

# Israel and Its Persecution



**T**HROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY, no nation has been so persecuted as Israel. Jews have attracted unparalleled hatred for thousands of years. Their tiny piece of real estate (around 8,000 square miles) has been and continues to be the focal point of much of world history — still disputed and fought over, right up to the present day.

## A HISTORY OF HATRED

The Jewish nation was persecuted by Antiochus Epiphanes; it was persecuted by the Romans. It was persecuted in medieval Europe; it was persecuted by the Russians. And most notably, the Jews were persecuted and hated in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS, in a speech in 1943 to the government and Nazi party leaders said, “This people (the Jews) must disappear from the face of the earth” (Heinrich Himmler, *A People’s History of the Holocaust and Genocide*, Remember.org, 2018).

Paul Johnson writes, “So nearly six million Jews died. Two millennia of anti-Semitic hatred, of all varieties, pagan, Christian and secular, superstitious and cerebral, folk and academic, had been soldered by Hitler into one overwhelming juggernaut and then driven by his unique energy and will over the helpless body of European Jewry” (Paul Johnson, *A History of the Jews* [Harper Perennial, 1988], 512). And the Jewish people continue to be hated today. Many of their enemies, including in the United Nations, still deny Israel’s right to exist as a nation. Johnson continues, “The effect of the Holocaust was chiefly to transfer

the principal focus of anti-Jewish hatred from east-central Europe to the Middle East. What worried some Arab leaders was that Hitler's solution had not, in fact, been final" (*A History of the Jews*, 512).

"For a tiny nation of little more than 6 ½ million citizens (approximately 5.3 million of whom are Jewish and 1.3 million are Muslim and Christian Arabs) living in an area roughly the size of New Jersey, Israel has proportionally more enemies than any nation on earth. No nation has been subjected to more frequent threats of alienation. No nation has had more genocidal incitements directed against its citizen... Indeed, no nation, regardless of its size or the number of deaths it has caused, has been condemned as often by the UN and its constituent bodies. Simply put, no nation is hated as much as the Jewish nation. Yet over the last 60 years, no nation in the world has contributed more per capita to the general welfare of the people of this planet than Israel" (Alan Dershowitz, *The Case Against Israel's Enemies* [Wiley, 2008], 1-2).

## THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Why such hatred and persecution of tiny Israel? The answer does not lie in the people themselves, but in the God who has chosen them and who loves them. Satan is always utterly opposed to the Lord. He hates Israel and also hates the church. Consider Haman, who in the days of Esther was responsible for the decree "to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children" (Esther 3:13). Many "Hamans" who hate Israel exist today.

Anti-Semitism abounds. Yet, God has preserved the Jewish nation for thousands of years. , Israel's present Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu writes, "The reemergence of the Jews as a sovereign nation is an unprecedented event in the history of mankind" (Benjamin Netanyahu, *A Place Among the Nations* [Bantam, 1993], 1).

Pray for the present safety of Israel, particularly when it is threatened by many, including Iran and its attempts to have nuclear weapons. God has a great future for Israel. When Christ returns with power and glory He comes to Israel, the promised land. Jerusalem will then be the capital city of the world!

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

Satan not only attacks the people of God, he attacks God's plan of salvation. The future Antichrist will also set himself up as God, so that people look to him rather than to Jesus Christ as the true Savior. Satan always attacks Jesus and the blood of Christ. Satan seeks to draw people away from the uniqueness of our Savior to false gods and false doctrines.

But nothing can thwart the purposes of God! Jesus Christ still stands as the only Savior. Receive Jesus as your Savior, who died for your sins and rose again. Love Him. Trust Him. Display Christ to others, including your Jewish friends. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. ❀



*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
"May they be secure who love you!  
Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!"*

*Psalm 122:6-7*