importance of these two Scriptures. Whether, anyone likes it or not, this is the way G-d ordained things to be. The Gospel was given to the Jews, first, then it was given to the Gentiles. There were many Jews who felt like the Gospel belonged only to them. The fact it was given to

them, first, did not mean it was only for them. In the same manner, once the Gospel was given to the Gentiles, it was not theirs, alone. The Gospel was for the entire world. The message should have been spread to all nations and all peoples. The Jews were never supposed to be excluded. Indeed, it was given to them, first.

Pride and arrogance got into the picture. Gentiles and Jews were both guilty of this. The Gentile people were supposed to have provoked the Jews to jealousy. The Jews were supposed to see something in the Gentiles that they wanted. The "Word of G-d" instructs the Gentiles to: "COMFORT ye, comfort ye My people," saith your G-d. But, have they been comforted? Have the Gentiles done what was commanded of them? The answer to this question is, "NO!" Following, are a few examples of this terrible fact:

In 325 A.D. the Council of Nicea was held at the request of the Emperor Constantine. The early Church father, Eusebius highly influenced and persuaded the Emperor with the allegorical style of interpretations, previously taught by Origen of Alexandria. During this council meeting, several things were changed. No longer was the biblical calendar accepted by the Church. The pagan calendar took its place. The dates of Yeshua's (Jesus's) crucifixion and His resurrection were changed. Yeshua's birthday was chosen to be on December 25, in an attempt to please the heathens. This was the day that had been set aside for worship of the Sun, their high god. The council chose to change the Sabbath day to Sunday so that the God of the Christians could be worshipped on a different day than the biblical day. The Jewish biblical calendar was changed to a pagan Gentile calendar. The Church chose to honor each day in the week after pagan gods. All in all, Constantine removed Biblical commands, in order to proclaim pagan ideas and ways! Anyone who refused to adhere to these new commands were persecuted, tortured, and killed. Constantine demanded Christians to stay away from the Jewish People, at all costs. All Christians were to look down on the Jews. They were to be ridiculed, scorned, and disgraced. Constantine had a tremendous part to play in separating the Jewish and Gentile believers!

Biblical Commands were removed by those who had no authority to remove them! G-d placed them into existence. No man can do away with what G-d says will always be! HaSatan worked through Constantine and many of the early Church fathers. They were willing vessels, who had chosen to attempt to twist and change the Almighty "Word of G-d". As a result of the Council of Nicea, the Church became less G-dly, and more paganish. It soon became a crime to convert to Judaism. Jews who professed a belief in Yeshua had no choice but, to renounce their Jewishness. The Church would not allow them to believe in their Jewish Messiah and remain Jewish, too.

Yeshua the Messiah was born Jewish, died Jewish, and was risen from the dead, Jewish. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He, along with His disciples and early Messianic Jewish followers worshipped in the Synagogues and in the Temple, in Jerusalem. They observed all of the Biblical holidays commanded by G-d. They observed the dietary laws and other Biblical customs. They kept the Sabbath on Saturday just as G-d commanded them to do. They stayed true to the Biblical teachings. At the Council of Nicea, these Biblical Doctrines set forth by G-d were excluded! All the "Jewishness" was removed! It is amazing that Yeshua (Jesus) was allowed to stay! Yeshua commanded us to walk like He walked. We were never commanded to walk like the early Church fathers walked. If a Gentile, truly wants to do as Yeshua said, he or she must learn more about Biblical Judaism. They must

choose to follow G-d or HaSatan. There is no other way. Christians need to love the "Old Testament" as much as the "New Testament". Together, they comprise the entire "Word of G-d". HaSatan has tried, over and over to separate them, but he can not. Man has tried to separate them, but can not. They are joined together, forever, just as the Jewish and Gentile believers are. It is not so much that the Jews must convert to Christianity, as much as "so-called" Christians, must accept their Jewish Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus). There is absolutely no reason why the Jewish People must give up their Jewish identity, in order to receive their own Messiah! Christians must remember that Yeshua came for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, first. Judaism is not an inferior religion. Without the Messiah, it is incomplete. With Him, it is complete. Christianity was a Jewish religion for the first 325 years. Without the "Old Testament", it is incomplete.

Constantine was able to bring unification to the Roman empire. However, his decree that Rome should be a Christian Religion, did not go, as well. A tract was sent out that said the following: "We ought not, therefore to have anything in common with the Jews. For, the Saviour has shown us another way. We desire dearest brethren to separate ourselves from the despicable company of the Jews! How can they be in the right? They, who after the death of our Lord, have no longer been led by reason, but by wild violence as their delusion may urge them. It would still be your duty brethren, not to tarnish your souls by communicating with such wicked people- the Jews. It is our duty not to have anything in common with the murderers of our Lord!

