



Jewish Persecution

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Judaism and Christianity stem from the same root, the Old Testament Scriptures. However, Judaism and Christianity today, by and large, barely recognize this similarity. Part of this is due to the lies of Replacement Theology and Dual Covenant Theology that circulate Christian pulpits. Yet much of it has to do with the fact that throughout the centuries, Jewish People have been persecuted, massacred and tortured all under the name of Jesus Christ. Is it any wonder why Jewish People balk when Christians tell them that Jesus is the Messiah?

The list below contains a fraction of the persecutions that have come against the Jewish People throughout the centuries. These are hard truths for both Christians and Jews and it is also why Messianic Jews are in such small number. But with love and understanding, it is our hope that the Church will become educated to their Jewish roots and be aware of the brutalities done to the Jewish People in the name of Christ and come up with a way to reach out to the Jewish People with the truth, in love.

70 AD

Roman Army destroyed Jerusalem. Over 1 million Jews killed and 97,000 taken into slavery and captivity, many others scattered.

132

The Bar Kochba Rebellion (Bar Kochba was a false Messiah), caused the deaths of 500,000 Jews; thousands were sold into slavery or taken into captivity. Judaism no longer recognized as a legal religion. Israel as a nation was totally destroyed. This was seen as a sign by many Christians that Israel had been rejected by her God, and that the Church was now “the New Israel.”

135

Serious Roman persecution of the Jews began. Jews were forbidden from practicing circumcision, reading the Torah, eating unleavened bread at Passover, etc.

315

Constantine the Great published the Edict of Milan, which extended religious tolerance to Christians. Jews lost many rights with this edict.

325

The Council of Nicea – the first edict in favor of the “Venerable Day of the Sun” (Sunday) was made at the Council. Sabbath worship and other Jewish observances became heretical to the Christian faith. Also, Christianity was now the official religion, and Jews could no longer have Roman citizenship.

379

Theodosius the Great permitted the destruction of synagogues if they served any type of religious purpose.

391

The Edict of Theodosius declared that Christianity was to be the only legal religion in the Roman Empire.

589

The Third Council of Toledo (in Spain) ordered that children born of marriage between Jews and Christians be baptized by force. A policy of forced conversion of all Jews was initiated. Thousands of Jews fled. Thousands of other Jews converted.

613

Very serious persecution began in Spain. Jews were given the options of either leaving Spain or converting to Christianity. Jewish children over seven years of age were taken from their parents and given a Christian education.

722

In Constantinople, Jews were forced to convert to Christianity.

855

Jews exiled from Italy.



1096

The First Crusade was launched. Although the prime goal of the Crusades was to liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims, Jews were a second target. In Germany, in the cities along the Rhine River alone, 12,000 Jews were killed. This persecution and slaughter continued for eight additional Crusades until the year 1272.

1121

Jews driven out of Flanders (now part of Belgium). They were neither to return nor to be tolerated until they repented of the guilt of killing Jesus Christ.

1130

The Jews of London had to pay compensation of one million marks for allegedly killing a sick man.

1146

Renewed persecution of the Jews in Germany at the beginning of the Second Crusade. The French monk Rudolf called for the destruction of the Jews as an introduction to the Second Crusade.

1181

French King Philip banished the Jews from his domain. They were permitted to sell all movable possessions, but the permanent possessions, such as land and houses, reverted to the king.

1189

Jews were persecuted in England. The Crown claimed all Jewish possessions. Many homes belonging to Jewish families were burned.

1215

At the IV Lateran Church Council, canon laws were passed requiring that "Jews and Muslims shall wear a special dress." Later, it was decreed that they also had to wear an oval badge. This was to enable them to be easily distinguished from Christians. This practice later spread to other countries.

1229

The Spanish Inquisition begins. Later, in 1252, Pope Innocent IV authorizes the use of torture by the Inquisitors against Jews and other apostates.

1290

Edward I banishes the Jews from England. 16,000 Jews were forced to leave the country.

1298

Persecution of the Jews in Franconia, Bavaria, and Austria. 140 Jewish communities were destroyed, and more than 100,000 Jews were killed over a six-month period.

1306

100,000 Jews are exiled from France. They left the country with only the clothes on their backs and food for one day.

1348

As the “Black Death” raged in Europe, Jews were blamed for causing the Plague by poisoning wells. About 5,000 Jews were burned alive at the stake. In Bavaria alone, 12,000 Jews perished. Near Tours, an immense trench was dug, filled with blazing wood, and in a single day, 160 Jews were burned.

1391

Jewish persecutions begin in Seville and in 70 other Jewish communities throughout Spain. Jews were cruelly massacred and their bodies dismembered.

1394

Jews were exiled, for the second time, from France.

1434

Jewish men in Augsburg had to sew yellow buttons to their clothes. Jews were forced to wear a long undergarment, an overcoat with a yellow patch, bells, and tall pointed yellow hats with a large button.

1453

The Franciscan monk, Capistrano, persuaded the King of Poland to withdraw all rights of citizenship for Jewish People.

1478

Spanish Jews had been heavily persecuted from the 14th Century. Many had converted to Christianity. The Spanish Inquisition was set up by the church in order to detect insincere conversions.

1492

Jews were given the choice of being baptized as Christians or be banished from Spain. 300,000 left Spain penniless. Many migrated to Portugal and Turkey, where they were later tortured, imprisoned, and killed. Others converted to Christianity, but often continued to practice Judaism in secret. In the years that followed, countless numbers of Jewish People were imprisoned, tortured, and murdered simply because they were Jews. All this was done in the name of Christ and Christianity.

