

Transcript 181

Shea Houdmann

Welcome to the Got Questions podcast. Today Jeff, who is the administrator of BibleRef.com and Kevin, the managing editor of Got Questions Ministries, are joining me. We're going to be kind of continuing a conversation we've been having about Israel, stirred up by the conflict between Israel and Hamas and in Gaza. But we'd encourage you to watch the previous two episodes on this topic because again, a lot of what we're going to discuss today is built on that. But today's episode we specifically want to talk about anti-Semitism. There's a lot of confusion about what exactly it is. So we're going to be talking about examples of anti-Semitism in the Bible and history and really try to pinpoint what is the ultimate cause of all this. It's in the sense permeated world culture for thousands of years. This is not something that's new, and so there's these different spiritual dimension that we want to hone in on.

Shea Houdmann

But the word anti-Semitism itself, semitism refers to one of the three sons of Noah, Shem. So all the descendants of Shem are known as Semites. And it's interesting, today the term semitism or Anti semitism is used almost to refer exclusively to Jews to ethnic Israelis, Hebrews, but in reality the descendants of Shim would include most of people in the Middle East. So most of the people referred to as Arabs today are also semite. But anti-Semitism today the term is used almost exclusively to refer to hatred, dislike, discrimination against Jews. That's what we're covering today.

Shea Houdmann

But before we jump in any further, I just wanted Kevin, just give a chance to examples of Anti-Semitism in the Bible just to reinforce the fact that this is not something new. What we're seeing today is not something that is foreign to Bible. It's not something that God wasn't aware of that. The people of Israel, the Jews, have only recently experienced. This has been something going on for a long time. All the way back to recorded in Scripture. So so Kevin start us off here. What are some examples of anti-Semitism that you see in Scripture?

Kevin Stone

Yeah, Shea you're right that it goes all the way back as soon as God started choosing his people really, and choosing the family of Abraham, we start seeing conflict, start seeing hatred. We can go all the way back to Isaac and Ishmael the conflict that was there. And then Isaac's sons Jacob and Esau, there was conflict there. And in fact, in a murderous hatred that Esau had for Jacob at least for a while. And but then as God started creating his new nation, this chosen people of the Jews in that time of slavery in Egypt, God brought them out of Egypt, then out of slavery under Moses. And they start heading towards the promise land. And along the way, they run into all kinds of resistance from other peoples. And so they come up to Edomites in Numbers, chapter 20 when they say, can we pass through your land? We will and we'll pay for everything that we consume there. All we all we want is access along this road. And Edmonites say no. Can't do it. Resistant to this. In the very next chapter Numbers 21 they come to the land of the Amorites and the Amorites say the same thing. No, you cannot pass through our land. Even we're not gonna sell you anything. We're gonna help you in any way. In fact, the Amorites then send out an army and they do battle against the Israelites. And God grants the Israelites victory in that.

Kevin Stone

All through history then as Israel was in the promised land, we see continued attempts to wipe out the people of Israel. One was under Zerubbabel's enemies. As Zerubbabel was rebuilding the Temple of Jerusalem after the return from the Babylonian captivity, Zerubbabel's enemies send a letter to the king of Persia saying, hey, these people are rebellious and they are trying to establish a nation apart from Persia. And you need to do something about it. So they tried to get the King of Persia to quash this new nation that was being reestablished. A big one was Hayman, though. In the nation of Persia, Hayman and Esther chapter three goes to King Xerxes and he says, there is a, this is Esther 3 verses 8 and 9. There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples and all the provinces of your Kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from all the other people. They do not obey the King's laws. It is not the King's best interest to tolerate them. And if it pleases the king, let him issue an edict to destroy them. And so that's exactly what the king does. He issues this, this edict that they can kill and annihilate every Jew in the entire Kingdom. Which would have in fact been every Jew in the world. This was, this was genocide that was on Hayman's mind.

