

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

**OPPOSE  
ANTISEMITISM**  
Stop the Hate

A CALL TO ACTION



A Rally Against Antisemitism

Thursday, June 20, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Palladium Times Square: New York City



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# Purpose of the Rally

The **Oppose Antisemitism—Stop the Hate** rally on June 20, 2024, is designed to raise Christian awareness of growing global antisemitism and motivate the church to pray for and support Jewish people by opposing antisemitism.

The event is designed to inspire followers of Jesus and the church in New York City and across America to pray for, support, and stand with the Jewish people at this critical moment.

At times, the silence of Christians is deafening to the Jewish community!

Christians and Jewish people read a similar Bible, the Old Testament, and worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We hope Jewish people will discover Jesus is the Messiah, but in spite of the differences, a spiritual bond grows out of a common covenant with Abraham.

As Paul described in his olive tree illustration:

*But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.*  
(Romans 11:17–18)

We hope Christians will recognize the familial relationship with Jewish people and rise to the occasion by supporting God's chosen people.

The love of Christians today will not go unnoticed by the Jewish community.

# The Problem of Growing Antisemitism

This rising tide of antisemitism was exacerbated by the brutal Hamas terrorist attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, and has intensified as Israel defends herself and attempts to liberate the hostages taken to Gaza.

Antisemitism, called the “oldest hatred,” is tragically on the rise as demonstrated by the following statistics:

- In the United States, 2,031 antisemitic incidents were reported between October 7 and December 7, 2023. This figure is the highest number ever reported (by far) in a two-month period since the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) began measuring in 1979!<sup>1</sup>
- Another ADL survey revealed anti-Jewish attitudes are at an all-time high, with 24 percent of Americans harboring extensive antisemitic prejudice, up from 20 percent in 2022.<sup>2</sup> In January, ADL released preliminary data, finding a total of 3,291 antisemitic incidents between October 7, 2023 and January 7, 2024, a 361-percent increase over the year prior, putting 2023 on track to be the worst year since ADL started tracking this data in the late 1970s.<sup>3</sup>
- In Canada, antisemitic crimes have increased 52 percent since 2020. Jewish Canadians make up about 1 percent of the country’s population but are the target of 67 percent of religiously motivated hate.<sup>4</sup>
- In the United Kingdom, London police reported a 1,353 percent increase in antisemitic offenses from October 7 through October 20 compared to the same period the previous year.<sup>5</sup>

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1 “ADL Reports Unprecedented Rise in Antisemitic Incidents Post-Oct. 7,” Anti-Defamation League, December 11, 2023, <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-reports-unprecedented-rise-antisemitic-incidents-post-oct-7>.

2 “24% of Americans Harbor Extensive Antisemitic Prejudice, Up From 20% in 2022, Survey Finds | ADL,” ADL, February 29, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/24-americans-harbor-extensive-antisemitic-prejudice-20-2022-survey-finds>.

3 “U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Skyrocketed 360% in Aftermath of Attack in Israel, According to Latest ADL Data,” ADL, January 17, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according>.

4 “Jews Remain Most Targeted Religious Group for Hate Crime in Canada, Second Overall,” CIJA, August 2, 2023, [https://www.cija.ca/jews\\_remain\\_most\\_targeted\\_religious\\_group\\_for\\_hate\\_crime\\_in\\_canada\\_second\\_overall](https://www.cija.ca/jews_remain_most_targeted_religious_group_for_hate_crime_in_canada_second_overall).

5 “Antisemitic, Islamophobic Offenses Soar in London after Israel Attacks,” Reuters, October 20, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/antisemitic-islamophobic-offences-soar-london-after-israel-attacks-2023-10-20/>.



- The same is happening in Australia, the sixth-largest Jewish community in the world. Synagogues, Jewish schools, and other Jewish buildings have been vandalized with antisemitic graffiti. Jewish children in state schools or non-Jewish private schools are often hazed. For Holocaust survivors, the general situation is reminiscent of Germany and certain parts of Europe in the 1930s, minus the racist laws. But the antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric is becoming increasingly rampant.<sup>6</sup>
- On April 20, 2024, an anti-Israel protester on Columbia University’s campus held a sign reading, “Al-Qasam’s next targets,” with an arrow pointing toward a group of pro-Israel counter-protesters standing nearby waving Israeli and American flags.<sup>7</sup>
- On April 18, 2024, anti-Israel protesters, who gathered outside Columbia’s gates to support the student encampment, screamed at a group of Jewish students, referencing Hamas’ October 7 attack on Israel. One protester stated: “Remember the 7th of October? That will happen not one more time, not five more times . . . but 10,000 times!”<sup>8</sup>

The venues for these antisemitic activities include anti-Zionist/pro-Hamas rallies, public protests, as well as the establishment of protest encampments on college campuses and through the ongoing anti-Jewish propaganda and antisemitic tropes flooding both mainstream and social media.

## What Is Antisemitism?

The Oxford Dictionary describes antisemitism as “prejudice, hostility, or discrimination towards Jewish people on religious, cultural, or ethnic grounds.”<sup>9</sup>

There is a debate, however, as to whether this definition extends to the ways in which the modern State of Israel is viewed as well.

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6 Greer Fay Cashman, “Antisemitism in Australia Isn’t a Simple Problem to Fix,” The Jerusalem Post | JPost.com, March 1, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-789711>.

