

## The Christian Factor In Anti-Semitism 4391

Proclamation: Isaiah 66:2

Recommended reading:

*The Anguish of the Jews*, by Edward H. Flannery

### I. Roots Of Anti-Semitism (Actually Anti-Jewishness)

- A. The main, enduring impetus of anti-Semitism came from the Christian church/theology:
  - 1. St. Gregory (331–396 AD)
  - 2. St. Jerome (340–420 AD) – translator of Bible into Latin, Vulgate version
  - 3. St. Chrysostom (338–447 AD) – terrible statements against the Jews
- B. Three doctrines that are roots of anti-Semitism (all dating from second half of 4th century AD):
  - 1. The church is the true Israel (Augustine, et al)
  - 2. The Jews a perpetual witness of God’s curse (Augustine, et al)
  - 3. The Jews are guilty of *Deicide* – i.e., murdering God (Chrysostom, et al)
- C. Other significant dates
  - 1. Early church: up to 4th century
    - a. Produced: contempt, calumny, animosity, segregation, forced baptisms, appropriation of children, unjust trials, pogroms, exiles, systematic persecution, theft and rapine, hatred (open or concealed), social degradation
    - b. Forced baptisms and expropriation of children: Jewish children forcefully baptized, than taken from parents because it was illegal for Jews to raise Christian children
  - 2. 1096: First Crusade (from *crux*, “cross”)
    - a. Crusaders massacre Jews in Europe
    - b. In Jerusalem burn down a synagogue with all its Jews inside
  - 3. Accusations added later (12th century onwards)
    - a. Ritual murder of Christians
    - b. Desecration of “Host” (communion emblem)
    - c. Poisoning of wells
  - 4. 1347–1350: The Black Death
    - a. Blamed on the Jews
    - b. Resultant “Image of the Jew”
  - 5. 1542++: Martin Luther  
Vulgar, virulent attacks on the Jews—even in his last sermon
  - 6. 1648–1658: Poland  
700 Jewish communities destroyed
  - 7. 18th Century: Voltaire  
Rationalist anti-Semitism
  - 8. End of 19th Century: Russia  
Pogroms begin

9. 1905++: “The Protocols of Zion”  
Spurious Jewish plot to dominate the world through finance, etc.
10. 1918–1920: Russia
  - a. Civil war between Red and White armies
  - b. Jews victimized by both sides
11. 1933–1945: Hitler – “The final solution”
  - a. The holocaust—six million Jews perish
  - b. Anti-Semitism becomes *racial*—the Jews a cursed race
12. After 1948, 1967  
“Anti-Semitism” becomes “anti-Zionism”

## II. How Shall We Respond?

- A. Acknowledge the historical facts
- B. Acknowledge the doctrinal root: *deicide*
- C. Recognize the source: *Satan*
- D. Repent of *indifference*
- E. Confess our sins (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13)
  1. Against the “apple of God’s eye” (Zech. 2:8)
  2. *We* have sinned (Neh. 1:6; Dan. 9)
- F. Ask God for *mercy*