

UNDERSTANDING AND STANDING AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

A PROPHETIC CALL TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

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“We Love The Jewish People Because Their Messiah Loves Us”

INTRODUCTION

Anti-Semitism is more than a mere social, economic, or political human phenomenon focused on the persecution or destruction of the Jewish people. It is a demonically inspired strategy to prevent the second coming of Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah.

The Jewish people are Satan’s target not because they are Jews, but because they hold a pivotal place in God’s plan to return Messiah to the earth (Zechariah 12:10-11, 14:4; Matthew. 23:39; Romans. 11:15). We must understand this in order to recognize and effectively expose the sources of anti-Semitism and, as God gives us the abilities, stand against its activities and eradicate its effects.

Christians who resist anti-Semitism and stand with the Jewish people play a significant role in this spiritual battle. Every disciple of Jesus the Jewish Messiah must understand that the Body of Christ has Hebraic roots and a Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. We are living in a day when God is moving by His Holy Spirit to restore this understanding to the Church and when He is challenging His people to take their place in the ultimate spiritual battle.

This restoration has three specific elements.

Restoration # 1: The Body of Christ must be restored to its authentic Hebraic roots revealed in Romans 11. We must recognize our “grafted-in” relationship to the “natural branches” of Israel’s “Olive Tree.” From this spiritual connection we are able to receive the impartation provided by its “anointed roots” (Romans 11:17). This anointing imparts understanding and empowerment that enables the Body of Christ to be delivered from centuries of Greek/Roman/Pagan aberrancies and become the mature Bride of Christ (Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 1:28)

Understanding that the Body of Christ is “grafted in among the natural branches of the Olive Tree,” we must, therefore, be restored to our authentic Biblical relationship and responsibility to the international Jewish community and to the nation of Israel. Recognizing the nature of this relationship, the Body of Christ can undertake to fulfill the second restoration.

Restoration # 2: The Body of Christ has a responsibility to love and witness to the Jewish people, showing them mercy as we have received mercy and provoking them to spiritual jealousy (Romans 11:11, 31). We can fulfill our Scriptural call to the Jewish people by testifying how our life was changed by Israel’s Messiah and by showing acts of loving kindness and supernatural demonstrations of the power of God.

Restoration # 3: The Body of Christ must stand alongside the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. We must intercede for them and against their spiritual adversaries. We must also testify to Israel’s human enemies about the purposes of God for the Jewish people and for the land of Israel that are revealed in the pages of Holy Scripture. This testimony must also include a clear proclamation of the Gospel, accompanied

by similar acts of loving kindness and supernatural demonstrations of the power of the God of Israel, so that all people everywhere will have the opportunity to come to faith in Jesus.

Part 1

A THE THREE-FOLD PROPHETIC RESTORATION

#1 - The Holy Spirit is restoring to the Church an understanding of the prophetic significance of her Biblical Jewish or Hebraic roots. This is in conjunction with His work of delivering the Body of Christ from the aberrancies of historic Christianity and restoring, among other things, authentic apostolic and prophetic ministries that are foundational for the healthy proper functioning of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 2:20-22). The confluence of these restorations will equip the Body of Christ for end-time ministry so that it can be brought to unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:13). God is raising up many ministries that are teaching the Church about these restorations and their prophetic implications.

#2 - As the Lord restores the Church to her Jewish/Hebraic roots, He will also restore the church's Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. We are called to love, pray for, and testify to the Jewish people about the Messiahship of Jesus.

#3 - Because God loves the world and is not willing that any should perish (2Peter 3:9), we are also called to love, pray for, and testify to all nations (especially those hostile to the Jews) about God's purposes for them, as well as about God's purposes for the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

A deeper look at Restoration #1

The Jewish/Hebraic roots of the Christian faith are an extremely serious issue for the Body of Christ. The understanding of, and participation in, these "roots" has profound prophetic implications and ramifications. The historic rejection of these roots has had an extremely negative impact on the life, ministry, and fruitfulness of the Church. In Romans 11, the apostle Paul warned every Christian against becoming arrogant toward the Jewish people. In very clear and strong terms, he proclaimed that the Church would be cut off from the very life of God if it became arrogant in its attitude toward the Jewish people and rejected them. He said:

*"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. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. **Do not be arrogant, but fear**; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off" (Romans 11:17-22).*

The Church disobeyed this apostolic command, rejected her Jewish roots, and became arrogant toward the Jewish people. As a result of that, the Church was cut off from the life of God and was infected by the beliefs and practices inherent in the pagan Greco Roman world. In simplistic terms, the Church was influenced by the philosophy of the Greeks, the governmental structures of the Romans, and the religious and superstitious beliefs of both of these pagan societies. This combination created a new religion that became known as "Christianity."

Instead of a supernatural faith community that had organic relationships focused on mutual spiritual nourishment for the purpose of bringing every member to maturity in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29; Ephesians

4:11-16), the Church became a hierarchical monarchy which focused on maintaining its own institutional power by claiming Biblical authority while disobeying its teachings. It created among other things, non-Biblical clergy-laity distinctions, the establishment of an unscriptural priesthood, and created many non-Biblical doctrines and dogmas, while forbidding the laity to read Scripture.

The Church established non-Jewish/Hebraic theologies that rejected the Torah (which neither Jesus nor Paul did). It replaced the Feasts of the Lord, with all of their prophetic meaning and spiritual instructions, with their own pagan based “holy days,” (i.e., celebrating the resurrection at “Easter,” the time of the spring equinox, instead of at Passover when it actually happened). Then, it eventually transformed Jesus the Jewish Messiah, the King of the Jews, into a kind of “cosmic Christ” who has no recognizable human ethnic identity. This was not limited to the Roman Catholic Church. Although it rejected many of the errors of Catholicism, Protestantism also rejected its Jewish roots and was similarly infected.

We have met many Christians who express surprise and even shock when we teach about the Jewishness of Jesus. We have actually had people tell us that Jesus was a Baptist, because he was baptized by John the Baptist, or that he was a Catholic, because certainly his mother Mary was a Catholic!

Not recognizing the importance of understanding the Jewishness of Jesus and the Hebraic roots of the New Covenant opens up many doors for deception. Beginning to understand these truths and their manifold ramifications closes those doors and opens many new ones for deepening our walk with the Lord.

One tragic consequence of the church’s rejection of her “Jewish roots” was her adoption of the practice of persecuting those of differing theologies and practices. Instead of embracing the Biblical truth of diversity as a God-given vehicle for spiritual growth and maturity in Christ – both by accepting or rejecting various beliefs and practices – uniformity was enforced at the point of a sword. This resulted in the creation of an aberrant “church” whose “members” had no real biblically based spiritual life. They were simply part of a religious institution.

The horrific practice of persecuting those who disagreed with and dared to oppose the “powers that be,” therefore threatening their authority, affirmed to the Jewish people that their assessment that “Christianity” (Roman and Protestant) – and the “Jesus Christ” it proclaimed to represent – was fraudulent. The fact that their theology concerning the Jews was abhorrent and their treatment of the Jews vicious only served to harden the hearts of the Jews to Jesus. Indeed, it would harden the heart of anyone who was victimized by such a “religion.”

Thank God we are living in a day of restoration. Believers from every corner of the earth are receiving genuine Holy Spirit-inspired revelation concerning the Jewish roots of their faith. We can just as easily and accurately use the expression Hebraic roots. I often use these terms interchangeably. Please understand that when I am talking about Jewish roots I am not talking about modern day rabbinic or traditional Judaism. This religion was created by rabbis as a result of the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. While we can learn much wisdom and history from these sources, rabbinic Judaism is not the model for the Body of Christ. We are called to follow the principles and patterns laid out for us in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. As this restoration continues to unfold and we understand more of those principles and patterns, the Body of Christ is being set free from the aberrancies of the “Christian religion” and is seeking God for more Biblically authentic ways of sharing life and ministry together.

Part of this restoration includes learning to read the Scriptures from a Hebraic perspective. As we do this, we also learn to think Hebraically. What this means essentially is that we put our focus on our supernatural relationship with God by faith rather than depending solely upon our reason and intellect, which is one of the

central features of the Greek philosophical foundations of all western humanistic belief systems (2Corinthians 4:18; Proverbs 3:5-6).

As our understanding of these roots increases, we will see more clearly the relationship between the Body of Christ and the Jewish people in the fulfillments of God's present prophetic purposes. This creates a desire for the Body of Christ to be all that Jesus intends for His bride. We can no longer settle for just man made religion. We desire intimacy with the Lord and a life of fruitfulness that gives Him pleasure. This is part of what is imparted to us by being connected to our Jewish roots.

The Lord showed me that the "anointing" in the roots of Israel's Olive Tree acts as an "antivenin" or an "antidote" to the "venom" of "counterfeit religion" and anti-Semitism with which the devil infects the Body of Christ. As we receive this "antidote," this "antivenin," we are set free to understand the difference between the "religion of Christianity" and the "authentic Body of Christ." We learn the difference between man-made religions with their many non-Biblical aberrancies, and that which is the authentic apostolic, prophetic faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

The dual foundational gift ministries of apostles and prophets are being restored to the Body of Christ to bring her to maturity and the fulfillment of her destiny in the world (Ephesians 2:20; 4:11-15). A mature Church is a Church that will be able, by the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit, to face and resolve the serious issues that keep her divided, loveless and generally powerless. This is a Church without spot or blemish, without the fleshly insecurities, pride, self-centeredness, and territorialism that greatly limits her effectiveness. This is a Church full of Glory, Power, and Love. This is the Bride ready for the return of Her Groom. This is a Church that can provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy! (Romans 11:11, 14).

A deeper look at Restoration #2

As the Lord restores the Church to her Jewish/Hebraic roots, He will also restore her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. The Church is called to love, pray for and testify to the Jewish people about the Messiahship of Jesus.

When the Church rejected her Jewish roots, she was not only infected with Greek, Roman, and Pagan influences but she rejected her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. Falling into centuries of spiritual darkness, the Church developed an ongoing adversarial relationship with the Jews. The demonic infection of anti-Semitism spread through the Church as a malignant cancer that affected the entire history of the Christian religion.

One of the most powerful perpetrators of this evil was John Chrysostom. A revered bishop of the 4th century, he preached many inspiring sermons and wrote lovely devotional works extolling his love for Jesus. Yet he was also responsible for preaching eight horrific sermons in which he dreadfully vilified and demonized all the Jewish people declaring, "It is the duty of all Christians to hate the Jews." In the 16th century, Martin Luther, heralded as the founder of the Protestant Reformation and lauded for being the restorer of the doctrines of "salvation by faith" and of the Bible, not the Roman Catholic Church, as the ultimate authority for what he was proclaiming as the "priesthood of all believers," was himself infected by these same spirits. Denouncing the Jewish people in the most horrific ways, his writings became the spiritual soil that eventually helped to birth the Holocaust. There is much blood on his hands.

That men who proclaimed such love for the Lord, who knew the Biblical commandments to "*love your neighbor*" (Luke 10:27) and "*love your enemies*" (Matthew 5:44) could spew out such vile, venomous hatred for the Jewish people is graphic testimony to the enormous deceiving power of the demonic principality known as "Anti-Semitism." Across the spectrum of Christian history, many so called "leaders"

motivated by ungodly desires, including deeply rooted spiritual and psychological insecurities, financial greed, racial prejudice and the desire for power, manipulated the masses and inspired them to perpetrate dreadful, hate-filled crimes upon the Jewish people.

Instead of obeying the commandments of Romans 11:31, to show mercy to the Jewish people and of Romans 11:11, to provoke them to jealousy and faith in Jesus, the Church's hatred and persecution of the Jews instead provoked them to deeply rooted bitterness, profound resentment, great anger and further entrenched rejection of Jesus as their Messiah.

So then what will cause the Jewish people, who are deeply rooted in their national, cultural, intellectual, historical and religious rejection of Jesus, to receive Him as their Messiah? I believe that the answer to that question begins with the fact that there is a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit stirring hearts of believers around the world to recognize their Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. As this restoration continues to unfold, there will be many opportunities for the Body of Christ to testify to the Jewish people about their Messiah.

History records many individual believers who, operating in the love and power of the Holy Spirit, provoked individual Jews to spiritual jealousy and then to faith in the Messiah. What happens on an individual level can happen on a corporate level. Just as mature individual believers have been able to provoke individual Jews to spiritual jealousy, so the mature international Body of Christ will be able to provoke the whole nation of Israel to spiritual jealousy and to faith in their Messiah. I believe this is the heart of God expressed by the apostle in Romans 11. It is exactly because of this that the enemy so vigorously fights all efforts to mature the Body of Christ and does all he can to keep her from her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people.

I believe that this current move of reconciliation and testimony is a preparation for the fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10. This prophecy speaks of an overwhelming outpouring of the Holy Spirit that reveals to the Jewish people that Jesus is the one they "pierced" and that He is indeed their longed-for Messiah. That event will not come "out of the blue" without any warning, preparation, or context. I do not believe that the entire Jewish nation will just wake up one morning and be overwhelmed with the presence of the Holy Spirit and have the age-ending dramatic encounter that reveals to them that Jesus is their Messiah. That is not the way that God has manifested Himself to the nation of Israel in their Scriptural history, nor is it the way He has manifested Himself during times of authentic revivals in the history of the Church. The outpouring of the Spirit is always within the context of intercessory prayer, preaching (the proclamation of truth), and teaching (the explanation of those truths). Of course many individuals have had life-changing encounters with God without such a context, but God then used them to pray for, preach to, and teach the masses.

Before there is ever an outpouring of the Spirit of God in revival, or an outpouring of the wrath of God in judgment, there are always preparatory prophetic proclamations. In Amos 3:7, God reveals that He never does anything without first telling His servants the prophets, who then declare what the Lord is going to do. For example, before the flood God sent Noah with a message of repentance (2Peter 2:5) even while building the ark that was itself a prophetic warning of the coming judgment. In response to the prayers of the Jewish people (Exodus 3:9), God sent Moses with a message to Pharaoh and to the Jews, prior to the history changing demonstrations of His power that led to Israel's exodus from Egypt.

Before the living God manifested Himself to Israel at Mt. Sinai, Moses gave them preparatory warnings and instructions (Exodus 19:10-11). Before the destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian captivity, God's prophets repeatedly issued strong warnings. Daniel 9:24-26, declared the time of the Messiah's first coming, and John the Baptist prepared the way for the ministry of Jesus by preaching a message of repentance (Matthew 3:3). Jesus' ministry prepared the way for the ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-

39), and He instructed the disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit who would empower them as His witnesses (Acts 1:4). All revivals in history, accompanied by mighty outpourings of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, were preceded by clear prophetic proclamations, explanations and deep fervent intercession.