7 George Solis, Dennis Romero, and Yasmeen Persaud, “Columbia to Hold Classes Virtually as Jewish Leaders Warn about Safety amid Tensions over Pro-Palestinian Protests,” NBC News, April 22, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/columbia-hold-classes-virtually-jewish-leaders-warn-safety-palestinian-rcna148733>.

8 Michael Starr, “October 7 Is about to Be Every Day’: Columbia Rally Sees Hamas Support,” The Jerusalem Post, April 21, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-798049>.

9 “Anti-Semitism,” in Oxford English Dictionary, July 2023, <https://www.oed.com/search/dictionary/?scope=Entries&q=antisemitism&tl=true>.

Recently, the US House of Representatives passed legislation using the more robust International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, giving the US Department of Education greater latitude in handling antisemitic activities on campus. As of this writing, the bill has not yet passed the Senate:

The proposal, which passed 320–91 with some bipartisan support, would codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a federal anti-discrimination law that bars discrimination based on shared ancestry, ethnic characteristics or national origin. It now goes to the Senate where its fate is uncertain. . . . If passed by the Senate and signed into law, the bill would broaden the legal definition of antisemitism to include the “targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity.”<sup>10</sup>

In 2022, the US Department of State declared,

The United States unequivocally condemns antisemitism and views the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as integral to the fight to eliminate this scourge. It is widely accepted and used throughout the world by governments, international organizations, religious and sports entities, and other civil society organizations, which sends a powerful message of solidarity against antisemitism. Bipartisan U.S. administrations have embraced and used the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, inclusive of its examples, as a policy tool.<sup>11</sup>

The US Department of Education has adopted the IHRA definition, which defines antisemitism as follows

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”<sup>12</sup>

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10 Farnoush Amiri, “House Passes Bill to Expand Definition of Antisemitism amid Growing Campus Protests over Gaza War,” AP News, May 1, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinian-campus-protests-columbia-congress-df4ba95dae844b3a8559b4b3ad7e058a>.

11 “The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism (Press Conference)” US Department of State, November 4, 2022, <https://www.state.gov/the-international-holocaust-remembrance-alliance-working-definition-of-antisemitism/>.

12 “What is antisemitism?,” International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, accessed June 13, 2024, <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>.

And one of the illustrations the IHRA gives includes statements about Israel involving:

1. Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
2. Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.<sup>13</sup>

Protests on various campuses have led to police action breaking up some of the encampments, which have spread throughout the United States and are now taking hold on campuses in England, Holland, France, and many other countries around the globe. Before the ongoing war with Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran, global anti-Jewish sentiment more sporadic but has now reared its ugly head regularly and is increasing at an alarming rate.

## Repairing a Tragic History

In many ways, these widespread attitudes and actions echo the behavior of European antisemites, Nazis, and their sympathizers toward Jewish people during the last few decades of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth, which ultimately culminated in the Holocaust.

By vigorously opposing antisemitism, Christians today will have the opportunity to correct the damage of the past and reveal true Christian concern for Jewish people. Christians cannot and should not ignore the thousands of years of discrimination and persecution of Jewish people, which has polarized Jewish-Christian relationships while also marring the gospel message in the eyes of Jewish people. By decrying the actions of antisemitic hate groups and showing support and love for Jewish people today, believers can present a more positive gospel testimony among world Jewry.

We should not make the same mistakes made by the majority of the European and North American church of eighty years ago, which, with very few notable exceptions, remained passive in the face of mounting attacks against Jewish people in the years leading up to and including the Holocaust. We believe it is a spiritual duty for

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

followers of Jesus the Jewish Messiah to take action at this critical moment to support Jewish people and oppose the genocidal attacks of Hamas and various other Iranian proxies, like Hezbollah. Believers everywhere should hear the call to prayer and action as the anti-Jewish movement in the United States and Europe grows more overt, even if clothed in political or nationalistic garb.

We hope the **Oppose Antisemitism—Stop the Hate** event will inspire those who attend to rally their fellow believers, churches, pastors, evangelical institutions, universities, and major denominations to tangibly respond to the rising antisemitism in North America and around the globe.

## Israel and Rising Antisemitism

Israel must be a major focus of all who are concerned with antisemitism as there are more Jewish people living in Israel than anywhere else in the world. Of the world's Jewish population, 46 percent live in the land of Israel.<sup>14</sup>

The rise of Islamic antisemitism especially cannot be ignored. Whereas Islamic antisemitism is nothing new, the modern State of Israel, since its establishment in 1948, has become the latest focal point for Islamic antisemitism. The Hamas version of Jewish hatred takes antisemitism to a new and horrific level, moving far beyond politics. This enmity is evident in Arabic social media, which features the preaching of radical mullahs (Muslim religious teachers) and does not differ substantially from the classical arguments and rationale for the age-old mistreatment of Jewish people by Muslims.<sup>15</sup>

The events of October 7, 2023, and the ensuing ground war in Gaza have undoubtedly fanned the flames of this new Islamic antisemitism. This Islamic antisemitism has created a new global collaborative effort among those who feel they are on the margins of society and view Israel and Western countries as colonizers and enemies of all those who believe they are oppressed. This alliance has echoed the 1930s style of virulent ethnic anti-Jewish expres-

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14 Zvika Klein, "Jewish Population Worldwide Reaches 15.7 Million, 18 Million Eligible for Aliyah," *The Jerusalem Post*, September 15, 2023, sec. Diaspora, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-759199>.