Kevin Stone

The reasons that he gives we still see today among anti Semites. He says they keep themselves separate, so they're they're not like us, they don't intermarry, they don't, they don't eat our food, they don't wear our clothes, they don't trim their beards. Everything is different about them and it's offensive to us. And then they also say they have, they have different customs. And then he says they don't obey the king's laws and this was really stretching it, Hayman had one example of one Jew who did not follow the King's edict. That was Mordecai. He refused to bow the knee to Hayman, and so Hayman takes that one example and just applies it to all the Jews and say these are rebellious people and they all need to be wiped out.

Kevin Stone

And then when we get to the New Testament, we see that when when Paul and Silas go to Philippi and the gospel starts taking root there and people start getting saved, heart starts being changed, the the people of Philippi arrest Paul and Silas. Acts chapter 16, they dragged them before the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and they said these men are Jews and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice. So again we have the excuse of they've got these strange customs. They're offensive to us. The New American Standard version actually puts it like this. These men, Jews as they are, are causing trouble. The anti-Semitism is just dripping in this accusation and here in these words. They are anti Roman. They're keeping anti Roman customs. They are promoting anti Romness. Even though Paul and Silas were themselves, Roman citizens didn't stop the accusations.

Kevin Stone

So through biblical history we've seen many attempts to annihilate Israel from the Assyrians and their sinecures. The Babylonians and the Nebuchadnezzar, the Persians under Xerxes, the Greeks under Antiochus the 4th, that was an intertestamental period. And then the Romans under Titus in AD 70. Over and over, people have tried to wipe out the Jewish people, anti-Semitism in the extreme, and it's it's not a new thing.

Jeff Laird

No, it's not only not a new thing, but the themes that you're talking about have been very consistent. Kevin, I appreciate that you brought up the idea of separation. It seems like if we were to point to one thing from a secular perspective, that seems to drive anti-Semitism, obviously not as an excuse, but sort of a pointer, separation is one of them. The Jewish people have always been what God has called them to be when they're at their best, which is a separated people. A lot of the things that God asked them to do in Old Testament law, He asked them to do explicitly because he wanted to differentiate them from other people in the world. And in our world we can claim that it's not this way in the modern world, but it is. You know, separation and differentness makes it easier for people to justify prejudice and fear and hatred, and so on and so forth. So again, just to clarify, that's not to say that Jewish separation is somehow a driver or it's the cause of anti-Semitism, or it's an excuse for anti-Semitism. But you can see it as being a factor in why people sometimes respond the way they do. And after the biblical period you see that multiplied.

Jeff Laird

Another thing that I think comes in that's it's good to look at from a historical perspective is how discrimination can become association. Some of the themes that we see throughout history and even to today are sort of self fulfilling prophecies. A very common theme that we see back in ancient history is Jewish people being barred from doing most professions, a lot of professions. And the only things that they're allowed to do in some circumstances are things that society thinks of as distasteful. Well, you do that for a generation, and then you start to associate Jewish people with that distasteful thing. And money lending would be an example. You know, there were times in in Christian medieval Europe where lending money at interest was not something that Christians were supposed to do. Jewish people were allowed to lend money at interest to non Jews, and they were also told you can't do things like have this business or that business or that business. So then you wind up with a lot of the people who are handling money are Jewish people. Not because they're greedy, but because you won't let them do anything else. And it just turns into this self fulfilling prophecy that rolls around. But we've seen this persecution happen for a long time.

Jeff Laird

Probably the modern sense of anti-Semitism that we see now, obviously there's been bits and pieces of that throughout all of history, but right around the time of the First Crusade was one of the first times that we saw something that sort of looked like the modern ish version of anti-Semitism. And a lot of that had to do with what was called the Peoples Crusade. That was one of the individual groups that was participating. And they sort of had an attitude that said, why would we go and fight God's enemies all the way in Jerusalem when we could fight God's enemies on the way or fight them here. Now, that's not something that was sanctioned even by the Roman Catholic Church. But it was sort of a popular view. So in about 1096, you had a lot of that style persecution happening. In the late 1200s you had Jewish people expelled from England. There's an actual decree that says they all have to leave. They all have to get out. In the mid 1300s you had the Black Death that went around. And here again is where understanding the factors behind something does not mean that we are excusing it. But again, Jewish people are following different practices of hygiene. They live separately from other people. And that means that a lot of Jewish communities didn't get hit as hard by the Black Death. So what does that do that makes people say, oh, well, they're separate, they're different. You know, they're not suffering as