God's plan is to use the intercession and testimony of gentile believers from the nations of the world to arouse the Jewish people to the truth and reality of the Messiahship of Jesus. The authentic Body of Christ is called to share the living reality of the resurrected Messiah with the Jewish people. They are to provoke them to spiritual jealousy by a life that is filled with the love and power of the Messiah. It is my deep hope and passionate prayer that this testimony will crack the ancient walls of resistance to, and rejection of, the Messiahship of Jesus.

I believe that little by little, in many different ways and through many diverse methods and ministries, God will begin to release the Jewish people from the spirit of blindness that He Himself put on them (Romans 11:8-10). God put those blinders on and God can and will take them off! He will use anointed and obedient believers as the vehicle by which that blinder-removing revelation will come. The Bible promises us that individual Jews who respond to the "ministry of reconciliation" (2Corinthians 5:18-20) and turn to the Lord will have that veil of blindness removed (2Corinthians 3:14-16; Jeremiah 29:12, 13).

Not only were the Jews blinded to their Messiah, but because of the hatred and persecution the Jews suffered in the name of Jesus, a demonic spirit of anti-Christ became part of the Jewish identity. This spirit has convinced the Jewish people that they could believe anything except believing that Jesus is the Messiah and remain part of the Jewish community. This spirit taught – and the Jewish people accepted it as truth – that if a Jew believed that Jesus is the Messiah or that Jesus is God incarnate, that belief turned a Jew into a "Christian," which means that he/she is a heretic, an apostate, an idolater, and above all a "non-Jew."

Of course the absurdity of that doctrine (as are all doctrines of demons once you really begin to examine them) is that one's beliefs do not affect their ethnicity. A descendant of Abraham remains his descendant regardless of what they believe. One's beliefs do not affect their DNA! You have today, as you did in Jesus' day, Jews who believe many diverse things about God and Judaism. These beliefs range from the ultra-orthodox to radical atheists, yet they are all considered Jews by the Jewish community. In order to claim citizenship in Israel you have to prove your ancestry, not pass a belief test, except when it comes to believing in Jesus. Messianic Jews have been denied Israeli citizenship.

So we see that two major demonic entities, anti-Semitism and anti-Christ, working in tandem, have formed an effective three-fold strategy:

First - they work to keep the Church separated from her Jewish roots and from her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people.

Second - they work through this separated and antagonistic Church to keep an authentic faith-producing testimony of Jesus away from the Jews.

Third - using these two strategies, they continue to hinder the Jewish people from believing in their own Messiah.

I believe that God has strategies to defeat this tandem and destroy its work. We must take the spiritual responsibility to intercede for the Church and for the Jewish people. We must take authority over these two major demonic principalities. They have exercised great influence in the Church and among the Jewish people for millennia. This is an intense and strenuous spiritual battle. Only a determined and anointed people who understand the nature of spiritual warfare and their own spiritual authority will win it.

The “tares” of anti-Semitism, with the fruit of suffering and death only resulted in the continual hardening of the Jewish heart toward Jesus. But God is raising up a new generation with **His** heart, **His** love and **His** power. The “wheat” is getting free from the historic influences of the “tares” and is coming to maturity. A loving, mature, unified, apostolic, and prophetic Church moving in a miracle-working anointing will be able to break down those strongholds. God is going to raise up such a Church, not only as an end-time jealousy-provoking witness to the Jewish people, but as the glorious bride made ready for her heavenly Groom! (Ephesians 5:27)

Hatred enabled the spirit of anti-Christ to ingrain itself in the Jewish consciousness, I believe the opposite is true. The Love of the Church in the name of Jesus can defeat that demon and eradicate its influence in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people. I see in my spirit the Holy Spirit moving throughout the authentic international Body of Christ, deeply touching hearts one at a time, inspiring and empowering His Church to repent and renounce its historic, and when exposed, its present anti-Semitism.

Building upon this foundation of repentance and renunciation, the Body of Christ will be further inspired and empowered to love the Jewish people in such profoundly powerful ways as to eradicate the effects of Christian anti-Semitism in their hearts and minds. Simply put, persecution wounded and closed the hearts of the Jews; love will heal and open them. There is ample evidence to prove this point as you read the testimonies of Jewish people who have come to faith in Yeshua as the Messiah. You find that when love has been shown toward a Jewish person they have been deeply touched and some have come to faith in their Messiah. May God make us people of love, Amen!

In my spirit I see the Lord moving through His Body in such dramatic, unprecedented, and profound ways that it will seem like an international “tsunami” of believers overflowing Israel and Jewish communities around the world with acts of repentance, love, and kindness, and undeniable demonstrations of the power of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying this “tidal wave” will be indisputable testimonies of lives changed by Jesus the Messiah. This will be the message coming from the Body of Christ to the Jewish people:

“Your Messiah has changed our lives. Your God has become our God and He has filled us with His great love for you. We are impelled by that love to proclaim the truth that changed our lives and set us free, Jesus is your Messiah!”

If Jewish people respond with “Jesus is not our Messiah,” we should tell them that God did not promise a Messiah to any other nation besides Israel. Only the Jews received such a promise.

By way of a practical strategy, what do you think the response of the Jewish world would be if it was flooded with testimonies of the reality of Jesus in the lives of individual believers from around the world? What would happen if every week or every month, believers from around the world sent a letter or an email to the Chief Rabbi of Israel, or the local rabbi or Jewish leader in their city, or to the many Jewish publications, testifying to them what the Messiah of Israel did in their life? What would the response of the Jewish community be to hearing what “their Messiah,” the despised and rejected Jesus, was doing in the lives of millions of gentile Christians around the world?

What if the testimonies enclosed a small love gift to support new immigrants to Israel, or various Jewish or Israeli charities, or for the defense of the land of Israel, or for building a hospital, or even a synagogue? Christians building synagogues instead of burning them! What a novel twist to history that would be! What do you think the response of the Jewish community would be? What if their response would be one of increasing curiosity and interest in investigating the claims of Jesus and the New Testament? What if their response was the opening of their hearts to a supernatural impartation of revelation faith so that they would come to know that Jesus-Yeshua is their long sought for Messianic King?

I pray that God would raise up such an army of believers and that the response to those testimonies would be hearts open for a revelation of Jesus. I believe that God desires to use many individuals, ministries, and churches around the world to help facilitate this.

A deeper look at Restoration #3

Because God loves the world and is not willing that any should perish (2Peter 3:9), we are also called to love, pray for, and testify to all nations (especially those hostile to the Jews) about God's purposes for them, as well as God's purposes for the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

As the Body of Christ is restored to her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people, we must understand our mandate to stand with the Jews against their enemies. As witnesses for the Messiah and as part of our prophetic mantle, the Body of Christ is called, equipped and anointed to testify to Israel's enemies about the plans and purposes of the God of Israel as revealed in the Scriptures. This is also a part of fulfilling "the great commission" (Mark 16:15; Romans 16:25-26). It is no coincidence that the majority of the "10-40 window" of unevangelized nations is under the sway of the spirit of Islam. 865 million Muslims live in that part of the world. The spirit of Islam is a major demonic principality that actively opposes the purposes of God for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.

Those who make themselves the enemies of the Jewish people must understand that by being Israel's enemy they are also making themselves the enemies of Israel's God. Those Muslims who fight against Israel and against America for its support of Israel are motivated by both religious beliefs and political ambition. They are focused not only on the destruction of the state of Israel, but their ultimate goal is the Islamization of the world. Because of the demonic spiritual realities that are behind their beliefs, we must pray for the Muslims, love them, and testify to them of the truth of the Gospel. We must also proclaim to them the Biblical revelations and prophetic declarations that God has made to the Jewish people. We must be a witness to them about God's ownership of the land of Israel (Leviticus 25:23), the city of Jerusalem (1Kings 11:36), and how He has covenanted that land and that city to the Jewish people as an eternal inheritance (Leviticus 20:24; Isaiah 60:21). Because this is a spiritual battle, only the Holy Spirit can reveal these truths to them. Until He does we must continue to pray and proclaim.

The Bible clearly speaks about those who would become God's enemy. Those who curse Israel will be cursed, and those who bless Israel will be blessed (Genesis 12:1). History has proven this over and over again. All of Israel's ancient enemies are gone, and Israel lives! Haman, Nebuchadnezzar, Pharaoh, and their kind are all gone, and Israel lives! Those kings, popes, bishops, preachers, inquisitors, and their kind who sought Israel's demise are all gone, yet Israel lives! Hitler and Stalin are gone, and Israel lives! Hussain and Arafat are gone, and Israel lives! Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic Brotherhood, Al Qaeda, and all those who hate Israel will be gone, and Israel will live! God makes it perfectly clear that Israel is an eternal nation whose King will rule and reign over the whole earth from Israel's capital city, Jerusalem (Jeremiah 31:31-37; Zechariah 14:7-9,11; Ezekiel 37:24; 1Kings 11:13)

Again, by way of practical strategy, what would the response of the Muslim world be if millions of Christians around the world similarly flooded them with texts, emails, social media posts, and even hand written letters that testify of Jesus and then humbly and lovingly affirm that the land of Israel, and the city of Jerusalem, belongs to the Jews because the God of the Christians and the Jews has declared it to be so in His Holy Scriptures. The Koran in Surah 29:46 teaches Moslems to respect the Bible. My prayer is that they would be deeply challenged to reexamine what they now believe, read the Bible for themselves, come to faith in Jesus, and love the Jewish people. I believe that one of God's end-time strategies is to turn Muslims into Christians who love Jews!

An explosion of support of this kind would be a tremendous testimony and a great source of comfort to the Jewish people. The world press would certainly take notice of it, especially if the flood of correspondence jammed up the international lines of communication. Can you imagine the leaders of the world asking the international Christian community to please stop all the texts, emails, and letters because we were overloading the system? That would be a day of great victory for the Kingdom of God! Lord make it so, Amen!

Part 2

An Appointed Time for Healing Love Why now?

In December of 1990, I had a profound encounter with the Lord in prayer. He spoke very clearly into my spirit of His intention to reconcile the Church to her Jewish roots and to the Jewish people. These were the exact words He said:

“I intend to accomplish Four Reconciliations:

1. I intend to Reconcile the Church to her Jewish roots.
2. I intend to Reconcile the Church to the Jewish people.
3. I intend to Reconcile the Jewish people to their Messiah, and
4. I intend to Reconcile the Messiah to planet Earth.”

Immediately after He spoke this, He began to show me these four reconciliations in various Scriptures. It was a life-changing experience as I felt in some small way what it must have been like for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus to have the Messiah open the Scriptures to them. This happened very early in the morning, and later on I shared with Janet what the Lord said. We began to pray and fast about what this meant and what we were to do about it.

During one afternoon of prayer we both received revelation about the spiritual warfare we were going to encounter. I had a vision of the two of us in a small boat in the ocean with a huge storm coming our way. In the vision I heard the Lord say to me, “Raise your sails and sail into the storm.” When I said to the Lord, “The Bible says when a wise man sees trouble coming, he hides himself,” He then said to me, “Lift up your sails; you are heading into a storm.” At the same time that I was seeing this, Janet had a vision also. She was escorted by two angels down a long staircase into a very dark place. Then she saw what looked like a gym where extremely muscular enormous demonic creatures were working out. “Who are they?” she asked. One of the angels answered, “They are the demonic spirits that fight against anyone who works on behalf of God's purposes for Israel and the Jewish people.”

A short time later, we entered that storm and faced those demonic forces. We encountered one of the greatest spiritual battles we ever experienced. It affected every aspect of our lives: family, health, finances, ministry relationships, etc. Because we set our hearts to obey the Lord, we eventually came through that extremely difficult time victoriously. Through that intense battle, we learned many things and gained much insight and understanding into the demonic nature of this conflict. Over the years we have been able to help others who have heard the call of the Lord to labor on behalf of God's prophetic purposes for Israel and the Jewish people. In fact, we have found that this battle unfolds in the lives of virtually everyone who joins in this move of the Spirit. If you are encountering new levels of demonic resistance, please do not be discouraged and don't take it personally. It is not about you! It just means that you are moving forward, going through the gates of the enemy and taking ground for the Kingdom of God (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 4:1-18).

Psalm 102:13-18

One of the key Scriptures the Lord opened to me was Psalm 102:13-18.

“You shall arise, and have mercy on Zion; for the time to pity her, yea, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in its stones, and pity its dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth your glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. He will turn to the prayer of the forsaken and not despise their prayer. This is written for the generation to come; and the people who shall be created shall praise the LORD.”

We begin to understand these extremely significant verses by looking at verse 18 first. Most English Bibles translate verse 18 to read “a generation to come, or a future generation.” These are not accurate translations. The Hebrew word translated “future” is “*ah-char-own*” and should be translated “end” or “last.” So it should read “last (or final) generation.” So we can see that these verses are written for the “last generation.” In other words, when we see the previous verses coming to pass, we can know that we are in the “last days” because as the text says, this is written for the “*ah-char-own*.”

In order to understand these verses, or even the entire concept of the “last days,” you must first understand the context in which God is relating to the nation of Israel. We read about this in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), we learn the story of God's covenant with Israel. God made covenantal promises to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and after delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He entered into covenant relationship with them as a nation at Mount Sinai. Through the ministry of Moses, God gave them His Torah (literally “instructions”) and His commandments. In these books of the Torah, God declared the conditions of the covenant. He told the Jewish people that if they kept His commandments they would be blessed “*above all the people on the earth*” (Deuteronomy 7:14), and He would give them “*His land forever*” (Gen. 17:8, 48:4).

Please pay special attention to this fact. The land of Israel belongs to God! It does not belong to the Jews, or the Arabs, or anyone else (Leviticus 25:23; 2 Chronicles 7:20). However, God warned the Jewish people that if they disobeyed His Torah and broke His commandments they would be cursed. Part of that curse would be their expulsion from the land of Israel and their scattering and persecution among the nations (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28). However God promised, and repeated that promise through Israel's prophets, that He would never allow the Jewish people to be completely destroyed (for example see Jeremiah 31:35-37). He said that at the “end of the age,” He would have “compassion” on them and re-gather them to their land and ultimately to David their King (Isaiah 43:5, 54:7; Jeremiah 30:9, 31:10, 32:37; Ezekiel 20:34, 34:23,24 37:24,25; Hosea 3:5).