15 Quran 7:166 and see Aluma Solnick, "Muslim Clerics - Jews Are the Descendants of Apes, Pigs, and Other Animals," Jewish Virtual Library, October 31, 2002, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/muslim-clerics-jews-are-the-descendants-of-apes-pigs-and-other-animals>.

sion heard in the antisemitic tropes shouted by protestors at various events and especially on campus.

For example, “From the river to the sea,” chanted at most protests, leaves little room for Jewish people to live in the Holy Land. Through this epithet, the protestors are calling for a one-state solution requiring the dismantling of a Jewish Israel.

This old-style ethnic *antisemitism* in its Islamic and European expressions is now re-wrapped in political and human rights verbiage. Yet, these allegedly newer politicized arguments, which focus on the modern State of Israel, still build on historical antisemitic arguments, tropes, and conspiracy theories of previous years.

## **Responding to the Tragedy of 10/7/23 as an Act of Vicious Antisemitism**

Historically, the rights of Jewish people were severely limited in Europe, where Jewish communities were forced to live in ghettos. These settlements enabled European leaders to control Jewish people and isolate the Jewish community from mainstream culture. Jewish people were also heavily taxed in every country where Muslims dominated and controlled the political systems. Sometimes, for various reasons, Jewish people and Muslims lived in peace, but there were always underlying reasons why Muslims believed they were superior to Jewish people as well as reasons why Jerusalem was supposed to be a Muslim-controlled city.

Various Muslim and Middle Eastern mis-characterizations and stereotypes of Jewish people are well-known and have fueled hatred against Jewish people even before modern Israel’s existence. There is no denying October 7, 2023 has taken this historical anti-Jewish Islamic extremism to a new level in which Jewish people are dehumanized. This inhumanity is evidenced by the torture, rape, and horrific acts of violence by Hamas toward innocent Israelis.

### **ANTISEMITISM IS A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM**

As Messianic Jewish people and evangelical Christians, we believe antisemitism is Satanic in origin and expression. God chose Jewish people to bless the world, and the evil one is tempting the nations

who were to be blessed by Israel to curse Jewish people. **Antisemitism cannot be viewed as solely some type of nationalistic, political, or ethnic hatred but rather as a cosmological effort on the part of the devil to destroy Jewish people and derail the plan of God.**

Antisemitism has been around for thousands of years. Social commentators, both Jewish and Gentile, often leave out the spiritual and biblical dimensions of antisemitism. When God called Abram to be the father of His chosen people (Genesis 12:1–3), Satan made Jewish people the target of his fury. The evil one has tried to annihilate Jewish people in every age and in endless ways to prevent God from using the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as His road to redemption.

Sadly, one of *his* ugliest tactics has been to use the actions of the Christian church to promote the hatred and persecution of Jewish people. There is no denying many historical attacks on Jewish people in Europe were perpetrated by those who claimed to identify with the Christian faith in one form or another. The list of atrocities is long: the general medieval persecution of Jewish people, the Inquisition, pogroms, and the Holocaust were all initiated and implemented by those heavily influenced by various expressions of historical Christianity.

The church has made many modern attempts to address the damage done to Jewish people by those professing Christianity, such as statements offered by Roman Catholics at Vatican II and others among Protestants. However, the “Christian” animosity toward Jewish people is one of the greatest tragedies in human history. After all, Jesus was Jewish, as were His disciples! Yet, we understand there must be a difference between true followers of Jesus and those who claimed to follow Jesus yet persecuted Jewish people.

Thankfully, today we see a rise in the numbers of Christians who love Jewish people and decry antisemitism as overtly anti-Christian. **True Christians love Jewish people and oppose antisemitism based upon their belief in the Bible, the Jewish Messiah, and the covenants God forged with the sons and daughters of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**

Our event at the Palladium Theater aims to inform and energize the Christian community to pray for Jewish people and Israel in particular.

## AN ONGOING COALITION

We hope the event will initiate the formation of a **Coalition against Antisemitism** of Jesus followers who are willing to actively counter the threat of growing antisemitism while remembering the gospel message is for all people, including Jewish people. As the apostle Paul wrote, the gospel should be preached to Jewish people “first” (Romans 1:16, 11:11; Acts 1:8).

**The Oppose Antisemitism—Stop the Hate** event is designed to build bridges among Christians who have the power and willingness to influence institutional, educational, legislative, legal, and business communities on behalf of their Jewish friends and neighbors.

# A Deeper Look at the Rationale for the Oppose Antisemitism— Stop the Hate Event

## THE PROBLEM

This most recent and more brutal phase of the Middle East conflict began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas entered Israel unprovoked to murder, rape, torture, kidnap, and displace Jewish people from the land of Israel. This attack was far more than an act of war, as evidenced by Hamas’ brutality toward Jewish people—including young, old, babies, innocent men and women, Holocaust survivors, and other non-combatants. These were crimes against Jewish people not seen since the Holocaust. In many ways, the actions of Hamas surpassed the cruelty of the Nazis.

The attacks of Black Sabbath, as it is now referred to, killing 1,200 and taking 250 people as hostages, began what has become a seemingly endless war between Hamas, who are using their own citizens as human shields, and the Israel Defense Forces. As in any war, far too many innocent people on both sides have been killed and are suffering displacement from their homes. Some terrible mistakes have been made, such as the admitted killing of seven World Central Kitchen aid workers from various countries.

Yet, we are also now learning many of the more than one hundred hostages remaining in Gaza have already died. Some are lost and cannot be found.

The war will no doubt intensify with Hezbollah perched on Israel's northern border, shelling those within the reach of its rockets and missiles, which are more powerful than those of Hamas in Gaza.