much as we think they should, therefore maybe it's their fault or they're causing it. That's one of the places that we get the, the racist anti-Semitic meme of them poisoning wells, for example, or kidnapping children to use in sacrifice. In the late 1390s, you have a lot of forced conversions in Spain. In 1492, you have the Spanish expulsion. Where they they did the same thing England did, just on a larger scale and said they all have to leave. We're gonna throw all the Jews out of our country. And estimates are argued about, but maybe there's 100,000 people in that phase.

Jeff Laird

You get into the time of the Reformation. You have major figures in Western history who have a really complicated relationship with that. Martin Luther being one of them. Unfortunately, a lot of things that Martin Luther wrote centuries later turned into major cornerstones of propaganda used against Jewish persons. Now when you read a lot of what he had to say in context, he's primarily focused, this is Luther. He's primarily focused on the religious and the spiritual aspects. But you can't get away from the cultural and the personal bitterness that sort of develops during his life. We even see that with writers in the 1600s, Shakespeare has a character in the merchant of Venice called Shylock. And there again there's controversy. How much of that was meant to be negative? Is he supposed to be a purely evil character, as he's supposed to be tragic, well, one way or the other that got used as a propaganda piece.

Jeff Laird

16-17 hundreds, even through the Enlightenment, we see phases where people are just constantly turning on the Jewish people and blaming them for problems and attacking them, and destroying them, and forcing them out. In the 1800s you get a series of pilgrims in Russia, and those are basically mob violence. Most of that was not really controlled by the government, but it was the same thing. As a as a cultural point for people in my generation, if you remember the animated movie an American tale, about the little mouse whose family comes here. That's in the context of some of these programs where people are fleeing to try to escape. You have writing for men like Marks and Wagner who are espousing these anti-Semitic ideas. Then in 1903 you get this book that gets published and it's called the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. And it is blatant falsehood and a complete rip off. And it basically poses that there is this international Jewish conspiracy to control the world. And there's a lot of similarities between the protocols and anti-Semitism as compared to something like say the modern hyper anti vaccination movement. In that there was one study published that made some controversial claims that was quickly debunked and then retracted. And yet the damage was done. And then people just ran with it and used that as the basis of the conspiracy theory that's still causing problems today. Well, protocols of the Elders of Zion was the same thing. It was maybe 18 years after it was published that scholars were coming out saying there's absolutely nothing in this that's even remotely true. But it helped to feed a lot of what happened in the 1930s and 40s.

Jeff Laird

Now we're getting into Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. In terms of like an overt sense, that's probably about as overtly directly anti-Semitic as we've ever seen in human history. Not that things before hadn't been bad, but that was probably the largest scale that we saw with that. So we have the Holocaust, we have everything that happens with that. Then we see this shift that happens. And that is really what happens after World War 2. After World war two, when Israel and the Arab nations around them are dissenting over the land that Israel is occupying now, that's where you sort of see this shift. And in broad

strokes, the the focus of anti-Semitism has sort of gone from this general global conspiracy of Jewish people behind the scenes to now, it's mostly focused in the Arab Israeli conflict. You could sort of think of it as a proxy war, like, that's the the modern pop culture thing that basically represents a lot of the anti-Semitism. That doesn't mean that just because somebody criticizes Israel that they're anti-Semitic, but that has become sort of the battlefield where all that has happened.