Verse 13 tells us that in the “final generation,” or the “last days,” God Himself will rise up and have “mercy or compassion on Zion.” These expressions “mercy or compassion on Zion,” are what I call “prophetic clues.” We, as “spiritual detectives,” must understand these prophetic clues. Proverbs 25:2 says that “*it is the glory of God to hide a matter, and the glory of kings to search it out.*” Since we are presently seated in heavenly places with the King (Ephesians 2:6), are called to ultimately sit on His throne with Him (Revelation. 3:21) and are commanded to search the Scriptures (John 5:39), we have the authority to be those “spiritual detectives” and receive insight and understanding. We can all know what the will of God is and what our individual responsibilities are as we endeavor to fulfill it. I believe that we will gain spiritual insight into the days in which we are living and be enabled to truly “*know the Lord and do exploits*” for Him (Daniel 11:32).

After the destruction of the temple in 70 AD and for the next almost 1900 years, the Jewish people were scattered to the four corners of the earth and suffered many things. But God in His sovereignty determined the boundaries of their scattering and their suffering. He did not allow them to be destroyed completely in the

Holocaust, and in 1948 God began to have compassion upon His ancient people. Out of the ashes of the death camps the modern state of Israel was born. The international regathering of the Jewish people began.

Overcoming all natural odds, this vastly outnumbered fledgling nation of war-ravaged death-camp survivors and early Zionist pioneers defeated the combined armed forces of the surrounding Arab nations. Slowly the land was reclaimed and prophecies began to be fulfilled. The desert began to “bloom as a rose” (Isaiah.35:1, 2). It is true that those who returned were mostly secular socialists, not repenting believers, but their heart was turned toward Zion (Psalm 84:5). A door of hope in the valley of trouble was opened (Hosea 2:15). Jews from many nations began to return to the land, and that return continues to this day.

In June of 1967, Israel fought the famous Six Day War and was once again victorious over multinational Arab armies. (Do you see the “clue” here: What else happened in only six days?) During those six days Israel not only decisively defeated her enemies, she nearly doubled her land size and, even more significantly, fulfilled one of the major end-time prophecies that Jesus Himself proclaimed in Luke 21:24. He declared that *“Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles are fulfilled.”* For the first time since 70 A.D., the Jewish people had governmental sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount.

The leaders of Israel at that time understood all too well the political and religious significance of the Temple Mount (with its Dome of the Rock shrine and Al Aqsa mosque) for the international Islamic world. Seeking to circumvent the hatred of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world, they immediately returned authority over the Temple Mount to the Islamic leaders. Having just won a tremendous victory, Israel did not want to start an international holy war.

However, Jerusalem and the area around the temple mount were under Jewish rule. This is a very important sign of the times and a significant clue about the days in which we live. Could it be that the “times of the gentiles” began to come to an end in 1967, and we began to move into a new season that we can call “the times of the Jews?” I believe so! Most Christians are unaware of the fact that after June of 1967, the Holy Spirit began to move around the earth revealing to young Jewish men and women that Jesus/Yeshua really is the Jewish Messiah. If you look around the Body of Christ today, you will find that the vast majority of Jewish believers came to faith in Yeshua after June of 1967.

I think it would be true to say that there are more Jewish leaders in the Body of Christ today than in any time since the first century. Before June of 1967 there were few, if any, Messianic Jewish congregations in the world; perhaps one or two in Israel. Today there are over 100 indigenous Hebrew-speaking Messianic congregations in Israel and hundreds of others around the world. Additionally there are hundreds of ministries teaching the Jewish roots of Christian faith. This is another testimony to the season the Church is in. Of course the “times of the gentiles” are certainly not over. The Gospel has not yet permeated all the nations of the world as it must before Jesus can return (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10). But God is moving on behalf of and among the Jewish people, just as He is in the nations of the world.

Psalm 102:14 declares that during the time when God begins to have mercy on the Jewish people something begins to happen to the Body of Christ. The text says that God’s *“servants will have compassion on Zion’s stones and feel pity for her dust.”* On the day that the Lord opened these verses to me, He told me that the servants spoken of here are His true disciples. They are the ones who only want to do His will as His true servants. Since 1990, I have been privileged to witness thousands of believers respond to God’s healing love for Israel and the Jewish people as the Holy Spirit reveals the Father’s heart to them. Christians from every nation are having *“compassion on Zion’s stones”* as they respond to that revelation. They are reaching out in prayer and diverse ways of expressing that compassion to Israel, understanding that *Zion’s stones* refer to living Jewish people, not rocks and ancient huge stone blocks.

They are also feeling “*pity for her dust*” as they learn the horrific history of Christian anti-Semitism. They are recognizing that the dust spoken of here refers to Jewish people who were persecuted and killed in the name of Jesus. We continually see meetings where the Body of Christ is expressing deep remorse for the sins of the Church toward the Jewish people. They are renouncing the demonic spirits that inspired that persecution, and is demonstrating their repentance by renewed dedication to stand with the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

This is often done at a great price as they face the anti-Semitism that is still in many churches and ministries as well as in the world. We know of story after story of people who have been “excommunicated” from their churches and even from some families because they choose to stand with the Jews. They understand that the price they pay to stand with God for the fulfillment of His present prophetic purposes is insignificant compared to the glory and honor they bring to the Lord and will share in on the great day (2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

In further fulfillment of verse 14, as believers receive revelations about God's heart and purposes for Israel and the Jewish people, they are inspired to learn more about the Jewish roots of their faith. Since 1990, there has been a growing worldwide movement within the Body of Christ to learn about, and be restored to, Biblical Jewish roots and to Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. Before 1990, there were a few scattered ministries involved in this work. Now there are hundreds. Before 1990, the Jewish roots of the Christian faith message was something that very few Christians had ever heard of, let alone learned about, or taught.

Today, however, it is not unusual at all to find people in every part of the Body of Christ learning about these truths and expressing them in some form or another. Churches around the world are learning Hebraic forms of worship and praise; they are blowing Shofars, wearing prayer shawls, learning about the prophetic significance of God's Calendar seen in the Feasts of the Lord (Leviticus 23), and celebrating those Feasts in a New Covenant context. They are coming to a new understanding of the Torah, the “Jewishness” of Jesus, and the Jewish faith and practices of the earliest church.

As Psalm 102 continues to open for us, we see that as God has mercy on Zion and His servants follow His example, something wonderful happens in all of the nations of the earth. Verse 15 tells us, “*The nations will fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth your glory.*” You can follow the history of world-wide evangelism and see that after the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948, there was a parallel increase in world evangelism that continues to this day. There is more mission work going on now than at any time since the first few centuries of the Christian era!! This follows the pattern Paul reveals in Romans 1:16, and 2:9,10, “*To the Jew first, then to the nations.*” As God has mercy on Zion, so He also has mercy on all people. As God turns His heart of compassion on Israel, so He also does this to the whole earth.

As an aside to this—but something to keep your eyes on as we watch the “signs of the times”—it is important to recognize that there is a very close parallel between what God does with natural Israel and what He does in the Church. In the 1890's and early 1900's there was a parallel between major outpourings of the Holy Spirit upon the Body of Christ and the emergence of modern Zionism. At the same time that Theodore Hertzl was birthing the Zionist movement and proclaiming that Israel would become a nation once again, there were major outpourings of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Pentecostal movement began in the United States and the famous Welsh Revival began in the British Isles. Both of those outpourings changed the Church forever, even as the movement for the eventual establishment of the state of Israel changed the history of the Jews and of the world.

Study the major events of Jewish history, and you will find parallel major events in the history of the Church, and of the world. For example, during the same general period of time that the Jews were expelled from

Spain (1492), Columbus discovered America, the printing press was invented (1450) starting the process of making the Bible available to everyone, and Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 theses to the door of the Wittenburg castle-church, sparking the Protestant reformation (1517).

The Charismatic Renewal, which has powerfully influenced believers around the world began in 1967, the same year that Jerusalem came under Jewish sovereignty, and God began to bring many young Jewish people to faith in the Messiah. The Jewish roots movement began in earnest in the early 1990's, the same time that the first Gulf war started and the Internet began its major public expansion. There are many more such "coincidences" in history.

Consider that Daniel 12:4 identifies the expansion of knowledge and travel as one of the signs of the "end of the age." Both of these are expanding at phenomenal rates. Consider also the increase of spiritual activity in the world as the Gospel is impacting whole nations as it spreads at unparalleled rates in Africa, South America and China. Islam is also growing rapidly, and sadly so is its terrorist offspring. Religion as a political issue is at the forefront of politics around the world, and interest in the person of Jesus is increasing. We see Him and religious issues on the cover of major news magazines and witness the stunning box office success of movies like Mel Gibson's "The Passion." Time magazine of March 24, 2008, declared that one of the ten ideas that are changing the world is the "re-Judaizing of Jesus."

As you "watch and pray," pay close attention to the parallels and interconnections between significant events taking place in Israel, in the Body of Christ worldwide, and in the world—the way they confluence together constitutes more "prophetic clues" to what God is doing in our generation. Be careful how you understand and interpret these "signs." There were those in previous generations who interpreted events to mean that Jesus would return in their time. They made bad decisions because of their misunderstanding. Jesus said that one of the hallmarks of the end of the age would be rampant deception (Matthew 24:4-5). We must be very cautious as we seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in the days ahead (1Thessalonians 5:19-21).

So we see that Psalm 102:13-15 outlines three prophetic events we are now watching come to pass:

- (1) God is having mercy on Zion,
- (2) The Church is returning to her Jewish roots and to her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people, and
- (3) World evangelism is increasing.

I believe that verse 16 is one of the most powerful revelatory verses in the entire Bible because it shows us the direct connection between those three events and the second coming of Jesus. It ties the three previous verses together in such a way as to show us that these three moves of God are part and parcel of what He means by the expression "builds up Zion." So what happens when God finishes this process? What happens when He has finished building up Zion? He makes this most amazing declaration in verse 16:

"He Himself will appear in His Glory!!"

This is nothing less than the literal return of Jesus!!!

It is any wonder the devil so fiercely fights everything and anything that relates to God's purposes for the Church and the Jewish people.

PART 3

SATAN'S MASTER PLAN TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF JESUS

DEATH OR ASSIMILATION

Satan has a long history of trying to prevent God's plans from coming to fulfillment. He attempted to take God's throne from Him, but was cast out from heaven (Isaiah 14:12-15). He deceived Adam and Eve, but he heard his final end prophesied when God spoke the first Messianic prophecy which declared that his head would be bruised by the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). He tried to keep the Jewish people in slavery, but God sent Moses to set His people free (Exodus 3). He sought to prevent the Jewish people from entering and conquering the Promised Land but all their enemies were defeated (Psalm 78:54-55). Balaam's attempts at cursing Israel, so Balak could defeat them, were turned into a blessing (Numbers 22:12; Deuteronomy 23:5).

A demonic prince tried to stop the prophet Daniel from receiving major messianic prophecies and end-time revelations, but was not successful (Daniel 10:12-14). The devil sought to end the life of Jesus in infancy by slaughtering innocent children (Matthew 2:16). He attempted to destroy the ministry of Jesus before it began with the temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). When Peter tried to hinder Jesus from going to the cross, Jesus identified the spirit that was actually in operation when he rebuked Peter by speaking directly to Satan (Matthew 16:23). Satan was able to hinder Paul from going to be with the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2:18). Paul also warned us not to be ignorant of the devil's methods as he seeks to hinder us (2 Corinthians 2:11).

The devil knows that when Jesus returns he will be utterly defeated and destroyed. He will be bound for 1000 years and ultimately thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20: 2, 10). Because of this, he has historically used, and presently continues to use, every kind of strategy and tactic he can to prevent the second coming of the Messiah. But all of those attempts are in vain because the Word of God cannot fail (Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35), and the coming of the King Of Kings is as "*certain as the dawn*" (Hosea 6:1-3, see also Psalm 96:13, 98:9, 102:1-6; Micah 1:3, 4; Zechariah 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

In Acts 3:21, Peter proclaimed a pivotal part of God's plan for the return of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit revealed that Jesus would "*remain in heaven until the time for the restoration of all things that the prophets have spoken.*" Satan, who always listens when the Word of God is preached so he can steal it (Matthew 13:18; Mark 4:15), heard this prophetic message and conceived a plan that he thought would keep Jesus in heaven forever. If he could somehow, or someway, cause the failure of the Prophets' words, Jesus would never be able to return and his present influence over humanity would continue forever (Matthew 4:8; 1 John 5:19). He understood clearly what Peter was prophesying. If the words of the prophets do not come to pass, if what they prophesied is not fulfilled, then Jesus can never return and destroy him and his kingdom.

The Bible is very clear in its declaration that the Word of God cannot be broken (John 10:35). It is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89) and it will accomplish all that God intends (Isaiah 46:10). Jesus said that everything written in the Hebrew Scriptures would be fulfilled (Matthew 5:18). Jesus also said (thereby asserting His deity) that His own words were eternal: "*Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words will never pass away*" (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). God's Word must be fulfilled. His plans will come to pass. Prophesying through the mouths of His prophets what will happen and then bringing it to pass is one of the ways in which the God of Israel proves that He, and only He, is the one true God (Isaiah 41:22-23, 45:21).

So what did the prophets speak? What are the divine prophecies and promises whose fulfillment Satan so desperately seeks to thwart? The essential message of the Hebrew Scriptures is that God entered into a covenant with the Jewish people. He brought them, as a nation, into a relationship with Himself (Deuteronomy 4:7), and He gave them His land, the land of Israel as an everlasting inheritance (Leviticus 25:23; 2Chronicles 7:20; Ezekiel 38:16; Joel 1:6, 3:2). Through His servant Moses, God told the Jewish people that the penalty for their disobedience to His commandments would be exile from the land, international dispersion, and great suffering among the “*goyim*” - the nations (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28).

But Moses and the prophets God repeatedly sent to the Jewish people also declared that God would not allow His covenant people to be destroyed (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Jeremiah 31:35-37). In the last days, at the end of this age, God promised to have compassion upon the scattered and persecuted children of Israel and regather them back to their land and to “David” their King. (Psalm 102:13; Deuteronomy 30; Hosea 3:5; Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24). “David” here is a reference to Jesus, King David’s greatest descendant, the Messianic King whom God promised would sit upon David’s throne forever (1Chronicles 17:11-14).