The April 14 direct attack on Israel by Iran via drones and missiles and the long wait for the drones to drop bombs upon mostly civilian locations within Israel was torturous for the average Israeli family. Though Israel and sympathetic nations destroyed 99 percent of the rocket and missile barrage, Iran's direct attacks raised the stakes and added to the threat of a regional conflict. This conflict will not be easily solved.

We also see another rising battle *even more ominous* than the one being fought in Israel. There is a growing, global wave of virulent antisemitism evidenced by the increase of attacks upon Jewish people in the United States and throughout the world.

The actions of Hamas were also antisemitic in nature if one reads (through translation) about the ways the Arabic-language press and social media characterize Jewish people. There is a long history of Islamic antisemitism beginning with the Koran and other early Islamic writings. We believe this tragic history of Islamic antisemitism influenced Hamas terrorists to commit horrible atrocities against innocent Jewish people going well beyond any desire to win a political victory through armed engagement. These were barbaric acts designed to destroy human life at Holocaust proportions.

## **RECENT HISTORY AND GROWTH OF VIRULENT ANTISEMITISM**

It is also important to recount the recent history in our own country of heinous acts of antisemitism.

On October 27, 2018, a hateful act of antisemitism shocked the United States. An armed man entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and took the lives of eleven Jewish people observing the Sabbath. ADL referred to it as "the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the US."<sup>16</sup>

But the Pittsburgh incident, unfortunately, is not an isolated event. A virulent and vicious tide of antisemitism has been steadily rising

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16 Jay Croft and Saeed Ahmed, "The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting Is Believed to Be the Deadliest Attack on Jews in American History, the ADL Says," CNN, October 28, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/27/us/jewish-hate-crimes-fbi/index.html>.



around the globe. According to the ADL, “the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. rose 57 percent in 2017—the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since the ADL started tracking such data in 1979.”<sup>17</sup>

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Holocaust research organization based in Los Angeles, reported out of the ten worst antisemitic incidents of 2018 worldwide, six of them occurred in the United States, with the Tree of Life incident at the top of the list.<sup>18</sup> It is hard to believe, after all the atrocities in Nazi Germany seventy-nine years ago, such antisemitism still exists.

## Current Antisemitic Attitudes and Actions Pre- and Post-10/7

### ADL’S COUNTRY STATISTICS SINCE OCTOBER 7:<sup>19</sup>

- Argentina:** In January 2024, there were more than 100 reported antisemitic incidents, representing a 600 percent increase compared to January 2023.
- Australia:** According to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, as of 12/15 there has been a 738 percent increase in antisemitic incidents.
- Austria:** From October 7 to December 31, antisemitic incidents were up 500 percent compared to the same period in 2022. For all of 2023, the increase in antisemitic incidents was 60 percent, compared to 2022.
- Brazil:** According to the CONIB [Confederação Israelita do Brasil], which tracks antisemitism in Brazil, there was a 961 percent increase during the month of October in comparison to the previous year.

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17 “2017 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents,” ADL, February 25, 2018, <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/2017-audit-anti-semitic-incidents#themes-and-trends->

18 “2018 Top Ten Worst Global Anti-Semitic Incidents,” Simon Wiesenthal Center, accessed June 6, 2024, <https://www.wiesenthal.com/assets/pdf/2018-top-ten-anti-semitic-2.pdf>.

19 “Global Antisemitic Incidents in the Wake of Hamas’ War on Israel,” ADL, May 20, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/global-antisemitic-incidents-wake-hamas-war-israel>.

- Denmark:** In 2023, the Jewish community registered 121 antisemitic incidents, including 20 death threats, the highest number since WWII. In 2022, there were only 9 incidents.
- France:** According to the Minister of Interior, there were 1,242 antisemitic incidents from October 1 to December 31, 2023, a 1,000 percent increase compared to prior months.
- Germany:** In 2023, police registered 5,154 antisemitic incidents, an increase of 95 percent.
- Italy:** According to Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi, authorities registered 135 incidents of antisemitism between October 7 and December 31.
- Netherlands:** According to the Dutch NGO antisemitism monitor, CIDI, from October 7-November 6 there has been an increase of 818 percent compared to the average one month period of the prior three years.<sup>20</sup>
- New Zealand:** In a survey of Jewish parents of children aged 9-18, as of 12/14, 50 percent of those who completed the survey said their children were subjected to antisemitism in schools.
- South Africa:** According to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, there were 41 antisemitic incidents in the month of October, a significant increase compared to prior years.
- Switzerland:** Antisemitic incidents increased by 68 percent in French-speaking Switzerland last year, with almost half of all incidents occurring post-10/7.
- UK:** In 2023, CST [Community Security Trust] recorded 4,103 anti-Jewish hate incidents across the UK, by far the largest-ever total recorded in this country.

Antisemitism has become especially prominent on our campuses, with pro-Hamas rallies and the persecution of students simply for being Jewish. Hillel, the largest Jewish campus organization in the

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<sup>20</sup> National Coordinator for Combating Anti-Semitism, “NCAB response to new anti-Semitism figures: ‘We must do everything we can to reduce anti-Semitism,’” National Coordinator for Combating Anti-Semitism: Ministry of Justice and Security (Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid, November 7, 2023), <https://www.ncab.nl/actueel/nieuws/2023/11/7/reactie-ncab-op-nieuwe-antisemitismecijfers-we-moeten-alles-op-alles-zetten-om-antisemitisme-terug-te-dringen>.

world, recorded 1,234 antisemitic incidents at colleges since October 7, 2023. This statistic represents a 700 percent increase over the same period in the prior year.<sup>21</sup>

## THE PROMISE

We should see all of life through the lens of Scripture. This includes the current conflict between Israel and Hamas. We must begin by remembering God's promises to Jewish people. If we want evangelicals to continue to support Jewish people, then we must begin by outlining the biblical promises and plan God ordained for Jewish people. Evangelicals are motivated by the truth of the Bible. Therefore, we must begin our journey of support for Jewish people in this difficult hour by defining these covenantal promises God made to Abraham in ancient times, which are still true today.