1497

Jews were banished from Portugal. 20,000 Jews left the country rather than be baptized as Christians. Many others became slaves.

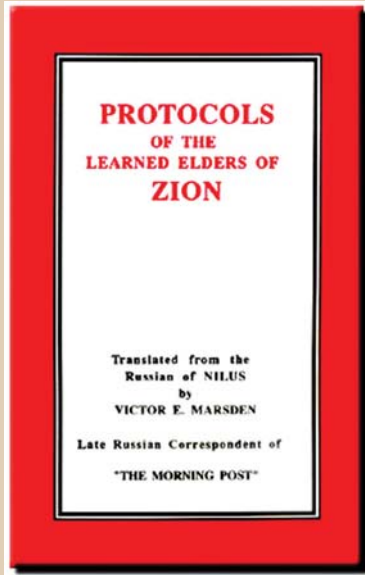


1516

The Governor of the Republic of Venice decided that Jews would be allowed to live only in one area of the city. The area was called the “Ghetto Novo.”

1540

Jews were exiled from Naples, Italy.



1543

Martin Luther published a pamphlet entitled, On Jews and Their Lies. Europe was especially rife with anti-Jewish sentiment; Luther added fuel to the fire by asking the question, “What shall we do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews?” He recommended that houses of Jews be “razed and destroyed,” and their religious books burned. This pamphlet and his later anti-Semitic writings, “Annals of the Jews,” paved the way theologically for Hitler and the Nazis in Germany.

1582

Jews were expelled from Holland.

1794

Restriction of Jews in Russia, Jewish men were forced to serve 25 years in the Russian military. Many hundreds of thousands of Jews left Russia.

1846

All former restrictions against the Jews in the Vatican State were restored by Pope Pius IX.

Ca. 1900

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion appeared in print in Russia for the first time. The Protocols argued that a worldwide conspiracy existed among Jewish leaders to set Christian nations against one another and dominate the world. It circulated widely in Russia, Germany, France, and the United States and created widespread anti-Semitism.

1903

Renewed restrictions of Jews in Russia. Frequent pogroms (massacres) occurred against Jewish shtetls (ghettos) throughout Russia and Ukraine from 1903-1906. Jewish women were raped and beaten, thousands were massacred.

1915

600,000 Jews were forcibly moved from the western borders of Russia towards the interior. About 100,000 died of exposure or starvation.

1920

The defeat of Germany in World War I and the continuing economic difficulties were blamed in that country on the “Jewish influence.”

1933

Hitler rises to Chancellor of Germany. The Nazi era begins. Virulent anti-Semitic propaganda and the groundwork for Judenrein, “cleansed of Jews,” begins.

1934

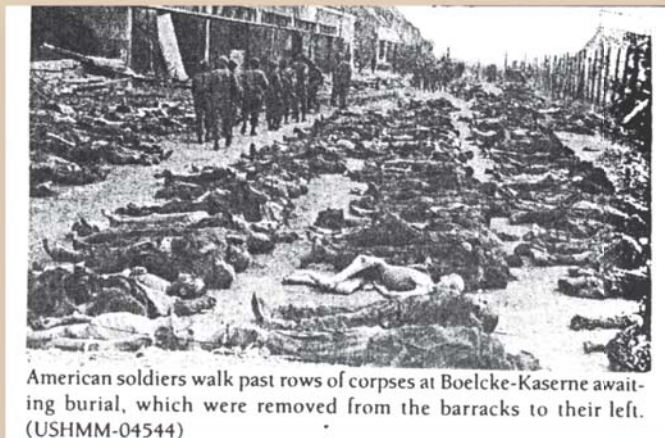
Various racial laws against the Jews were enacted in Germany to force Jews out of schools and professions.

1935

The Nazis passed the Nuremberg Laws restricting citizenship to those of “German or related blood.” Jews became stateless.

1938

Kristallnacht, “The Night of Broken Glass” – November 9-10. Mobs attacked Jews killing and injuring hundreds. 2,000 synagogues burned; 7,500 Jewish businesses destroyed; 30,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps. Hitler brought back century-old church law, ordering all Jews to wear a yellow Star of David as identification. A few hundred thousand Jews are allowed to leave Germany after they turned over all of their assets to the government.



American soldiers walk past rows of corpses at Boelcke-Kaserne awaiting burial, which were removed from the barracks to their left. (USHMM-04544)

1939

The Holocaust, the systematic extermination of Jews in Germany and Europe, begins. The process did not end until 1945 with the conclusion of World War II. Some six million Jews, including 1.5 million children, were systematically exterminated simply because they were Jews.

2007

Anti-Semitism is again on the rise. In Europe and Russia, for example, anti-Semitic hate crimes are at an all time high since WWII. Jewish synagogues and cemeteries have

been desecrated and Jews have been beaten and even murdered. The persecution is far from over. It is terrible to realize that most of the horrors inflicted on God’s Chosen People have been done in the name of Christianity. Is it any wonder that the Jewish People are at least suspicious when first approached?

What can you do?

The horrors of the past cannot be undone, but we can stand with the Jewish People and speak out against any and all forms of anti-Semitism, wherever and whenever we encounter it! We can work tirelessly to reach out to the Jewish People with the love of God and let them know that Yeshua came as their Messiah – and that He loves and cares for them.