Throughout history, the devil has tried to prevent the fulfillment of these prophetic promises to the Jewish people and He continues today. He is seeking to divide the land of Israel, create a sovereign Palestinian state, and use that state to destroy the nation of Israel. If he is able to do that the Jews would have no land to return to and again, the prophetic Scriptures would fail, and Jesus would not be able to return.

He understands that the present regathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is part of the “*restoration of all things*” spoken of in Acts 3:21. He knows what the fulfillment of God’s promises means. He understands very well what will happen to him when the words of the prophets are fulfilled and Messiah Jesus returns! All of the demons in the world know it, and fear it, as they should (Matthew 8:29). When Messiah returns the devil and all of the demons with him will be bound for a thousand years (Revelation 20:2-3) and then ultimately thrown into the Lake of Fire where they will be tormented forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

From my studies of the Scriptures and research of Jewish history, as well as my own experiences with God as a Jewish believer in Yeshua, I have come to understand that Satan has devised two main strategies in his attempts to stop the words of the prophets from coming to pass and thereby prevent the Messiah from returning.

Satanic Strategy #1:

A) Kill all the Jews.

If Satan could succeed in killing all the Jewish people, there obviously would be none for God to regather to the land of Israel. Simply put, if there are no Jews alive, then there is no one to regather, the words of the prophets fail, and Jesus would have to remain in heaven. This is why throughout history Satan has sought for opportunities to kill the Jewish people. This, of course, is what he attempted to complete in the Holocaust. Hitler’s rise from obscurity to absolute dictatorial power over life and death, his incredible ability to mesmerize an entire country and turn “cultured people” into cold blooded murderers dedicated to the systematic extermination of every single Jewish man, woman and child, can ultimately be explained only by recognizing Nazism as a manifestation of raw satanic power and deception.

This is also more clearly understood when you realize that Nazi doctrines were deeply rooted in the occult. One of the occult doctrines they believed was that the world was once ruled by a race of “Aryan Supermen,” from whom the German people descended. These “Aryan Supermen” were physically perfect and had

various kinds of mystical powers, like telepathy. Because these “Aryans” mixed their blood with inferior races, particularly the Jews, they lost their superhuman abilities, and the world was plunged into darkness. If the German people could purge themselves of the blood of inferior races, then their original Aryan blood could be restored, and they would once again regain those powers and rule the world bringing true peace, harmony, and prosperity. This is one reason that mass murder was so easy for them.

The present fanatical Islamic goal to destroy the nation of Israel and “drive the Jews into the sea” is the latest manifestation of Satan’s attempt to nullify the Scriptures. Fanatical Islamic anti-Semitism is not fundamentally a hatred of the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, although that is what individuals might actually be thinking and feeling. Hiding behind the guise of radical Islamic doctrines and political ideologies are demonic spirits attempting to prevent the return of Jesus! It is this spirit that has motivated their historic enmity towards the Jewish people. It was manifested in their war against the establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948, and it is the driving force behind all the Middle East wars and terror attacks.

The Scripture declares that Jesus, who was, and still is, rejected by the vast majority of Jewish people, must be received by them (Zechariah 12:10-11; Romans 11:15). The Jewish people must invite Jesus to return, they must call to him, “*Baruch HaBa B’shem Adonoi*”- *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*” (Matthew 23:39) before He will physically return to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4) and set up His international Kingdom headquarters in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:14). If Israel were to be destroyed or if there are no Jews alive to repent of their national unbelief and receive the rejected Messiah, the words of the prophets and the promises of God would have failed, and the Lord Jesus would be unable to return.

B) Assimilate the Jews

As with any people group that is living as a minority within a foreign culture, the Jewish people were, and in many aspects still are, living under a pressure to become like the people they live among. What has been different about the Jews is the fact that they were historically put under uniquely intense coercive pressures to abandon their ancient covenant faith, reject their ethnic identity as Jews, and “convert” to the religion of Christianity. This would, in effect, mean that they would become gentiles. Failing to kill the Jewish people, assimilation is a choice that Satan will accept, because if there are no people who would identify as Jews, the Scriptures regarding them would similarly fail to be fulfilled, and Jesus would not be able to return.

Messianic Judaism is a prophetic response to this pressure. It gives Jewish people an opportunity to live and identify themselves as Jews, while believing in Jesus.

If the Church leaders who in their ignorance and pride were behind those pressures to compel the Jews to lose their national identity by forced conversion or cultural assimilation had even a basic understanding of what the Apostle Paul taught in Romans 11, they would never have acted in arrogance toward the Jewish people. They would have understood the revelation the apostle gave to the Church in that amazing chapter. It was the plan of God for the Jewish rejection of Jesus to be the means by which the gentiles would inherit the spiritual riches of Messiah’s salvation, and then for those same gentiles to demonstrate those riches as a testimony to stir the Jewish people to spiritual jealousy.

However, instructed by doctrines of demons and inflamed to hatred by the activities of those same evil spirits, the Church was manipulated to repeated persecution of the Jewish people instead of loving them. Instead of inspiring the Jewish people to faith in their own Messiah, they drove them away from Him at the point of a sword. The Church’s vicious hatred of the Jews caused them to bond together in ever-stronger ways to resist the enormous pressures to “convert” to the “religion” of their persecutors or to assimilate into their cultures.

In addition to the historic pressures to “convert” to “Christianity,” there was and still is in operation the much more subtle and pervasive dynamics of assimilation that, over time, simply cause people groups to melt into one another as generations intermarry and adopt the various cultural norms present in every society. It is a testimony to their supernatural calling and destiny that of all the people in the history of the world who have been exiled and scattered, only the Jews have maintained their distinct national identity during their almost two thousand year banishment among the nations.

I believe that the cultural and religious cohesiveness of the Jewish people cannot be attributed to merely natural causes. There is a divine passion speaking into the heart of the Jewish people that says, “I was born a Jew, and I will die a Jew.” The same God who scattered them declared that the Jewish people would remain a unique nation forever. The immutability of their national identity is a testimony to the veracity of God’s promises. God declared that He would fulfill His prophetic purposes for His ancient covenant people. The Jews as a people, and Israel as a nation, are eternal and indestructible (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

Jews from the nations of the world are being re-gathered to their ancient homeland according to the words of the prophets. The Jews from the West, primarily America and Britain, will be impelled to leave their comfortable lifestyles and return to the land of Israel. If it takes outbreaks of violent anti-Semitism, such as never seen in America, spurred perhaps by Mid-East conflicts, terrorist attacks or war using weapons of mass destruction, massive international financial depressions, or perhaps a phenomenal supernatural move of the Holy Spirit that inspires masses of Jews to leave, the Jews of the West will return to the land of Israel. God said it would happen (Isaiah 43:5; Hosea 11:10; Zechariah 8:7), and it will. Watch for it! It will be a major sign of the imminence of the Lord’s return.

If Satan had succeeded in his attempts to assimilate the Jewish people, the results would have been the same as if he had managed to kill all the Jews. When the time came for the Lord to regather His people, there would be no one who would identify themselves as Jews. The words of the prophets would fail to be fulfilled, and Jesus would remain in heaven forever.

Satanic Strategy #2: Use the Church as an instrument of death and assimilation.

These dual strategies of death and assimilation represent the first aspect of Satan’s plan to prevent the return of Jesus. The second part of his plan is even more insidious than the first, because it seeks to use the Church to prevent the return of her own Lord. This is the ultimate spiritual irony.

The true Church, made up of redeemed people from the nations of the earth, is called to live and love as the very Body of Christ in the world. Called to be conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29), they are the people who are supposed to lovingly obey their Lord, do His will, and manifest His life, love, and power in the world. They are the people who are commanded to love their Lord, their neighbors, and even their own enemies (Matthew 5:43-44). The Body of Christ is called to be the representative of Jesus, to be His very own disciples, reflecting by their words and deeds His love, His character, His holiness, His faith, His joy, and His power. Indeed they are the people called to emulate and demonstrate the true person of Jesus the Messiah (2 Corinthians 5:20).

One of the most important, yet least understood and unfulfilled missions of the Church is to provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy (Romans 11:11, 14). The Apostle Paul recognized the prophetic significance of Deuteronomy 32:21 for the Church when he made the clear declaration in Romans 10:19 that God intends to use the gentile believers from the nations of the world, “*a people who are not a people,*” to fulfill that Scripture. Deuteronomy 32:21 also predicts that God would provoke the Jewish people to anger with a “*foolish nation.*” The historic predominantly gentile “Christian Church,” in rejecting its Jewish roots and its Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people, became that “foolish nation.”

How satanically and bitterly ironic is it that the Church, which was called to be the voice of redemptive love and the light of joyous salvation to the nations, became for the Jewish people an instrument of vile hatred, intense persecution, and death. Creating the spiritual and cultural soil for the seeds of Nazism to take root, the anti-Semitic doctrines and practices of the Church eventually led to the systematic murder of six million Jewish men, women, and children. The vicious and violent history of the Church toward the Jews has understandably created within the Jewish corporate consciousness an entrenched and pervasive mindset of rejection and hostility toward the “Christian religion” and its “founder” Jesus Christ.

But God has a plan to bring the Jewish people to faith in the despised and rejected Jesus. The plan has never changed, and it will be fulfilled one day (perhaps in our lifetime!). In Matthew 23:39, Jesus told the Jewish people that they would not see Him again until they said to Him, “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*” Please pay close attention to the order of events here: the “**saying**” precedes the “**seeing**.” You (the Jewish people) will not see me (Jesus) again until you say (to me): “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*” In Romans 11:15, Paul teaches that when the Jewish people repent of their corporate and historic rejection of Jesus and receive Him as their Messiah, it will be “*life from the dead.*” I believe this is a reference to the resurrection of the dead that occurs when Jesus returns (1Thessalonians 4:14-17). Zechariah the prophet saw the day when God Himself will pour upon all Israel a supernatural revelation that Jesus is really the Messiah, Israel calls for HIM to return, and Messiah Yeshua gloriously appears (Zechariah 12:10, 14:1-4; Matthew 23:39; Romans 11:15, 26).

The Jews receiving Jesus as their Messiah will be the final event ushering in His return. This is why Satan has fought it so intensely and continues to do so. This highlights why anti-Semitism is such an insidious satanic strategy. The devil has set up an enormous smoke screen for the vast majority of Christians. Believers have often failed to follow the trail of clues given to us as we study both the Scriptures and history. These clues help us to pierce through the many layers of deception perpetrated by various anti-Semitic demonic doctrines. We often fail to understand the prophetic purposes of God and His strategy for accomplishing those purposes. Christians have often failed to understand the profound prophetic importance of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. The Jewish people are the central prophetic players in the end-time scenario that culminates in the return of their Messiah and King, Jesus.

While many Christians fail to see this connection, Satan knows it all too well and fights to keep it hidden in as many different ways as he can. So many Churches, ministers, and individual believers have different theological positions on the Jews and the nation of Israel. Consider your own beliefs about the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. What have you been taught? What do you think is the right attitude towards them? Are they just like any other people? Is Israel the same as any other nation? Or has God “chosen” the Jews for a particular purpose?

Current financial concerns, political pressures, and cultural issues all combine to influence how many Christians relate to Israel and the Jewish people. And sad as it is to say, far too many Christians are more influenced by those dynamics than they are by the Scriptures. In the world today, these three areas — finances, politics and culture — are all built upon unbiblical philosophies, values and worldviews and, in many ways are the idols of our societies. We look to our money, our political leaders, and the latest cultural influence for our security and guidance instead of looking to the one true living God. When seen from this perspective, it is easy to understand how uninformed believers can unknowingly be used by Satan in his attempt to thwart the purposes of God.

Only the true Body of Christ, the international community of authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus, will have the spiritual strength and discernment to resist the demonic pressures brought by intense financial, political, and cultural coercions and intimidations. Satan is using these as part of his latest strategy to stop the true Body of Christ from being in proper Biblical relationship to the Jewish people. This is why it is so important for believers to understand that the real spirit behind anti-Semitism is the spirit of anti-Christ. Only when we

understand what the spirit of anti-Semitism is and what it really seeks to accomplish, can we rise up in “righteous indignation” and throw out any influence it has in our lives personally and in the Body of Christ at large.

Most people, and far too many Christians, believe that anti-Semitism is merely a natural sociological, economic, cultural, or historical phenomenon. They have no idea about the real spiritual dynamics behind it. Far too many Christians do not understand that any time they allow themselves to harbor any anti-Semitic thoughts and feelings, they are allowing the spirit of anti-Christ that is seeking to prevent the return of Jesus to influence their lives! When the Church acts speaks or even thinks in ways that are anti-Semitic or ‘Judeophobic,’ (i.e. a fear of Jewish people, Jewish things, or Judaism), she is aligning herself with her own enemies and the enemies of the Lord Jesus Himself. When the Church does not rise up in righteous indignation against Israel’s enemies and conduct herself with jealousy provoking love, mercy, and power toward the Jewish people, she is actually working to prevent the return of her own Lord. How many Christians would be shocked to read such a thing? Far too many, I think.

I am not talking about passing negative thoughts or feelings about a particular situation involving Jewish people or about an individual Jew or something the state of Israel does or fails to do. The problem arises when those thoughts and feelings develop into something much deeper and more pervasive in our souls. They open us up to the spirit of anti-Semitism that prevents us from loving and supporting the Jewish people as a testimony to them of what the Lord Jesus has done in our lives. Our hearts harden, and we fail to show them mercy and forgiveness as we have received that from the Lord. The spirit of anti-Semitism, like all other demonic spirits of racial pride and prejudice, is a malicious cruel spirit. Whenever and wherever it can get a foothold, it will eventually produce these three fruits of its own demonic nature: hatred, persecution and death. History is replete with horrific stories of the manifestations of that spirit in the lives of individuals, churches, and nations.

Is there anti-Semitism, or Judeophobia, affecting you? Have you ever considered that those negative thoughts and feelings about the Jews could be coming from demonic spirits? Test the spirits to see if they are from God (1John 4:1). Ask the Lord to show you if anti-Semitic spiritual forces are influencing you. Ask Him to shine the light of His Spirit upon your heart (Psalm 26:2; 51:7). If there is anti-Semitism there, repent and allow the Holy Spirit to root it out and replace it with the Father’s thoughts and feelings for His beloved Israel (Isaiah 49:16).