The foundational promise of God to Jewish people is often called the Abrahamic Covenant. This covenant is outlined in the book of Genesis and is reiterated to Abraham's seed: Isaac (Gen 17:19–21) and Jacob (Gen 35:10–12).

This first statement of the promise was given to Abraham as recorded in Genesis 12:1–3. The promise is unconditional. In other words, the keeping of the promise depends upon the power of God rather than human capability. God created Jewish people for a holy purpose and gave His people a mission to bless the world. As God said directly to Abram, "*And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*"

The very creation of Jewish people has a miraculous promise at its foundation, as Abraham and Sarah were beyond childbearing age. God supernaturally intervened in the lives of the Jewish forefathers to keep His promise. God Himself created Jewish people for His purposes.

The covenant included a promise to create a people in perpetuity, a land to live in, and a mission to fulfill. The Messianic Jewish apostle Paul referred to the covenant directly just prior to his powerful doxology at the conclusion of Romans 11, "*From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*" (Rom 11:28–29).

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<sup>21</sup> "Antisemitism on College Campuses: Incident Tracking from 2019–2024," Hillel, updated May 31, 2024, <https://www.hillel.org/antisemitism-on-college-campuses-incident-tracking-from-2019-2023/>.

## THE PEOPLE

God created Jewish people miraculously as Abraham and Sarah were incapable of having children. Moreover, God promised to preserve this chosen nation, which could never be destroyed. In Jeremiah 31:35–37, we see God’s plan to preserve His people against all harm. All throughout the Bible, we witness the hostile actions of nations wanting to destroy Jewish people with only temporary success. God kept His powerful hand upon His chosen people to keep them from destruction.

God gave the Bible and the Messiah through Jewish people. According to a multitude of biblical passages, the salvation of Jewish people is inextricably linked to His second coming. As Jesus promised, “*For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’*” (Matthew 23:39).

Paul echoed the words of the ancient Hebrew prophets and Jesus Himself in predicting, one day, Jewish people will turn to Jesus. Then Jesus will return (Romans 11:25ff).

In summary, God created Jewish people to live in His land in peace and be a blessing to all—both within and outside the land. God also made a promise to King David. His throne would not remain empty, but eventually, one of his descendants would sit on his throne to reign over God’s kingdom. This Davidic covenant is like the commitment He made to Abraham, as it is without conditions and fully dependent upon God Himself for its fulfillment.

As God promised,

*“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, **and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.**”* In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. (2 Samuel 7:12–16, emphasis added)

Paul reaffirmed this promise: “*From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers*” (Romans 11:28, emphasis added).

Isaiah further described the universal blessings reflecting the rule of Jesus on the Davidic throne in fulfillment of the promise in Genesis 12:3. Isaiah wrote, “*In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth*” (Isa 19:24).

The day will come when Jewish people and their neighbors will walk peacefully, arm in arm, as the Messiah Himself will sit on His rightful throne. Therefore, we understand all conflicts are temporary and will one day be resolved. It is very difficult for people and governments to solve these intricate, complex, and age-old problems, but we know, one day, the Messiah will rule. Then, both Jewish people and nations of the world will live in peace and blessing. We must keep this in mind and do what we can to advance God’s plan during our lifetime.

## THE PLACE

Almost immediately after His promise to Abram to make him a great nation (Gen 12:2), He also promised them a place to live, “*To your descendants I will give this land*” (Gen 12:7). The land granted to the nation of Israel was not an afterthought, but rather selected by the Holy One to be a home for His fledgling people. Additionally, God gave Jewish people a mission to be a light and a blessing to all the nations of the world—both those living within the boundaries of the promised land and outside. The land God gave to Jewish people is an essential part of His promise to His people.

God outlined the specific boundaries of the nation to Abraham, as described in Genesis 15. This chapter is critical to understanding the current crisis between Israel, Gaza, and the neighboring countries as God Himself details the boundaries of the promised Land: “*On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates’*” (Genesis 15:18).

**If the rallying cry, “From the river to the sea,” by pro-Hamas supporters, were true, it would be diametrically opposed to what God promised.** As faithful followers of Jesus and those who believe

His Word, we cannot support this effort as it displaces Jewish people from the very land God Himself promised!

The tension in the Middle East will never resolve until those involved recognize the promises of God and take them to heart. Any belief not beginning with an acknowledgment of the promise of the land to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is building peace efforts on shifting sand. It is a house of cards, which will ultimately collapse. This promise to Abraham is the very foundation for biblical Zionism.

When we begin by looking at the **land deed** from God's perspective, rooted in Scripture rather than in human declarations and treaties, then there is hope for peace. We should begin working for peace by embracing the terms of the covenant made with Abraham and His descendants, which granted this land and defined a set of boundaries to Jewish people. By doing so, we are embracing God's plan outlined in His word. The argument for the land of Israel belonging to Jewish people did not emerge in 1948, but rather in this chapter of Holy Scripture.

