



## The Hatred of the Jews and the Role of the Church

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How could something like the Holocaust have ever happened? And will something like it happen again?

*Revelation 12:1-2 — “A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.”*

How do we know the woman in this passage is Israel?

*Genesis 37:9-10 — “Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, ‘Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.’ He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, ‘What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?’”*

The woman of Revelation 12 refers to the descendants of Abraham through Jacob, known today as the Jewish people. The twelve stars represent the twelve sons of Jacob, who in turn, became the twelve tribes of Israel.

The entire Old Testament—from the covenant with God made with Abraham in Genesis 12 until the birth of Christ—is the account of a nation of Israel in labor and in pain to give birth, almost two thousand years.

*Revelation 12:3-4 — “Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.”*

*Revelation 12:9 — “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”*

The reference to 1/3 of the stars of heaven is a reference to the number of angels that were swept away in the rebellion: those who joined Lucifer were cast out by God. The seven heads of the dragon represent seven powerful kingdoms that arose throughout history that the devil controlled and tried to use to destroy the Jewish People.

*Revelation 17:9-10 — “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”*

These seven heads of the dragon had one preeminent goal—the annihilation of the woman, Israel. The first head of the dragon was Egypt. After that came Assyria, then Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. It was during the time the dragon was controlling Rome that the Messiah was born.

*Revelation 12:5 — “And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.”*

In A.D. 70, now with three legions made up of Arabs, Egyptians, and Syrians, the Roman army broke through the city walls of Jerusalem and the walls leading into the Temple compound. The Temple was looted and set on fire. Thus began the worldwide Dispersion of the Jewish people that would last almost 1900 years. During those centuries, the Jews were persecuted wherever they went.

The Turkish/Ottoman Empire succeeded the Roman Empire and ruled over the entire Middle East, including Jerusalem for nearly 500 years. The Turkish/Ottoman Empire existed until 1909.

*Revelation 17:9-11 – “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.”*

This passage gives us insight into the fact that, before Jesus returns, there will have been a total of eight “beast” empires, the eighth of which will be ruled by the Antichrist.

*Read Revelation 12:13-17*

Not only has Satan raged against the Jewish people throughout history, but the Scriptures are also clear that in the last days, just before Jesus returns, Satan will utilize his influence over the nations to persecute Jews and Christians.

*Revelation 12:12 – “For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”*

Jesus Himself spoke of a time of unparalleled tribulation just before His return.

*Jeremiah 30:7 – “Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s distress, but he will be saved from it.”*

*Daniel 12:1 – “...And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...”*

*Matthew 24:21 – “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”*

*Luke 21:21 – “Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city”*

What should our response be to all of this?

*Read Mathew 25:31-46*

According to Jesus, the destiny of nations on the Day of Judgment, whether they are cast away or welcomed into the Kingdom of God, is largely contingent upon their treatment of His brethren. He even went so far as to say that how the nations treated His brethren is how they treated Him.

*Joel 3:1-3 “For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land; ‘They have also cast lots for My people...”*

*Joel 3:12 – “Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.”*

The valley of Jehoshaphat stretches from the north to the south between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives. The disciples would have recognized the point that Jesus was making, particularly since Jesus was sitting in the exact location where Joel says the judgment of the nations will take place. And Jesus says that the nations will be judged because of their mistreatment of the Jewish people, whom the Lord calls “My brethren”.

We continue to love Palestinians, Arabs, and Iranians, and pray for them and serve them. Jesus loves and died for all people groups. But the increased hatred and violence on the earth in the days to come will not be against those people groups, it will be against the Jewish people.

**As Christians, we need to stand with the Jewish people and stand with Israel.**