All racial bias and prejudices are ungodly. We are called to love all people. It is the Spirit of God who puts the Love of God for all people into our hearts (Romans 5:5). This divine love is one of the primary fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Someone who says that they are a “Christian” and does not have the love of God in their hearts for all people is deceived about their own spiritual condition. Christians who do not demonstrate love are spiritually immature (1John 4:20). As you seek the Lord about His love for the Jewish people and about His plans for them, you may be surprised at what He does in your heart. If you do not yet have the love of God in your heart for the Jewish people, you will! (Isaiah 49:15-16).

A word of caution is necessary here. Do not let your end-time theology (eschatology) influence your heart attitude toward the Jewish people. Throughout the history of the Church there have been proponents of various eschatological beliefs who had understanding of the role of the Jews in the return of Jesus, only “loved” the Jews with the motive to “convert” them in their misguided attempt hasten the second coming. When the Jews did not respond as they desired, their hearts turned against them, and new waves of persecution erupted. This is essentially what happened to Martin Luther. When the Jews did not respond to his “witness,” he became their enemy. Because of experiences like this Jewish people are very suspicious of Christians who say, “I love you.” They will test your motives and your beliefs. Do not connect your love for the Jewish people or the nation of Israel with your end-time theology. Love the Jewish people because you are loved by God and because you have His love in your heart for them. Show them the same mercy you

have received (Romans 11:31). Just as God's love for you is unconditional, so your love for them must be also.

Since it is true that we all only know in part (1Corinthians 13:9, 12), then it follows that our understanding of the fulfillment of end-time prophecies are also in part. Therefore we must have a humble, teachable attitude toward those prophecies, as well as our understanding of the prophetic meaning of present day events particularly those concerning the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. When teaching about His second coming, Jesus Himself said that *“no one knows the day or the hour, except the Father alone”* (Matthew 24:36); therefore, we must happily admit that there is much we do not know. We must be very careful when we attempt to force our theology upon events that are unfolding almost every day. Let us follow the advice of the prophet Micah to *“...do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God”* (Micah 6:8) and let the Father unfold His plan for the return of His Son as He will.

Please allow me to repeat and summarize. When members of the Body of Christ fail to walk in love toward the Jewish people, they fail to provide them with a loving testimony of the Lord Jesus. When the believers in Jesus fail to “testify” by their life, love, and power to the Jewish people of the reality of Jesus as the Messiah, they are actually hindering the return of the Lord. Jesus is waiting in heaven for the Jewish people to call for Him to return. They rejected Him at His first coming and now have to repent of that rejection and receive Him. They have to literally call him back to themselves. They have to cry to the one they rejected: *“Blessed is He who comes in the name of Lord.”* When Jesus hears that, He will leave heaven, raise the dead, return to Jerusalem, and establish His Kingdom reign over the entire earth! (Matthew 23:39; Luke 13:35; Romans 11.12, 15; 1Thessalonians 4:14-17; Zechariah 12:10, 14.4; Acts 1:11; Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2)

PART 4

Fighting This Spiritual Battle

If God is calling you into this kind of ministry, you must have a strategy for fighting in this spiritual battle. Remember that spiritual warfare is always conducted from the place of victory already attained for us. We are fighting a defeated enemy. All we are doing in our battles is administrating, implementing, and achieving the victory the Lord Jesus won on the cross (Colossians 2:15). Ephesians 1:20-22 and 2:6 teaches us that *“we are now seated with Christ in heavenly places far above all principalities and powers.”* The throne of God is the place from which you conduct your spiritual warfare. You don't look at your enemy eye to eye; you look down upon him from your place of authority. We have authority over all principalities and powers (Luke 10:19) because they are already a defeated foe (Colossians 2:15). All we have to do is exercise our authority and move ahead.

This is not to minimize the battle or the reality of satanic abilities. He will fight against you, he will resist you, and he will attempt to discourage you, or tempt you, or use any tactic that will work to stop you in this battle against anti-Semitism and bringing a loving testimony of Jesus to the Jewish people. As you use your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) and your various spiritual weapons (2 Corinthians 6:7, 10:4), you will find that you have authority over every demonic power and plan, and you can achieve the victory! (James 4:7). Choose to fight!

In Exodus 17:8-16 God gives us extremely important prophetic understanding for waging war against the spirit of anti-Semitism. Here we see a clear picture of the enemy, the battle, and strategies for victory. Moses was leading the nation of Israel toward the Promised Land when they came into conflict with an enemy, Amalek, the ruler of the Amalekites, a nomadic tribe that descended from Esau. Amalek was attempting to destroy the people of Israel before they could enter into covenant with God on Mt. Sinai and begin their

battle to conquer the Promised Land. This is yet another example of how Satan has attempted to prevent God's purposes from being fulfilled.

Joshua led his army into battle with the Amalekites while Moses, along with Aaron and Hur, stationed themselves on a hill overlooking the fighting. As long as Moses kept the "Rod of God" (the symbol of God's authority) over his head, Joshua's army was victorious. But as Moses' arms tired and the rod was lowered, the tide of the battle shifted, and Amalek gained the advantage. Moses then sat upon a stone while Aaron and Hur held up his arms, giving him the support he needed to keep the "Rod of God" lifted up. The place where the battle took place was called "Rephedim" or "Support" because Moses needed support to keep the rod of authority lifted high over the battle.

It is very important to understand that at the victorious conclusion of the battle, Moses built an altar and named it "*Jehovah Nissi*" – "*The Lord is my banner,*" because Moses understood that the "Rod of God" he held aloft was a banner in the spirit that brought the power of God to bear upon the battle and gave Israel the victory. This is one of the reasons we use banners, flags, staffs and other kinds of worship emblems in our praise, worship, and prophetic intercession. We wave our banners as prophetic proclamations that God will have the victory in the battles we face, His purposes will be established in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we intercede (Psalm 20:5, 60:4).

The rod Moses used was not only the prophetic symbol of his authority as God's representative, it was also used to demonstrate God's power for the fulfillment of His purposes (Exodus 4:17). When the rod was lifted up over the battle, God's authority was being exercised. The warriors were fighting under its covering. Understanding the spiritual lesson of being under God's authority is an extremely important truth for us all to learn. In the spiritual realm, the enemy knows when the people of God are under God's authority. When we are not, when God's Word and His Ways are not obeyed, when we desire something other than the fulfillment of His purposes, the demons will have the upper hand.

However, whenever the authority of the Lord is restored and we submit to His authority and seek for the establishment of the His Kingdom, the battle immediately turns, and we have victory. God in His wisdom has ordained this principle for spiritual warfare. He will not act sovereignly in the battle if we are a disobedient army in disarray because we are seeking to build our own "empires of self" to satisfy our own desires. Nor will He give the victory to those so called leaders who misuse their spiritual authority, intimidating, manipulating, and controlling people for their own selfish ends. The abuse of spiritual authority is a grave crime in the Kingdom. It brings the severest of penalties (Luke 12:46; Matthew 24:51).

Aaron and Hur's support kept the "Rod of God" lifted up and assured the Israelites eventual defeat of the Amalekites. Similarly, when we support each other in prayer, when we intercede for one another, we are lifting up the name of Jesus and the authority in that name, over and above all of the battles we face (Matthew 28:19; Luke 10:19; Ephesians 1:21; Colossians 2:10). Just as that ancient battle was fought until the sun set and victory was achieved, so we must have an attitude of perseverance, fighting without growing weary (Galatians 6:9), knowing that ultimately we will have the victory. When we are weary and we feel like our spiritual strength and authority is weakening, we need those "Aarons and Hurs" the Lord sends us. We also need to act like them for others. Aaron and Hur did not say to Moses, "We will pray for you." They climbed the hill and stood there alongside him holding up his arms. So we also must do what the Lord commands in each battle we face. "Aarons and Hurs" bring powerful support in many different ways, not only by their intercession and prayers, but also by their words, financial support, and other acts of encouragement. This solid spiritual principle is seen throughout the Bible, and its enormous power has been testified to by the saints of all the ages.

This portion of Scripture also gives us important prophetic insight into the supernatural and generational nature of this battle. It was not just one specific ancient battle won by the Israelites. Exodus 17:16 tells us: *“The Lord will battle with Amalek from generation to generation.”* This is a very significant Scripture for us to understand, because the true nature of our spiritual battle is revealed here. Today we, as the army of God, are still fighting the same demonic powers. Since this ancient battle continues in each generation, we see the spiritual nature of this conflict. Amalek was defeated, yet the battle continues. The actual descendants of Amalek may not be engaged in battle against us, but the same spirits that motivated them to try to destroy the Jewish people are in operation today, using other human beings in their attempts to prevent the eternal purposes of God from being fulfilled. As those demonic powers sought to prevent Israel from coming into her inheritance in the land of Canaan, so today they seek to prevent both the Church and the Jewish people from fulfilling their eternal destinies.

The destinies of the Church and the Jewish people are intertwined. Satan knows this very well, so he works to keep them separated and, if possible, in mutual hostility. He works to hinder the Body of Christ from coming into unity and maturity so that she will not only fail to be a pure and spotless bride ready for her groom but that she will also lack the maturity to become the *“One New Man”* that beautifully demonstrates God’s heart for the union of Jew and Gentile. Satan knows the ability the *“One New Man”* will have to provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy. He also knows very well what will happen when the Jews are provoked to jealousy. Their hearts will become open to the revelation that Jesus is the Messiah. The prophecies of Zechariah will come to pass, and the Jewish people will call for the Messiah to return to them and establish His Kingdom (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; Matthew 23:39; Romans 11:12,15).

When Messiah returns, He will finally defeat the real *“Amalek.”* In Numbers 24:20 there is a prophecy that declares that Amalek, the first gentile nation to fight the Israelites after the Exodus, will finally be defeated at the end of the age. The KJV translates it this way, *“Amalek was the first of the nations, but his end shall be destruction.”* The Hebrew word translated *“his end”* is derived from the same root that we saw in Psalm 102:18 and can be translated *“last days, end of the age, or final generation”* (see how it is used in Isaiah 2:2, Daniel 10:14; Hosea 3:5; and Micah 4:1). So we can accurately translate Numbers 24:20 to read, *“Amalek was the first of the nations (to try to destroy Israel), but he will be destroyed at the end of the age.”* I believe we are at that time in history. Are you being called to be part of God’s end-time strategy in this final battle with the spirit of *“Amalek.”*

Part 5

Understanding History

Being engaged in this spiritual conflict requires that we also have an understanding of the history of the Church and the Jewish people. We must read history books written from Jewish, Christian, and secular perspectives. This combination will hopefully give us a balanced view of each period that we study. Similarly, if we are involved in ministering to Muslims, we must read their own history books so we can understand their perspectives.

As you study Jewish history, you will understand why we as *“Christians”* may be perceived by some Jews as the *“spiritual descendants”* of their persecutors. The reality is that the Body of Christ has inherited a spiritual legacy from those who identified themselves as *“Christians”* and persecuted the Jewish people in the name of Jesus. This is a fact of history that will not change, and it is a legacy and a reality that we must not deny. Rightly or wrongly, fairly or unfairly, Christians today are still generally seen by the Jewish world, to either greater or lesser degrees, as the spiritual descendants of those persecutors, and because of this understanding

Christians are perceived as being “guilty by association” even though we find abhorrent, reprehensible and thoroughly anti-Christian the beliefs and behavior of those who persecuted the Jews in the name of Christianity..

Therefore, we must understand that while we are not personally culpable for the sins of the past, we do have a responsibility to acknowledge them and become accountable for dealing with the present-day consequences of those sins. In order to dissociate ourselves from this sinful past, we must first recognize our association with it. This connection is built on the fact that those “Christians” claimed, as we do now, to represent our Lord and His Kingdom. Of course, we know that they did not; however, once we recognize that association, we can reject and renounce it and move toward the goal of seeing the restoration of our relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people.

In a moment of sheer and painful honesty one Jewish woman once said to me (Jewish people are known for their honesty, especially when it comes to what they really think and feel about Christ, Christians, and Christianity): “Those Christians appear to be our friends, but just scratch below the surface, and you’ll see; all they really want to do is convert us or kill us.” This statement brought home to me the present reality of the effects of the long and painful history of Christian anti-Semitism. Built into the Jewish psyche is an emotional, psychological, and spiritual resistance to the “threat” that Christianity represents to their survival as a people and as a religion. As one rabbi once said, “Would Christians be happy if there were no synagogues left in the world?” We must understand these deeply rooted emotional, psychological, and spiritual realities of historical anti-Semitism that have so deeply scarred the Jewish people. Knowing this will help us develop patience and compassion as we relate to the Jewish people.

If God calls you to pray for the reconciliation of the Church and the Jewish people, it is important for you to recognize and understand these realities. As we fulfill our role as New Covenant priests, we can repent for the past (and present) sins of the Church (Romans 15:16; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6, 5:10). This is known as “Identificational Repentance,” a form of repentance is clearly taught in the Scriptures. Nehemiah, Daniel, Isaiah, to name a few, understood that they were repenting for the sins of their people and their ancestors (“we and our fathers”), so that a new day of reconciliation and healing could begin (Nehemiah 1:6, 9:2; Daniel 9:5,15,20; Isaiah 6:5; Ezra 9:6). This is also our hope and prayer. In order to bring healing to the historic wounds inflicted upon the Jewish people by the “Christian Church,” the believers of today must understand that history, renounce it, and seek ways of bringing healing and reconciliation so that the testimony of the redemptive love of Messiah can be brought to the Jewish people.

There are many believers who desire to “apologize for the past” and declare their support for the Jewish people, and the nation of Israel, without understanding the entirety of their spiritual responsibility. God is seeking for authentic disciples who will not only repent for the historic sins of the Church and lovingly support Jewish people and the nation of Israel, but who will also answer God’s call to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit to testify to them about what the Messiah did in their lives. This is a witness that does not seek to “coerce” or “convert,” but simply declares the reality of the Messiah in the lives of His true disciples. It is this testimony, coupled with overt acts of love and support coming from the international Body of Christ, that will be part of what I believe God will use to provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy (Romans 11:11,14).

Please understand that being a witness to the reality of the Messiah in your life does not mean that you have arrived at a place of perfection. The fact that your life was changed by Him and is in a process of coming to spiritual maturity is by itself a testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. If someone points a finger at your failings, just acknowledge your failures with grace and humility, thank for the person who pointed them out, and continue to walk in love. Walking in love is the single most important attribute of your

spiritual life, and it is the most potent spiritual “weapon” you have (1Corinthians 13:1-8). May we all be people who love freely and generously!