These land boundaries remind us of what Paul wrote in Acts 17:24–28 about the Lord who, as the Creator and owner of all land, has the right to determine the boundaries of nations:

*The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, "For we also are His children."*

The land given to the sons and daughters of Abraham is determined by God, not by people or by treaty. In fact, the promised boundaries of Israel are more expansive than the land now commonly understood as part of the State of Israel. The land of Israel, created with boundaries fixed by God through covenant, belongs to Jewish people (Joshua 1:1–6).

This is not a political statement but an affirmation of what the Bible

teaches. **All land is His land** because He created the heavens and the earth. If His revealed will is for certain groups of people to live in set areas, then this is His right because He is the Creator. We need to accept this. But part of the problem we have today is so many, including some Jewish people, do not recognize God as the author of boundaries. When we submit ourselves to Him as our Lord and King and recognize the truth of the Bible, then we are prepared to accept His will.

**The only solution for peace in the Middle East is to begin with a biblical worldview founded on Scripture.** Israel is the land of Jewish people, and the boundaries are found in Scripture. As believers in the Bible and in Jesus the Jewish Messiah, we must affirm God's promises are true. He set boundaries for Jewish people and so, Jewish people, by virtue of the covenant, always have a right to this land.

We do not wish to debate whether 1948 was an act of people or of God, but rather to remind the world God Himself, not people, defined the land He promised to Jewish people. We understand the current conflict is complex, yet at the heart of the issue is the question of whether the land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel by the promise of the God of Israel.

Ultimately, God wants the land of Israel to be a land of *shalom* (peace) for all people who live there. If we begin by accepting the very boundaries God created for His chosen people, then we have a good beginning for finding a solution to bringing peace.

## OUR PRAYER

The prayer we should pray throughout this conflict is a prayer for peace from Psalm 122:6–9: *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.’ For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, ‘May peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.”*

This prayer is one with a promise, as King David also wrote those who pray for the peace of Jerusalem will prosper. The Hebrew word *salah*, translated as “prosper,” refers to a sense of inner peace, not to material gain, as those who pray for peace will experience peace in their lives as well.<sup>22</sup>

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22 William Lee Holladay and Ludwig Köhler, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Based upon the Lexical Work of Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner*, 12. corr. impr. 1991, reprinted (Leiden: Brill, 2000), 370.

The peace we enjoy in our relationship with God is a foretaste of the global peace God will bring to the world when His Son returns to reign on His rightful throne. He is the Prince of Peace, and He will remove the curse of sin at the heart of the current conflict. He will bring humanity back to the peace experienced by our ancestors, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden. Ezekiel the prophet mentions a future day when the people of Israel will turn to the Lord and the land will be “like the garden of Eden”: “*They will say, ‘This desolate land has become **like the garden of Eden**; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited*” (Ezek 36:35, emphasis added).

We look forward to this great day. The prophet Isaiah invites us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and serve God as **watchmen for Jerusalem**. In Isaiah 62, God spoke about those aside from Jewish people who will be *watchmen on the wall*. This reference harkens back to the role God gave to non-Jews to bless Jewish people, looking toward the day when Jewish people as one nation will believe in Jesus, and the world will experience the magnificent global blessings of God.

Paul described this future day so beautifully in the book of Romans. He wrote, “*Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! . . . For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*” (Rom 11:12, 15).

Followers of the Jewish Messiah Jesus are not only called to warn Israel of danger but to remind God of His promises to Jewish people. We are encouraged to pray and ask God to fulfill His promises to Jewish people, which will ultimately bring blessings to the world. As believers in the Bible, the God of the Bible, and the Messiah Jesus, we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. When Jerusalem is enjoying peace, the entire world will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters fill the sea (Habakkuk 2:14), as the Prince of Peace will rule on His Davidic throne (Isaiah 9:6–7).

This full restoration of Israel includes the preservation of the people who live in the land of promise and the spreading of God’s blessings to the world, thereby fulfilling the destiny of Jewish people.



## THE PLEA: FOR EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS TO OPPOSE ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism is anti-gospel and anti-God. Those who perpetuate this hatred may not understand this, but antisemitism is antithetical to God's promises found in Scripture. The problems in the Middle East cannot be solved by removing Jewish people "from the river to the sea." The solution must allow Jewish people to live in safety and peace in their own land, which God promised. Non-Jews living in the land must be able to find peace, safety, and hope as well.

The reign of Jesus the Messiah in the hearts of Israelis and Arabs is the underlying answer to the problems of the Middle East and for all people, which is why the proclamation of the gospel while affirming God's plan and purposes for Jewish people is so critical. This spiritual answer to life's deepest challenges is the only lasting solution to the personal and political problems we face today. The gospel is the *only* hope for all who seek a lasting peace.

The church of God needs to love what God loves and hate what God hates.

Once we understand how the real enemy of Jewish people is the devil, it is easier to understand what we should believe about the current conflict between Israel and Gaza and what we should do about it. Christians have a divine call to love Jewish people because God chose Jewish people for His holy purposes.

God also wants us to love those who are suffering because of the actions of those perpetrating evil, as Jesus died for all mankind! The battle is a supernatural, spiritual battle being fought in the heavens as well as on earth (Ephesians 6:12–13). We cannot remain silent! We must oppose antisemitism and do what we can to stop the hate, reminding others of God's love for all people, including those in Gaza who are suffering at the hands of Hamas.