"The Byzantine Emperor, Leo the Third, outlawed Judaism and herded all Jews who refused to accept the Eastern Orthodox Religion into their Synagogues, where they were burned alive!"

Pope Benedict the Seventh, decided that an earthquake and a hurricane that struck Rome in 1021 A.D. were caused by local Jews, who supposedly drove a nail through a communion wafer. Excruciating, painful torture was used in order to obtain a confession. Jews and non-Jews, alike would confess to any charge, if enough torture was used, no matter how untrue the charge might be. The Jews were burned alive!"

The concept of transubstantiation officially adopted by the Church in the thirteenth century, said that the wafer used at mass was miraculously, transformed into the body of Jesus (Yeshua). The incredible idea then arose that since the wafer was the living body of the Messiah the host, would not the Jews, who had once crucified Him, wish to torture and kill Him, again? People really believed that communion wafers were stolen from the Church and sold to Jews, who then pierced the wafer as part of their religious ceremony. This unbelievable false charge, known as host desecration, resulted in the murder of thousands of innocent Jewish people!

During the Holy Crusades more suffering followed. The idea soon appeared that if it was G-d's Will to kill the "infidels" in the Holy Land, He would, also want to punish those infidels at home and along the way. From January-July 1096 A.D. over ten thousand Jewish women, children and men were slaughtered in Northern France and Germany, by mobs aroused by the Crusades.

Later, that year Count Emerick of Leningen led German crusaders on an anti-Jewish drive, through the Rhine and Mosel valleys, where they slaughtered more than twelve thousand.

Crusaders captured Jerusalem in 1099 A.D. After all the Muslim defenders were

executed, the Jerusalem Jews were herded into a Synagogue, which was set on fire. Crusaders then sang religious hymns, while the screaming occupants were burned alive!

The Council of Vienna, in an attempt to humiliate the Jews, ordered them to wear horned hats, in order to fit the very false concept, that they were children of the devil!

Between 1347 A.D. and 1350 A.D. the Bubonic Plague or Black Death, as it was called, killed a third of the European population. Now forced to live in ghettos and abiding by dietary Laws, given by G-d, the Jews were not as affected by the Plague. For that reason, they became suspects and were accused of poisoning wells and springs to exterminate Christians.

An entire Jewish congregation was burned alive in Southern France. The same thing happened in Zurich. Three thousand men were burned at the stake in Strasbourg, six thousand in Mainz, three thousand in Breaulu.

A mob led by the clergy murdered the entire Jewish community of Nordlingen, Germany. A mob attack on the Jewish community in Prague lasted twenty-four hours. Thousands were slaughtered. Approximately, four thousand Jewish men were killed in Seville, Spain; the women and children were sold for slaves, to Arabs.

Conversion, expulsion, and annihilation have been the three driving anti-Jewish procedures taken since the fourth century after the Messiah. The missionaries of Christianity have proclaimed: "You have no right to live among us as Jews". The worldly rulers who came next stated loudly: "You have no right to live among us." Finally, Hitler and his henchmen ordered: "You have no right to live, period!" Each of these steps became increasingly, more severe. First, the attempt was made to force all Jews to accept Christianity. When that step failed to work, the next step was to make them leave the countries, in which they lived. When this, too failed, there was only one solution to the "problem", all the Jews were condemned to death!

Six million Jewish men, women, and children were killed during the "madness" of the Holocaust. What caused men to hate one another with such intense hatred? What caused the Nazi's to burn out the eyes of Jewish men, in the sunlight, with magnifying glasses? What force caused them to burn someone to death, inch by inch, with cigarette butts? What inhumane reason could cause the Nazi's to insert compressed air hoses into the rectum of their victims, thereby inflating their bodies to the point, they would literally, explode? There is only one answer, and that answer is, satanic hatred of God's Chosen People, the Jews.

It is the same vile hatred that caused the Nazi's to display signs in grocery stores, that proclaimed: "No gypsies, no dogs, no Jews." Jewish people's homes were unsafe, as Nazi soldiers terrorized them, any time they so desired. The families were robbed of their valuables. The young girls and their Mothers were raped, unmercifully. If the husband attempted to save them, he was shot and killed, on the spot. If the children became afraid and started crying, they were immediately, thrown out the windows, to their death. The Jews had no escape, for no one wanted to help them. For the most part, the entire world chose to look the other way. They were trapped with their enemies who violently hated them!

The Nazi officers wore belt buckles that proudly proclaimed, "Gott Mit Uns". In

English this means, "God is with us." Of course, G-d was far from being with these evil men! Their very insignia, the swastika, represented their attempt to totally eradicate the entire Jewish population from the earth. The swastika was a twisted cross, used for a twisted purpose. Men who professed to be "so-called" Christians were persecuting, torturing, and killing Yeshua's brethren, the children of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.....