Additionally, my prayer and hope is that understanding this vision will also have the effect of provoking the Body of Christ to a new awareness of the importance of coming into unity and maturity. Only a mature unified Church will have the love and power necessary to provoke the Jews to jealousy. A carnal, divided, powerless, loveless, and immature Church will never be able to do that.

Let us not be angry with the Jewish people for their resistance to the Gospel. After all, when most Jewish people hear anything about Jesus or Christianity, they immediately think of betraying their people and converting to a gentile religion that would make them a “non-Jew.” Throughout their history the Jewish people have been vilified for their “obstinate unbelief.” But what exactly were they rejecting? What they witnessed in Christianity was a corrupt, loveless, powerless, gentile, Torah-rejecting religion. And this religion’s leaders had the audacity to demand that they reject their own religion, their own Torah, their own families, their own people, their own culture, and their own God! It is no wonder they remained in “obstinate unbelief.” You would have too!!

In the light of this, I have some questions to pose. Could it be that the Jewish people are a kind of spiritual “litmus test” for the “real thing” – the Authentic Body of Christ? Could it be that Jewish unbelief is intended to provoke the “Body” to examine its life, faith, and practice? Could it actually be true that they are waiting for this authentic mature Church to arise and provoke them to faith? I think these questions should not simply be dismissed with a simple no, but should provoke some serious thought and prayer.

Perhaps some things we should think about and questions we should ask includes this: Could it be that many “Christians” have been deceived into practicing aberrant forms of “Christianity” instead of being authentic disciples of the Kingdom of God? This is the religion that typically creates “Church goers,” - people with little or no faith, love, supernatural power, or fruit of the Spirit, and so, sadly, no desire for them. This is a religion that often puts a superficial “veneer” of “Christian” vocabulary, theology, and practices upon an essentially natural worldly existence that bears no fruit for the Kingdom of God. This is the religion that has a “legacy of hatred” and “theologies of contempt” for the Jewish people.

If the Jews are a “litmus test” and God intends to use authentic disciples of the Kingdom of God to bring them to the Messiah, we must recognize this and do what is necessary to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He works to deliver the Body of Christ from the aberrancies of Christian religion and bring the Church to maturity. In balance with this we must understand that it is also true that sometimes even seeing the “real thing” will not necessarily bring anyone to faith. History and the Bible itself are replete with examples of this. Coming to faith in Jesus is the sovereign, supernatural work of God Himself. Jesus said that “*no one can come to me, unless the Father draws him*” (John 6:44, 65). Only God can reveal that Jesus is the Messiah (Matthew 16:17). But the Biblical truth remains that God’s plan is to use His people as His witnesses (Isaiah 43:10; Acts 1:8), and we are called to be the most authentic witnesses that we can be (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians. 2:15).

Two testimonies I heard really illustrate this point. The first one took place at a large Christian college that was sponsoring a special event to show their support for the state of Israel and the local Jewish community. A prominent leader of the Jewish community stood at the podium and said only three words to the Christian audience: “Make me jealous,” and then sat down. In other words, “If you have the real thing, prove it to me.” The second was about a synagogue that was badly burned by a group of neo-Nazi skinheads. The local Christian community was outraged by this and came together to help the Jewish congregation rebuild. Hundreds of believers donated time, money, and supplies. As they were working alongside the members of

the synagogue, one of the Jewish leaders said to one of the pastors, “You are taking away my reason for not believing.” The love this Jewish leader was receiving was showing him the “real thing.”

As I was speaking at a conference on the Jewish roots of Christian faith, I had a moment of insight and understanding into this. I believe the Lord showed me that the Jewish people today were actually waiting to see the manifestation of the authentic Body of Messiah. In that brief moment of insight, I could see that the Jewish people really wanted to know if Jesus is truly their Messiah, but because of the sins of the “historic Christian religion” and the lack of love, unity, and power in the “Church” today, they would not, and indeed could not, believe. It was not really a matter of what the Rabbis taught or what their traditional position was. That was not the important factor for them. The real issues are the historic pain they still feel, the threat to their identity and survival as Jews that Christianity has historically presented to them, and the lack of supernatural reality they observe in the “Christian religion” as it is practiced.

The Lord showed me that what they were secretly waiting for, and watching for, as proof that Jesus really is the Messiah (although they would probably never admit it if you asked directly), was a true demonstration and manifestation of the Kingdom of God. They were looking for those people who were really a supernatural demonstration of what the Gospel teaches (1Corinthians 2:4, 5; 4:20). Did I actually hear from the Lord? Could this really be the truth? Are the Jewish people actually watching for, and waiting for, the authentic Body of Christ to provoke them to jealousy? I believe they are! This is one of the great challenges before the Church today.

As you understand the history of the Church and the Jewish people and recognize what the Lord is assigning you to do, you will discover the grace and favor of God in amazing ways. As you say yes to the Lord, He will enable you to clearly see the battlefield and your personal responsibilities in the battle. We must all face the reality of the battles objectively so that we can respond properly. Always remember this, “*the battle belongs to the Lord*” and “*unless He builds the house, we would labor in vain*” (1Samuel 17:47; Psalm 127:1). Because ultimate victory is guaranteed (1Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14), let us press on to the goal (Philippians 3:12-14). We have read the end of the book, and we win!

Because the Jewish people tend to see “Christians” and “Christianity” through the lens of the horrific history of “Christian” anti-Semitism, they view “Christianity” as the false religion that inspired their persecutors whose historic “theology of contempt” created the mindset that birthed the Holocaust. But what would history look like if the Church had instead developed a “love the Jews” theology? What would history look like if Church leaders — men like Chrysostom and Luther — had understood that it is the demonstration of love and power that would provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy? I believe it would have inspired them to raise up spiritually mature disciples filled with the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit?

However, inspired by “doctrines of demons” (like “replacement theology”) and influenced by the “activities of evil spirits” (like the spirit of anti-Semitism), many Church leaders, in order to secure their positions of authority, kept their people spiritually immature and ignorant of spiritual truths that would cause them to grow as true disciples. Churches were filled with people who simply believed and then acted upon what their leaders told them. They were never encouraged, and in fact at times were actually forbidden, to read and study or think for themselves. Biblically educated people are very dangerous for leaders who have worldly agendas to use religion for their own political and financial gain.

If the Church had developed a “love the Jews” theology, I truly believe that the beautiful power of love would have overcome all of the resistance presented by Jewish people. The witness of authentic disciples to them would have (and still can!) raised many profound and searching questions like, “Who is this Jesus these gentiles talk about? They claim He is alive from the dead and is doing miracles in their lives. They say it is His spirit that is inspiring them to love us. Could it be that He is really our Messiah?” It is very hard to resist

a message of love brought by truly loving people. The history of the world would have been very different if the Church had obeyed the revelation she originally received to make, mature, and send disciples filled with love and power.

The future history of the world can be molded by such a Church. I deeply rejoice when I meet ministers with a vision to empower young people who have hearts filled with the love of God. They can change the world; I believe they will.

There are great challenges before us, but hearts filled with the love and power of God can meet those challenges and bring millions of souls into the Kingdom of God, and also I pray and believe, provoke natural Israel to spiritual jealousy.

DOCTRINES OF DEMONS VS. BIBLICAL TRUTHS

As we study the history of the Church and the Jewish people we will clearly see the Church's "*arrogance toward the branches.*" After being "*cut off from the root of the Olive Tree,*" the Church was deceived into rejecting, hating, and persecuting the Jews. This, of course, only intensified the Jewish rejection of Jesus and increased the hardness of their hearts against Him. As a small way of introducing some of this history, read the following five notorious lies that have been particularly pernicious and have done immense damage to the Jewish people.

Lie # 1 - The Jewish people "killed Christ" and were therefore guilty of the crime of deicide (killing God).

The truth is:

No one "killed Christ." Jesus went to the cross voluntarily. He said, "*For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down on my own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father*" (John 10:17-18).

The truth is:

Jesus died according to the predetermined plan of God (Acts 2:23, 1Peter 1:20, Revelation 13:8). God sacrificed His son on our behalf to make atonement for our sins. God the Father was directly responsible for the death of Jesus. (Isaiah 53; 1Corinthians 15:3)

The truth is:

The Romans crucified Jesus. Crucifixion was a Roman, not a Jewish form of execution. We have never heard Christians call for the persecution of the Romans or their descendants, the Italians. We have never heard the cry, "Kill the Italians, they killed Christ!" Of course not, because Satan is no more interested in killing those people than he is in killing anyone else. He is however, very interested in killing Jews because their prophetic destiny is tied to the return of the Messiah and his destruction.

The truth is:

Our sins crucified Jesus. He died for all of us willingly because that was how God intended to make atonement for the sins of all humanity (Romans 5:6-11; 1Corinthians 15:3; Matthew 26:26-28).

Obviously it is true that a small group of Jewish leaders participated in the political maneuvering and conspiracy with the Romans that led to the execution of Jesus. They arranged for His betrayal and arrest,

they illegally tried him, and they turned him over to the Romans for execution. All the Jewish people, and leaders, alive at that time were not part of this plot, did not even know about it, and were certainly not guilty of killing Jesus. Many thousands of Jews became believers after the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 21:20). It is absurd to believe that all the Jews of every generation have been guilty of killing Jesus. Those Jewish leaders who were involved were part of the divine plan (Acts 2:23) will still answer for their actions.

Satan has successfully used this lie to manipulate the Church into persecuting all Jews everywhere down through the centuries and thereby effectively keeping Jewish people from coming to faith in Jesus.

Lie # 2 - God rejected and abandoned the Jewish people as their punishment for this crime.

The truth is:

God has never rejected the Jewish people.

"I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!" (Romans 11:1)

"Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The Lord of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the Lord, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

Lie # 3 - The Church replaced the rejected Jews and became the "new" or "spiritual" Israel.

The truth is:

The Church never became a "new" or "spiritual" Israel in replacement of natural Israel. By receiving the Jewish Messiah, gentile believers were grafted into Israel's Olive Tree and became part of the commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:12-19; Romans 11). God never made a covenant with the Church. He made a New Covenant with Israel and opened that Covenant to the nations of the world (Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 31:31; John 10:16; Acts. 10). In this way, the Body of Messiah is joined to natural Israel. Gentile Christians do not replace Israel; they are grafted into and co-joined to Israel (Romans 11: 17-24).

Lie # 4 - It was the responsibility of the Church to persecute the Jewish people as a punishment for their crime of deicide.

The truth is:

Because of this "grafted-in" relationship, the Church was called to show mercy to Israel, provoke them to spiritual jealousy (Romans 11:11, 31), and inspire faith in Jesus, not persecute them and drive them away from that faith.

Imagine two people standing next to each other with their arms around each other's back. One person represents the Church the other the Jewish people. Linked together with heads turned toward each other they are joined in a face-to-face relationship. This is God's prophetic picture of the relationship of the Church and the Jewish people. The picture Satan has worked to produce is very different. Now imagine one of the people, representing the Church, removing their arm from the back of the other person, and then turning that person away so that one is now facing the other's back. And then imagine the person representing the Church repeatedly stabbing the back of the other. This picture illustrates clearly the historic adversarial and hostile relationship between the Church and the Jewish people.

Which picture are you a part of? Are you standing in an arm in arm, face-to-face "grafted-in" relationship with the Jewish people as Romans 11:17-24 teaches us? If not, why not? Even if you do not see yourself as an anti-Semite or someone who would ever stab the Jewish people in the back, are you just on the sidelines

merely watching others get involved in God's plans. By sitting passively watching the events of our times and not being actively involved in some way, you are indirectly helping Satan's plans. Remember the words of the great statesman Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Open your heart to God's plans for the restoration of the Church to her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. Ask Him what you are supposed to do.

Lie # 5 - This "punishment" would serve as a warning to all people who reject Christ.

The truth is:

The Jewish people were not exiled and then persecuted as a warning to those who reject Christ. That was another doctrine of demons that ignorant and arrogant people used to justify their evil. The Jew's expulsion from the land of Israel and the ensuing centuries of suffering happened because they disobeyed God's commandments (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). The Jewish people had a long and tragic history of disobeying God and rejecting the prophets sent to warn them of impending judgment. This disobedience culminated in the rejection of their Messiah. In Luke 19:41-44, Jesus, while weeping, told the Jewish people that they would undergo horrific suffering because they "*did not recognize the time of their visitation*" (Luke 19:44). Even though they rejected the Messiah, God did not reject them (Romans 11:1). He never will! (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

Doctrines of demons

Other lies and demonic doctrines infected the church with the intention of keeping Christians in an adversarial, hostile, and persecutorial relationship with the Jewish. Major examples of these are:

1) The notorious 'blood libel.' In this perfidious lie, Jews were accused of killing a 'Christian' child and using its blood to prepare the Passover meal. Preached in churches during the Passover season, this insidious doctrine was the catalyst for many anti-Jewish riots, massacres, and pogroms.

2) Jews were accused of being responsible for the black plague by poisoning wells. Because of Jewish religious hygienic practices and because Jews typically lived in segregated areas with their own wells, there was less infection in the Jewish community so, of course, this meant that the Jews were responsible for the plague by poisoning "Christian" wells. By the way, it was a Catholic Pope who, believing that cats were demonic creatures, ordered their extermination in Europe. This led to the population explosion of rats, the carriers of infected fleas that caused the plague.

3) Another popular, and particularly weird accusation, was the "host desecration" slander. Jews were accused of stealing the "host" (wafer or bread) used in the Catholic mass and stabbing it repeatedly because they hated Jesus so much that they wanted to continue killing him. This was also used as a catalyst for persecution and murder of the Jewish people.

Church leaders also believed that the Jewish rejection of Jesus as the Messiah could be perceived by potential converts as a threat to the veracity of the Christian religion. Vying for converts in the Greco-Roman world, the Jews proclaimed that they were the much older and therefore more authentic religion. This gave them much credence to pagans who valued the fact that Judaism had an ancient history. To undermine this supposed position of superiority, the Church leaders went to extreme lengths to undermine the Jewish religion and opened the way for persecution of the Jewish people.

In fact, the Jewish rejection of Jesus was one of the main points that established His messianic claims. It proved the veracity of the Scriptures which taught that the Jewish people would indeed reject their own Messiah (Isaiah 49:7; 53:3; Psalm 118:22) and that He would become a light to the gentiles (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6). In vying with the Jews for converts, or in their attempts to keep new converts away from the synagogue, the Church leaders who knew the Bible but did not obey it should have always been working to inspire the Church to grow in love and power in order to provoke the Jews to jealousy.