## Conclusion and Call to Action

The problems we face today in the Middle East—and now at home and in so many other countries—seem insurmountable and impossible to solve. The conflict even internally divides Jewish and Christian

communities. So, how can we realistically reduce the intensifying threat of a new and more militant antisemitism?

- The first step is to turn to the Lord and view the conflict through the lens of Scripture.
- The next step is to turn to the Lord in prayer and intercession.
- The third step is to do something about it!

If you see something, say something—first to the Lord through prayer, then maybe to your pastor, your congregational leaders, your Jewish friends, the local rabbi and local government officials, newspapers, local TV journalists, local radio stations, etc. Use your Twitter and Facebook accounts to oppose antisemitism in all its manifestations!

**If you see something, say something, because saying something is better than saying nothing!**

From a biblical point of view, antisemitism is a hatred like no other hatred. It is a demonically infused hatred of the people of God. This hatred seeks to remove Jewish people from the land God gave, and even from the world itself! Antisemitism is thus a rebellious act of defiance against the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Once again, the Hamas rallying cry, “From the river to the sea!” is almost a direct twisting of Genesis 15:18, “*To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.*” From river to river, the land of Israel was promised to Jewish people by covenant. As believers in God’s Word, we have no other choice than to affirm what He has already promised.

We can fulfill the Savior’s desires for His people: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*” (Matthew 5:9). But our efforts in making peace must affirm what God has already said. It would be certain failure to advocate for a peace founded in opposition to what God Himself has said!

If we support those seeking the destruction of Jewish people or removal of Jewish people from the land of Israel, then we are working against God’s purposes. We must partner with God in every way, including His plan for Jewish people.

Our actions must begin with prayer because this act puts us in the right relationship with the One who made these promises. Then, we need to do what we can to be a blessing to Jewish people, remembering how by blessing Jewish people we are blessing the world.

As Paul wrote, “*For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building*” (1 Corinthians 3:9). We must work together with God and His people to accomplish His purpose for Jewish people and the nations. Let us love what He loves and not remain silent in speaking out against what He hates!

The **Oppose Antisemitism—Stop the Hate** event and a growing coalition of Christians against antisemitism will propose several ways to oppose antisemitism through education, activism, public demonstrations, rallies, lectures, social media, and initiating various public events with a particular emphasis on college campuses. We will work to influence local churches, seminaries and colleges, denominations, and Christian institutions to make them aware of rising antisemitism while also providing resources and practical advice on how to counter anti-Jewish attitudes within their spheres of influence.

Why the need for a new coalition? We cannot underestimate the importance of providing Christians a spiritual and biblical foundation for their actions, which is critical today as we see a decline in pro-Jewish sentiment among younger evangelicals in particular. The mainstream Jewish community and the traditional Jewish defense organizations (ADL, Jewish Community Relations Council, American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Federation, etc.) have found friends within the Christian community. Yet, there remains a large community of believers, including parts of the growing global Messianic Jewish movement, who are still not linked in this holy battle with the mainstream Jewish community and its institutions. The Coalition will provide another means to lift our voices in harmony to stand for the Lord, the Word of God, and Jewish people at this critical time.

*“If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her skill”*  
(Psalm 137:5).

Our coalition against antisemitism hopes to give followers of the Messiah Jesus and those who simply care deeply about antisemitism the opportunity to join hands in opposing antisemitism!

Would you join, pray for, and support this coalition against antisemitism? We will add your name to the list of recipients of our communications, resources, and schedule of events to provide you with the ways and means to make a difference in opposing antisemitism.

**Use the QR code to join!**



**Pray this prayer with us:**

Oh God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Father of our Messiah Jesus, I ask you to bless and protect your chosen people and bring peace to all who live in the land of Israel. By your Spirit, please guide me to find ways I can help support Jewish people during this season of rising antisemitism. Use me, Lord, through my congregation, small group, family, and wherever I have influence for You to inspire others to love Jewish people. Lord, may I be your instrument of mercy, grace, and love to bring help, comfort, and protection to all the children of Abraham in the Holy Land, the United States, and around the globe.

In the name of Yeshua,  
Amen.

# The History of Chosen People Ministries

Chosen People Ministries was founded by Rabbi Leopold Cohn in 1894 to bring the gospel of Jesus the Messiah to the Jewish people. In carrying out this purpose, the Mission also seeks to inspire the Church to participate in and support the work of Jewish evangelism, helping fellow believers carry out this vital part of God's divine redemptive plan.

Rabbi Leopold Cohn founded Chosen People Ministries in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, New York, shortly after he received Jesus as his Messiah. In its earliest days, people affectionately referred to the Mission as the Brownsville Mission to the Jews. Rabbi Cohn established an outreach headquartered in a renovated horse stable, where the Mission offered a variety of services and classes for the growing population of Jewish immigrants. His wife, Rose, was instrumental in organizing some of the outreach programs. The Mission published the first issue of its monthly newsletter, *The Chosen People*, in October 1895.

The proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people encountered resistance from some. Still, many in the Jewish community welcomed the message that the Jewish people could receive the Messiah's gift of eternal life while maintaining a Jewish identity.

After a few years, the Mission moved its headquarters to Williamsburg (Brooklyn), and then to Manhattan. As ministry expanded beyond a regional focus, the Mission changed its name to the *American Board of Missions to the Jews* to reflect the broader scope of the organization. Missionaries began following God's call to reach the Jewish community throughout North and South America, Europe, and Israel. Eventually, the Mission changed its name to Chosen People Ministries, and, after many years in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Mission headquarters returned to its birthplace in New York City. Chosen People Ministries continually seeks to meet the needs of each generation with both spiritual and material assistance.