.....The Nazi's spent six days a week, twenty-four hours a day, burning the Jews in their ovens. On the seventh day, they closed everything down and went to their churches, to worship the greatest Jew that ever lived, Jesus of Nazareth! Is it any wonder that Jewish People are leery about receiving Jesus (Yeshua), their Messiah? As far as they are concerned, there is no difference between the Pope and Hitler. They both professed to be Christians. As far as Jews were concerned, a Christian is a Christian. They believed, and many still do, that all Christians are alike. To them, it is Christians that have done so much damage to their people, in the Name of Jesus. To them, it is Christians that set their Synagogues on fire, with their loved ones, locked inside, while the Christians marched around the Synagogues singing, "Christ, We Adore Thee!" The horrible truth is, the Jews are right. The Gentiles have been commanded to comfort God's people, not destroy them! As Michael L. Brown so truthfully says, in his book, "Our Hands Are Stained With Blood", the Church, indeed has blood on her hands!

As long as anti-Semitism is alive, the possibility of another Holocaust exists. Murdering our unborn babies is a silent Holocaust that has been going on for almost thirty years, now. Millions of babies are killed every year. What was once the safest place for a baby to be, has become the most deadliest place of all- the Mother's womb. These children, like the Jews, are as sheep going to the slaughter. Few speak up for them. Yet, America will one day have to pay the price, for all these deaths. Those who have taken a stand for anti-Semitism must also, come before their Judge.

In this research paper, I have explained how anti-Semitism came into the Church, via many of the early Church fathers. I have shown how "allegorizing" the "Word of G-d", made this possible. I have shown how hatred for G-d's people was at the root of anti-Semitism. I have proven that for the most part, the Church (as we know it) has been, blindly deceived by HaSatan. We all know that what goes around, comes around. So it is with the Church. G-d is taking it back to the way it used to be, in the first century, the way it should be, the Biblical way. HaSatan has no new tricks, therefore, he is pulling out his "old" ones. They go by several names: "Replacement Theology", "Kingdom Now", "Reconstructionist", and "Dominionist". Basically, they all believe that G-d is finished with Israel and the Jewish people. They believe the "Church" has taken Israel's place. This, is not only a very dangerous message, it is a lie, as well. These movements are subtly introducing the same mistakes, that eventually led up to the centuries of hatred toward the Jews, and ultimately, to the Holocaust, itself. These movements may not be aware of the dangers involved. Nonetheless, the dangers are definitely there. A system is being set up, within these movements, that are going to reek of anti-Semitism.

The only way these movements can explain their theologies, is by allegorizing them. As I have stated before, in order to allegorize something, one must change its' original meaning. Therefore, instead of taking the "Word of G-d" literally, they twist and change it around to suit their own purposes, just like Origen and Martin Luther did. In fact, they accept most of the early Church fathers doctrines. They believe that Israel lost all her rights to her covenants with G-d because she rejected Jesus

(Yeshua). Furthermore, they believe these covenants, now belong, only to the Church. With this line of reasoning, they came to the erroneous conclusion, that the Church is the "true" Israel.

David Chilton, a Reconstructionist, had this to say: "The Kingdom has been taken over from Israel, and it has been possessed by the New Covenant People. Israel has become demon possessed. It has become a nation of false prophets. A nation in the image of a Pagan Roman state. Jerusalem has become a harlot. And is going to be excommunicated. And the covenant promises are inherited by the faithful, witnessing, ruling Church of royal priests. That's what (the book of) Revelation is all about." This is the identical kind of artificial eloquence that formed the foundation of hatred that later unfolded into blatant anti-Semitism.

The Church must not sit by idly and allow this to happen, again. We must not allow these false prophetic interpretations to become imbedded in our Churches or places of worship. To believe these places don't exist, would be to believe a lie. They are springing up everywhere. My earnest prayer is that G-d will continue to lift the veil from the eyes of the Christians, in order for them to see with a clarity, what thus saith the L-RD.

An Orthodox Jewish Synagogue was recently badly damaged by fire. A Church raised money for the damages. All in all, they raised twenty-five thousand dollars. One of the leaders in the Synagogue was extremely moved by this gift of kindness. When given the check, he had this to say, "You are taking away my reason not to believe in Jesus!" Anti-Semitism has to go. It cannot remain in the Church! It must be totally rooted out! We must remember that it was the Jews who brought the gospel to the Gentiles. Prior to that time, the Gentiles were in a complete state of spiritual obscurity. They were without the Messiah, being aliens from the "Commonwealth of Israel", and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without G-d in the world: But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were afar off have been made near by the blood of the Messiah. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us. (Ephesians 2:12-14)"