Having been so infected with these and other detestable doctrines, Christianity continued its long and painful history of hating, persecuting and killing the Jewish people. Instead of the Church being what God intended, a Spirit-filled community demonstrating the reality of the Kingdom of God, the Church came under satanic influence, was filled with hatred, and was guilty of murder. The plain facts of history give us clear proof of that. Satan is the hate-filled murderer (John 8:44), and those false leaders who promulgated those heinous doctrines were influenced by his lies and his demonic underlings (2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 Timothy 4:1). Jesus said that we can know a tree by its fruit (Matthew 12:23). The fruit of these “ministers” was hatred, persecution, and death. They said they represented Jesus, but the evil fruit they bore revealed the satanic spiritual source that inspired them.

Now we are living in a time in history when God is restoring the authentic Body of Christ to her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. Christians around the world are coming to grips with the Church’s anti-Semitic past and repenting of it. Many ministries and individual believers from various nations are working with, and for, the Jewish people politically, practically, and spiritually. For example, many ministries are reaching out to help Jews emigrate to Israel and helping those new immigrants after they arrive.

Each of these outreaches is an authentic demonstration of the Kingdom of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, they do not go unnoticed by the Jewish people. It is making a positive impression upon them. While leading a tour to Israel, I heard first-hand testimonies of the effect it makes when believers visit Israel, proclaiming their love for the Jews and for the God of Israel. God uses these expressions of love and support to heal the hurts of history and eradicate the stigma of anti-Semitism that has historically been attached to the “Christian religion.”

Part 6

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The Importance and Power of Unconditional Love and Evangelism

Healing the ancient wounds of anti-Semitism can be accomplished by demonstrations of unconditional love and support for the Jewish people around the world. The reality that our love must be unconditional is so extremely important that it cannot be overstated or misunderstood. This love must not be tainted by any expectations that the Jewish people will come to faith in Jesus, or even act or speak in ways that please us. We must understand that no one comes to believe in Jesus apart from a direct personal revelation from God Himself (John 6:44, 65; Matthew 16:17).

For centuries, the Church ignored this simple Biblical truth as Jewish people were forced in the most horrific ways to “convert to Christianity.” People can be forced or coerced into changing all manner of external behavior so they appear to say and do what is expected. Of course, we also understand that no one is ever forced or coerced into changing what they really believe. Nor is anyone manipulated by any means into being a disciple of the Lord Jesus. This, by the way, is why emotionally manipulative evangelistic techniques practiced in some churches never work. All manipulative coercive practices are completely opposite to the teachings of the Bible and absolutely contrary to the ways of the Lord, because one has to freely choose to

open their heart to receive the Lord Jesus. God does not ‘force’ Himself upon anyone, He invites us into a personal love based relationship with Himself (John 1:11-13; Revelation 3:12). It is *“the goodness of God that leads people to repentance”* (Romans. 2:4). The evil of men drives people away from God.

God looks at the heart, but the heart did not matter to the corrupt leaders of the church; obedience to their authority is all that concerned them. It has been said that bad theology is a cruel taskmaster. History proves the veracity of this statement as these corrupted leaders created perverted theologies that justified their persecution of the Jewish people and all others who stood in their way. One of the great ironies of history is that these persecutors actually believed they were doing the right, even Godly, thing. This should not surprise you – the Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust, and those who collaborated with them, thought that by ridding the human race of the Jews (and other “inferior” people) they were making the world a better place. In Hitler’s infamous manifesto *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), he writes: *“I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.”*

If the leaders of the Church down through the centuries really loved God and believed the Bible, they would have known that love is the most important expression of the Kingdom of God (1Corinthians 13). They would have taught their people to love God, their neighbors, and even their enemies (Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27; Matthew 5:44). Even if they believed the Jews were their enemies, which of course they were not, they were commanded by their Jewish Lord to love them!

Jews were forced so many times, upon pain of death for themselves or their loved ones, or coerced by any number of intense pressures - loss of children, oppressive taxation, expulsion, to name just a few - to submit to what was essentially “a religious/political institution.” But this “institution” was an abhorrent aberrancy that masqueraded as the authentic Church. It did not represent the Kingdom of God; it was a counterfeit of the genuine Body of Christ. Because of the history of such “forced or coerced conversions,” most Jewish people have a deep disdain for anything to do with “Christianity.” They have a particular disdain for the word “conversion.” But “conversion” is not a “dirty” word. It reflects the Hebrew word ‘Shuva’ which basically means ‘to turn’ and is one of the most beautiful concepts in the Hebrew and New Testament Scriptures. God invites everyone to “turn” toward Him. Our “turning” toward Him is the beginning of repentance and gives all who do so an opportunity to be forgiven and receive new life from the Lord. Simply put, it means we get a “second chance.” If we understand “conversion” in this way, as an offer to receive new life, a “second chance,” we see that “conversion” is one of the most wonderful, most beautiful words in the world.

Everyone who has ever been “born from above” (John 3:3-8) and experienced a life-changing encounter with the living God, has in fact experienced the authentic “conversion” that the Bible describes. Abraham, Jacob, David, Peter, Paul, and myriads of people from every nationality down through the ages have testified to the reality of their “conversion,” their “turning” from death to life, from darkness to light, from sin to salvation. By the way, this experience is not limited to one’s initial encounter with God, but is an ongoing important part of our spiritual lives. We repent of our sins, turn back to God, find His gracious mercy and forgiveness, and are restored in our relationship with Him and, as it applies, to our relationships with others.

In a similar way, we must understand that when a Jewish person does come to faith in their own Messiah, they are not “converting” to a gentile religion called “Christianity.” In fact, they are being re-grafted into their own natural Olive Tree, which represents the restoration of a personal relationship with the living God (Romans 11:23-24). The truth is that when anyone, Jew or gentile, comes to faith in “Jesus Christ,” (Yeshua the Messiah), they are actually “converted” from the *“kingdom of darkness, and transferred in the Kingdom of God’s beloved Son”* (Colossians 1:13). Gentiles are also *“grafted into Israel’s Olive Tree”* (Romans

11:17), and they are “*made a fellow citizen with the saints*” (Ephesians 2:19) through this Jewish New Covenant (Romans 11:25; Jeremiah 31:31-34).

God never made a covenant with the Church or with any nation other than Israel. What He did was offer the nations of the world an opportunity to enter into His “New Covenant” with the Jewish people (Jeremiah 31:31; Luke 22:20). All authentic Christians are in fact practicing a Jewish religion. Everything about Biblical “Christianity” is Jewish. Before the New Testament was written and canonized, the only Bible of the early Church was the Hebrew Scriptures. Christians believe in the Jewish Messiah and worship the God of Israel. They receive as authoritative the New Covenant Scriptures, written by or under the auspices of Jewish apostles. All of the doctrines and practices of Biblical Christian faith are rooted in Biblical Judaism. Justification by faith in the vicarious sacrificial blood atonement, personal sanctification, water baptism, communion, public worship, preaching and teaching, Bible studies, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, prayer and intercession, and fellowship (with food!) are all expressions of the “rich root of the Olive Tree” (Romans 11:17).

In fact, it is true to say that all gentiles who are “converted to Christianity” are really converted to what can be called “New Covenant Messianic Judaism.” They might even consider themselves to be “spiritually Jewish” (Romans 2:29) because their faith in the Jewish Messiah spiritually connects them to the Jewish people and to the God of Israel. By faith in Jesus, they become “Abraham’s children” (Galatians 3:7), are part of the “commonwealth of Israel” (Ephesians 2:12), and have been literally “grafted in among” the Jewish people (Romans 11:17). This does not mean that gentiles become Jews. The Church does not replace the Jewish people (as the demonic doctrine of “replacement theology” teaches). Gentiles who come to faith in Yeshua the Messiah do not change their natural ethnicity. A Chinese person who becomes a Christian is still Chinese. Their ethnicity does not change; their spiritual identity does.

Beware of Hidden Agendas

Because we have a God-given desire to see the Jewish people come to their Messiah we testify to the Messiahship of Jesus when it is appropriate. Of course we also should pray earnestly for Jewish people to have a life-changing supernatural revelation that imparts faith in Jesus. But - and this is crucially important - we must never let our love be tainted by any “hidden agendas.”

We must not let our zeal to share the Gospel overshadow our love for those with whom we share. Zeal must be tempered by wisdom, and then both empowered by love. We love because He first loved us (1John 4:19) and we love because He imparts His love to us (2Corinthians 5:14). We must love unconditionally, without expecting anything in return (1Corinthians 13:4-8), and because we all too often fall prey to human weaknesses, we must be diligent to keep our love pure and undefiled (Jude 1:21).

Because of their corporate history and personal experiences, most Jewish people are usually suspicious about the existence of ulterior motives in people who identify themselves as “Christians.” They will be watching to see if the only reason you are relating to them is to “convert” them. You can expect Jewish people to be wary of your motives. They will test your “love” to see if their apprehensions are justified. This is understandable, and it is also ok; it is an opportunity for you to demonstrate the authenticity of your love.

Hidden agendas develop when we have impure motives. We have some need or goal or desire that has the effect of defiling our heart. If there are “ulterior motives,” then our so-called “Christian love” will turn cold if that “hidden” agenda is thwarted. If God’s love is not the real motive and agenda, what is really only superficial “love” will turn to bitterness, resentment, anger, and hatred when those whom you “love” do not respond as you want them to.

If they see the change, they will realize that you did not love really them; you only loved “converting” them. They did not actually matter to you. What mattered was if they “converted” to your religion. We have personally observed this with people who are involved in cults. They only showed affection to us when we were considered potential converts. When they saw that that was not going to happen, they no longer wanted a relationship with us. They proved that they did not love us. Their real agenda was to get us to join their cult.

A powerful and historically devastating example of “hidden agendas” is seen in the life of Martin Luther. Early in his ministry he looked with favor upon the Jews, but only with a motive to “convert” them. When the Jews rejected his witness, he turned with a vile hatred against them, writing a book entitled “*On the Jews and Their Lies*.” This book became a major source of the legacy of hatred that culminated in the Holocaust. During their trial for war crimes, high-ranking Nazi leaders cited their Lutheran traditions as part of the religious justification for their evil deeds.

But with no motive other than love, that love alone is a very powerful witness of your faith. Love will open appropriate opportunities for you to share your testimony and talk about your faith. So rest in the Lord, and leave the “driving to Him!” It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring revelation to those whom the Father is calling (John 6:44, 65). We have a great rest and peace when we understand that we cannot do the Holy Spirit’s job.

We have not been called, or anointed, to be “soul-winners,” only witnesses (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit is the “soul-winner.” He is the one who brings conviction, revelation, and understanding (John 14:26, 16:8; Ephesians 1:17). We have no such abilities. So let your love be pure, and let the Holy Spirit lead you, and do what only He can do. God will give you the opportunities to share your faith in the Messiah. Your love will provoke questions, and the Holy Spirit will anoint you to give answers (Luke 12:12). Amen!

Remember love is patient (1Corinthians 13:4), so you must be patient and prayerful, trusting the Holy Spirit to bear witness of Jesus to the Jewish people. If they reject Him or your testimony for Him, don’t be discouraged; keep on loving, keep on praying because you never know what the Lord will do in response to your prayers. When God wanted to knock Rabbi Saul of Tarsus off his “high horse” (or camel!) and reveal Jesus to him, He knew how to do it (Acts 9:1-19).

As you keep your heart in the love of God (1Peter1:22), typical Jewish resistance to the Gospel will not frustrate you. You will not be put off by those condescending looks and patronizing comments that may accompany a Jewish person’s response to an “ignorant or ill-informed” gentile Christian talking about their “faith in Jesus.” Their resistance is not your responsibility. You do not even have to address it. Your responsibility is to ask the Lord how He would have you respond. If you are unsure of how He would have you respond, remember the right response is always founded upon love and will express that love.

The more you learn about Jewish history and beliefs, the more you will understand this resistance. You will be able to continue to walk with your Jewish friends, not with a “hidden agenda” to see them “convert to Christianity,” but with a sincere motivation for God to reveal Jesus to them as you continue to be an example of the love and power of Jesus. When it is appropriate, it is certainly proper to tell your Jewish friends that you are praying for that revelation to happen. As you keep your heart in the love of God, you will be able to pray for them effectively. Stand back and watch what God will do in answer to such prayers. Our lives, our love, and our testimony are vehicles that the Lord can use to stimulate their hearts and minds. When all is said and done, only a supernatural revelation can bring them to faith in Jesus. You are not the one who gives revelation; it is the work of God Himself (Matthew 16:17; Luke 10:22; John 6:44; 1Corinthians 2:10).

The restoration of the Body of Christ to her Biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. It is not the work of man or of the will of man. It is the work of God.

Only He can do it. If He does not do it, it quite simply will not get done. When your love is tested and your motives examined or even challenged, you can rest in the knowledge that your desire for restoration and healing did not come from you, it will not be completed by you, and it is not your responsibility. Your responsibility is to love, share the reason for that love when appropriate, and leave everything else to the Lord. Remember the words of Psalm 127:1, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.*”

One of the most important and most exciting parts of this prophetic call is the opportunity we have to see God pour out the spirit of revelation upon the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1; Matthew 16:17; John 1:13). We do not have to try to do anything in the flesh, like compelling them to “make a decision for Christ.” Believe me, when Jewish people make up their minds to do something or believe something, no one is going to dissuade them. This is why, when a Jewish person comes to faith in Jesus as their Messiah, they are usually very zealous for the Lord. This zeal is one of the most common attributes of the Jewish people. They will make a wholehearted commitment to follow what they believe is right. This is why you see so many Jewish people involved in political causes and social justice issues or why they have participated so passionately in, for example, the American civil rights movement or the socialist revolutions of the early twentieth century.

One of Satan's tactics will be to try to make you feel ashamed of your faith, or the Gospel, or the Church, or Christianity in general. You do not have to defend anyone or anything. History is what it is. The Church is what it is. You do, however, always have to remember that it is the Holy Spirit who is sending you to share the love and compassion that the Lord Jesus has put in your heart.