The Mission has continued to develop a rich tradition throughout its history. Following Rabbi Cohn's death in 1937, Joseph Hoffman Cohn succeeded his father as Mission leader, serving until his death in 1953. A long line of godly men has served Chosen People Minis-

tries as effective leaders. Harold Pretlove, Dr. Daniel Fuchs, Harold Sevens, and Sam Nadler have each left an indelible mark on the character of the century-old Mission. Now under the leadership of Dr. Mitch Glaser, Chosen People Ministries continues to experience an exciting time of renewal and expansion.

Just as it did over one hundred years ago, Chosen People Ministries offers English/Bible classes to Jewish immigrants. The Mission also seeks to utilize new means of communication to reach Jewish people in this new millennium with the eternal message of God's love in Jesus, the Messiah. Chosen People Ministries is eager, with God's help and your prayers and support, to reach the Jewish people of the twenty-first century. Yes, the world and the Jewish community have experienced enormous changes—but humanity's need for reconciliation to God remains the same. Chosen People Ministries continues to follow its calling to proclaim the unchanging message of the gospel to the Lord's chosen people.

# Our Ministry Programs

Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same. We fulfill this mission through many types of ministry programs.

## **MESSIANIC CENTERS**

One of our most effective ministry strategies is to engage local Jewish communities through our Messianic Centers. Our centers are facilities that we rent or own, located in major Jewish population centers; they serve as the base of our ministry operations in the surrounding community. In addition to supporting our evangelistic and discipleship efforts, they provide a place for worship, Bible studies, spiritual counseling, and practical help ministries like food distribution and addiction recovery programs. Some of our Messianic Centers are in New York, Los Angeles, South Florida, London, Berlin, Moscow, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem.

## **MESSIANIC CONGREGATIONS**

Messianic Congregations are places of worship where both Jewish and Gentile believers can fellowship together in a Jewish context. In addition, they offer Jewish seekers a familiar cultural setting combined with clear gospel teaching, which communicates our commitment that one can be Jewish and believe in Jesus! We have helped launch dozens of Messianic Congregations worldwide, and they continue to be an essential and viable part of our ministry.

## **EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Evangelism has always been the heartbeat of our ministry, and every year we lead outreach programs and events designed explicitly for reaching Jewish people with the gospel. Our traditional outreach programs include tract distribution, open-air concerts, book tables, and surveys. During our Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign, we incorporated newer outreach methods by utilizing online media and advertising to offer evangelistic literature to Jewish people. We also host seminars and debates where Jewish seekers can learn about Jesus in a neutral setting. Through each of these outreach events, we meet Jewish people who are seeking spiritual answers.

Our missionaries connect with these individuals and build authentic relationships with those who are seeking the truth.

## **EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCH**

Another primary focus of Chosen People Ministries is to engage and train local churches for Jewish evangelism. Throughout our history, we have observed that one of the critical factors in Jewish people coming to know the Lord is the positive influence of Gentile Christians. Therefore, we have made it a priority to develop and offer resources for churches to help believers discover the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and understand the need for Jewish evangelism. We continually develop tools and help equip churches with practical ways for congregants to share Jesus with Jewish people in their communities.



# How You Can Help

Chosen People Ministries would not exist without the faithful support of Christians around the world who stand with Israel and the Jewish people. We are grateful for the prayers and sacrificial gifts that enable us to continue to bring the gospel to the Jewish people in sixteen countries around the globe.

Would you pray about supporting Your Mission to the Jewish People? I am praying that you will give generously and sacrificially as I believe we have a golden moment to join together in reaching Jewish people that may only come once in a lifetime.

## **There are several ways you can give**

1. The easiest way is to visit our website, [chosenpeople.com/donate](http://chosenpeople.com/donate).
2. You can also mail your donation to our International Headquarters:  
Chosen People Ministries  
241 East 51st Street  
New York, New York 10022
3. Lastly, you are always welcome to call us and donate over the phone with your credit or debit card.  
Please call 1-800-969-6850!

Chosen People Ministries is happy to provide resources to help you combat antisemitism. You might ask your pastor if you can provide our materials to help your church understand the conflict in Israel and the rising antisemitism. For example, these resources could be used in a Sunday school class or small group. You can also invite a Chosen People Ministries speaker to your church to discuss these issues and what the Bible says about antisemitism.

We have other booklets to equip you to help your brothers and sisters in Christ understand the role of Jewish people in the plan of God. Chosen People Ministries also has educational videos, articles, and podcasts to pass along to your local church, Sunday school, or prayer gathering. Some of these materials are available when you call our church ministries department at 1-888-405-5874. For a complete list of resources visit us at [www.chosenpeople.com/stopantisemitism](http://www.chosenpeople.com/stopantisemitism).



## CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
241 East 51st Street  
New York, New York 10022  
Tel: 212.223.2252

[www.chosenpeople.com/stopantisemitism](http://www.chosenpeople.com/stopantisemitism)

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By vigorously opposing antisemitism, believers today will have the opportunity to correct the damage of the past and show true Christians care about Jewish people. Christians cannot and should not ignore the thousands of years of discrimination and persecution of Jewish people over the centuries that have polarized Jewish-Christian relationships and marred the message of the gospel in the eyes of Jewish people.



CHOSEN PEOPLE  
MINISTRIES