The truth of the matter is that if you were not “converted” or “saved” you would not be a “Christian” and would most likely not even be reading this. You would probably not be interested in Jesus, Jews, or the eradication of anti-Semitism. It is precisely because your faith was supernaturally imparted to you that you want to be involved in any of this. After all, if it were not for the Lord Jesus, you would not be doing what you are doing for, and with, the Jewish people. You would not even be living the life you are living. Where would you be, and what would you be doing, if you had not become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ? Would you even be alive today? It is precisely and exactly because you are a “Christian” that you have a love for the Jewish people. It is precisely and exactly because you are a “Christian” that you have a desire to testify to them.

Remember this foundational truth when sharing the Love of Jesus with Jewish people and perhaps being rebuffed. He who began a “good work” in you (Philippians 1:6) is the only one who can begin a “good work” in them. So relax, let God be God and do His job the way He wants to do it. As you do this, you will never have a problem keeping your heart and motives pure. You will always be able to remain in the love of God for yourself, for the Jewish people, and for all other people you meet

At no time and under no circumstances are you to compromise your faith or testimony. There will be times when you must be *bold as a lion* when confronting difficult issues (Proverbs 28:1). You must never hide or, God forbid, be ashamed of your faith in the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). You must be willing to risk rejection for your testimony about Jesus. Do not take it personally. Rejoice in it, and remember that those who reject you today may receive you tomorrow. They may not tell you this, but they will secretly respect you for your conviction and faith. You are, however, to be “*wise as serpents and harmless as doves*” (Matthew 10:16), concerning when and how you share your faith. A simple rule of thumb is this: do not answer questions that are not being asked.

As you walk in love to the Jewish people, seeking a restoration of relationship and healing of the hurts of centuries of Christian anti-Semitism, God will give you opportunities to “*give the reason for the hope that is*

within you” (1Peter 3:15). But you must wait, as Peter advises, for the questions to be asked. When that happens you are to freely share your testimony, or Old Testament Messianic prophecies, or whatever the Lord leads you to do or say. He might give you supernatural words of wisdom or knowledge or a gift of faith to perform miracles. By all means be open to the direction of the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches us that the Jews require a sign (1Corinthians 1:22), and miracles are hard to argue against!

I earnestly pray regularly for a fresh outpouring of miracle-working power upon the entire international Body of Christ, especially as a witness to the Jewish people. You can argue theology and Scripture interpretation, but you cannot argue with a miracle. You can deny it, reject it, ignore it, or try to rationalize it away, but you cannot argue with it. Remember the story of the healing of the young man who was blind from birth. When he was brought before the synagogue leaders, all he could say in response to their interrogation was, “*Once I was blind, But now I can see*” (John 9:25). The healing stood as a testimony that could not be argued against. They could argue about who Jesus really was, but they could not argue with those beautiful seeing eyes!

If you get confused about the connection between unconditional love and your witness for Jesus, your relationship with the Jewish people will be troubled. Salvation, conversion, redemption, or whatever term you want to use is an entirely supernatural experience solely dependent upon the will of the Sovereign God. He, and He alone, determines when and to whom the Spirit of revelation comes (John 6:44, 65). We love, bear witness to our faith as we can, and trust God to reveal that Jesus is the Messiah as He will. This is an extremely important point, and, again, it must not be misunderstood or understated.

A significant part of this vision is for acts of love to provoke questions of interest. I believe that your demonstration of love and support will provoke Jewish people to ask you questions like, “Why are you doing this?” “What is so different about you?” It is the restoration of dialogue and communication between the Body of Christ and the Jewish people that is central to the eradication of the effects of anti-Semitism. Instead of people being alienated from one another and having distorted and prejudiced views about one another, we have to open lines of communication. It is the restoration of these dialogues that will bring opportunities for new understanding about each other and fresh occasions to witness about who Jesus really is and what He has done in your life. Without the restoration of communication, there will never be those God-appointed opportunities.

As disciples of the Messiah, we do have a mandate to share the good news of the Kingdom of God. However, because the long and painful history of “Christian” anti-Semitism has so damaged the Jewish psyche, evangelism must be done in ways that reflect your sensitivity to this history. Christians with a heart for the Jewish people will be led by the Lord in different ways of healing those hurts, as well as different ways of being a witness for the Messiah. One thing is certain; as we express the healing love of God to the Jewish people we will be witnesses for the Prince of Peace who is the only source of healing (Isaiah 53, 1Peter 2:24).

Part 7

How Do I Get Started?

Practical Guidelines and Suggestions

The first most practical thing you can do is remember that standing against the spirit of anti-Semitism is a supernatural work. If God does not do it, it will not get done. If you are feeling called by the Lord into this battle, He will give you great joy and freedom as you cooperate with the Holy Spirit. He will show you that He is leading you by the divine appointments you have, the doors that open, the people you meet, the

material that comes your way, and by a myriad of other experiences you will have, both supernatural and natural, that will confirm to you that you are really being led by the Lord.

I envision the Lord using small groups around the world confronting anti-Semitism and standing with the Jewish people. I see the Holy Spirit giving individuals and groups unique strategies to follow as He makes each group an outpost stationed on the battlefield. These groups can become places where individuals can find likeminded people with whom they can pray, fellowship, learn, and work together. The groups become havens in the conflict as we give each other the love and support we need to keep fighting in this spiritual war.

If the Lord leads you to contact your local synagogue or temple and speak to the Rabbi or community leader, tell them that you are a Christian seeking to learn more about the Jewish roots of your faith. Tell them that you are renouncing the historic sins of anti-Semitism committed by the Christian Church and that you are seeking ways of reconciliation. Tell them that you want to support the Jewish people and ask them for suggestions about how you can do that in practical ways. Ask them if you can be a part of any activities in the synagogue. Tell them that you do not have an agenda to evangelize, but to simply build relationships. Tell them that you are not ashamed of your faith, that you believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, and that you will answer questions when asked, but that you are not coming to preach, but to help build relationships between two faith communities that have been estranged for much too long. Tell them that you have a mandate to seek such reconciliation, to stand with the Jewish people against anti-Semitism, and to stand with the nation of Israel. Ask them for their suggestions of practical ways to do that.

If you want to learn Hebrew, ask them if they have classes you can attend. (There are other ways to learn Hebrew than at a Synagogue; there are many internet courses you can take). Ask the Rabbi if there are any other classes you can take that will teach you more about the Jewish people, their history and religion, or if there are books or materials he recommends. Ask the Rabbi about planting a tree in Israel or buying an Israeli bond, or which Jewish organizations they recommend you support or get involved with. Ask the Rabbi to speak at your Church or your home group. A good first subject to ask the Rabbi to speak on would be, "What you want Christians to know about the Jewish people." Create an Israel awareness or appreciation day event. Ask the Jewish community to participate in it. Find out what events the Jewish community is sponsoring and get involved. Go to their annual Holocaust memorial service or host your own.

As you begin to relate to the Jewish community be prepared for the possibility that you might be treated with mistrust, suspicion, and skepticism. This is the result of so many centuries of persecution. It is not personal; so do not take it personally. Christians have not historically sought the Jewish people for learning or to be their friends. Building trust takes time. Be patient and prayerful. God will create and develop the relationships He chooses. Watch Him work! We are living in the days of restoration and reconciliation. You are part of a genuine supernatural work of the Holy Spirit around the world. Watch what the Holy Spirit will do as you give yourself to work with Him in this ministry. If there are no local synagogues or temples in your area, ask the Lord to lead you to one that you can begin a correspondence with. Ask the Lord if there are Jewish people in your area that you can build a relationship with. Don't try to do this in the flesh; let the Holy Spirit lead you and guide you. He can arrange some remarkable "divine appointments." Let Him do the work supernaturally. When He does it there will be amazing fruit.

We all know the truth of the fact that when we are thinking about something we begin to find it, or things about it, in our lives. For example, if I say to you think about "blue convertibles," or "red-headed children," you will be amazed at how many of them you begin to notice. The reason for that is that you are making yourself more aware of that particular aspect of your surroundings. As you think and pray about Jewish people and how you can relate to them, you will find yourself being more aware of the Jewish people and Jewish "things" (books, tapes, organizations, shops, websites, ministries, etc.) that begin to 'appear' in your

life. This happens in even greater ways when you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to the Jewish people and Jewish things that He desires you to find.

You can begin to read and study on your own or in a study group. You may meet people who want to meet together to study but who do not want to be part of this vision. That's fine, drink from as many streams as you can, fellowship with as many different people as you like. Keep your heart open to whomever the Lord leads you to. Learn Jewish history (you will find things you won't find in many Church history books), philosophy, theology, and about Jewish interpretations of the Bible. You will be surprised at how much you agree with, and you will also find much you disagree with. Read Jewish translations of the Old Testament and compare them with your English translations. There is much wisdom to gather from traditional Jewish sources that have been generally unknown to most members of the Body of Christ. Be careful as you read. Just because a "Jewish Rabbi" (or a "Christian Minister" – or anyone else for that matter) teaches something, it does not make it true or right. Do not be naïve as you study, but be a wise disciple and follow the admonition written in 1Thessalonians 5:21, "*Test all things, hold fast to that which is good.*" The "things" that are good are those that cause you to mature as a fruitful disciple of the Kingdom of God.

Pray about how you can stand with the Jewish people against their enemies. Perhaps God will lead you to write to Jewish publications or websites declaring your solidarity with them and the nation of Israel. Write or email the Israeli embassy in Washington DC, or one of their local consulates. Do the same to the embassies and consulates of those nations that are not standing with Israel, and to those who are overtly Israel's enemies. Write to the secretary general of the UN. Write to your local newspaper and Jewish and Islamic publications. Consider creating a blog declaring your support. Get involved in organizations and ministries that are already doing such things. Link up with ministries that are helping Jewish people immigrate to the land of Israel. Support ministries that are helping new emigrants with practical aid as they acclimate to living in Israel. As the Lord leads you, join with those Jewish and Christian groups that are doing these kinds of things. Take a trip to Israel and visit the Messianic congregations there. Build personal relationships with the Jewish believers living and ministering in the land, and support them in prayer and financially.

Ask the Lord how you can stand against the spirit of anti-Semitism in the Church. Let him begin to show you what you can do in your local Church or in the local Churches in your area. Do not despise the day of small beginnings and proceed with wisdom and love. No one is going to receive what they perceive as the "ranting" of a fanatic zealot. Zeal without knowledge and wisdom will do more harm than good. God will show you how to bring this message to the Body of Christ in your community. Be satisfied with small steps and small victories. Wars are won battle by battle, not all at once. Be '*wise as serpents and gentle as doves*' (Matthew 10:16). You will be amazed what the Lord can do when we have a humble attitude that has a quiet confidence in the ability of the Holy Spirit to bring truth to His people. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in how, and with whom, to share.

Give teaching material to believers you know so they can pass them onto others including their pastors and elders. Sometimes you do not have to contact the people in authority as much as you do those who have influence. They will use that influence to effect people who have authority. God will open the doors and the hearts of those He is speaking to. Do not allow the enemy to frustrate you or discourage you. Many centuries of anti-Semitic prejudices, theologies, and belief systems are not going to be eradicated overnight. This is a long intense battle, so relax, enjoy the ride, and leave the 'driving' to the Lord!

As we grow in our understanding of the damage done to the Jewish people by Christian anti-Semitism, our intercession must deepen for a more powerful demonstration and manifestation of the supernatural love and power of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ. I am convinced that without that supernatural impartation of love and power there will not be any meaningful or significant change in the relationship between the Body of Christ and the Jewish people.

Expressions of support for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel are all well and good, but such things, if they have as an underlying philosophy of “political correctness” that is afraid of “the offense of the cross” (Galatians 5:11) and its testimony to Jesus as Messiah and Lord, will never penetrate the hearts of the Jewish people with anything even close to provoking them to jealousy. They will easily dismiss those well-meaning overtures with an “it’s about time Christians are finally doing the right thing” mentality that ultimately puts anything to do with Jesus in a place where it can be disregarded as being “for the gentiles.”

But if those acts of love and kindness are coupled with supernatural signs and wonders that demonstrate the ultimate reality of the resurrected King of the Jews, then those who experience that reality will not be able to easily dismiss it and, this is my hope and prayer, be provoked to spiritual jealousy.

In order to cooperate with this move of the Holy Spirit, we must learn how to continually put ourselves into a spiritual position where the Holy Spirit is free to move without hindrance. We must also learn how to give ourselves the freedom to learn and grow in Him. This means that we give ourselves and everyone else around us permission to make mistakes, because it is through the process of “falling forward” (Proverbs 24:16), that we learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We see clear evidence of this in the Gospels as we observe Jesus training His disciples, and the many mistakes they made.

Because I so highly value your personal freedom to walk in the Spirit and the freedom we want the Holy Spirit to have as He works with us, I do not have a ”formula” to follow or a restrictive list of strict “do’s and don’ts” to obey. Of course, we must recognize that certain words carry emotionally laden baggage for most Jewish people. Because of this we try to communicate in a way that reflects our understanding of Jewish history and theology. For example, use the word Yeshua instead of Jesus, Messiah instead of Christ, Congregation instead of Church, and New Covenant instead of New Testament. We encourage you to use good old-fashioned common sense as you seek to learn the lessons of history, pray for revelation as you read from various sources and search the Scriptures, and listen to the Lord as He speaks to you and directs your steps.

Pray and listen to the strategies of the Spirit as He speaks to you about how to reach out to, and on behalf of, the Jewish people locally, nationally and internationally. Listen to what He tells you to do and how He tells you to do it. We will help you in whatever way we can. Ask the Lord for others to help you. Of course, when it comes to receiving counsel, you have to weigh what you hear from people with what you read in the Scriptures and what you hear in your own spirit. The true test of the source of the counsel is the fruit it bears (Matthew 7:17-19). The Word of God will always bear the fruit of God. When the Kingdom of God is manifested there is always a demonstration of righteousness, love, peace, joy and the power of God (Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9).

Give copies of this document to others who are interested. Open your home and invite people to come and pray and learn. Study our materials and the materials of other ministries. Read, think, listen, question, pray, and grow! The Holy Spirit will give new revelations, insights, and strategies on how to fight the spirit of anti-Semitism, and we will be able to learn much from each other. We must be flexible in responding to the tactics and strategies that God will use as the ebb and flow of the battle changes. We must be “like the wind” as the Spirit of God blows upon us in this spiritual battle (John 3:8). Obey the last recorded words in the New Testament of one of the greatest Jewish mothers in history, Miriam the mother of Yeshua, “*Whatever He tells you to do, “Do It!”* (John 2:5).

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