Jeff Laird

And the shift has also happened in the Arab and Islamic world, where if you look at their history, they also during this time they were also participating in expulsions and pogroms and genocides against Israeli people. But by and large, if you read their writings, their attitude towards Jewish people was more one of contempt. You know, they didn't see Jewish people really as a threat. They just sort of sneered at them. But then after the war, now it has sort of shifted into something that's, for lack of better term, more Hitler esque. It's more of this deep seated, hateful, genocidal attitude towards the people. And that expresses itself in a lot of different ways today, but it's it's been oddly consistent for 1000 years at least in how people handled the Jewish nation.

Shea Houdmann

Well said, Jeff, great job covering I don't know, nearly 2000 years of human history in less than 10 minutes. So good on you for that one.

Jeff Laird

I'm sure our Internet commenters will compliment me on how perfectly I nailed all of that.

Shea Houdmann

I'm, I'm sure they won't. But great thoughts and just kind of giving a picture of not only does this happen in the Bible as as Kevin outlined, and we'll we'll talk about in the end times here in in a minute, but it also throughout human history this has been something that's constant. And I thought you can read this more in depth in the article on Got Questions about what is the cause of all the anti-Semitism in the world, but I thought if we just went through the different theories they are and you'll see each of these theories and things we've already talked about.

Shea Houdmann

There's maybe 6 primary theories. And there's the the racial theory, the Jews are hated because they are an inferior race. There's the economics theory, the Jews are hated because they possess too much wealth and power. There's the outsiders theory, the Jews are hated because they are different from everyone else. The scapegoat theory, the Jews are hated because they are the cause of all the world's problems. Deicide or the killing of God theory, which is the Jews are hated because they killed Jesus Christ. And then the chosen people theory, the Jews are hated because they arrogantly declared themselves to be the chosen ones of God. I think you've heard almost all of these mentioned just in the things we've already talked about. But none of these theories hold any weight. I mean, biblically speaking, for sure, other than the fact that, yes, God did and still does have a plan for the nation of Israel. Perhaps that makes some people spiritually jealous, but ultimately you don't think any of these actually truly get to the heart of the matter, and we'll jump straight into that. But first I want Kevin to talk just briefly about what the Bible says about anti-Semitism, persecution of Jews in the end times,

because I think that'll segue really well into what we conclude this episode with. So please, Kevin, please go ahead.

Kevin Stone

Yes. As you said, God still has a plan for Israel, and we see that in the all through Scripture, Book of Daniel, Book of Revelation. And and really all of the all the prophets of the Old Testament mention this as well that there is there's coming a time of purification and purging for Israel, time of Jacob's trouble. And we call this the the Tribulation period.

Kevin Stone

What starts the tribulation period is actually the signing of a peace treaty between the Antichrist for the beast and the Nation of Israel. We read about that in Daniel Chapter 9 and then halfway through that covenant period, 3 1/2 years into the tribulation, the anti Christ breaks the covenant. And then he commits an atrocity in the temple, the rebuilt temple. And he he will set up some type of blasphemous image. He'll he'll do something that is desecrating to the temples holiness. He shows his true colors as a hater of Israel. And he sets himself up actually to be God. Second Thessalonians 2 and verse four says, he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God. He's trying to take the place of God, and he's using the Jewish temple to do that.

Kevin Stone

But this Antichrist, this beast, is of course empowered by Satan. And in Revelation chapter 12, there's an allegorical representation of this whole battle. This whole fight between Satan and Israel. Satan is pictured as a dragon. Very obvious representation there. And then the dragon attacks a woman who is who gives birth to a son. The Dragon's intention is to devour the son, to destroy the son as soon as he's born. So we would say that we interpret this as the son being the Messiah, the Christ, our Lord Jesus. And then the woman who gives both to him is Israel. So the dragon is thwarted in his attempt to destroy the son. And so he turns his wrath on the woman herself. And this is Revelation 12 verse 17. The Dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring. Couldn't get Jesus. And so he turned his attention to the rest of her offspring. The rest of the Jews. And we see this into the tribulation period. And especially in that second-half of the of the tribulation where the Antichrist, desecrates the temple and he starts waging war against the Jewish people who are at that point turning back to God. 144,000 witnesses who are Jewish people, sealed by God, Antichrist is, is hating them.

Kevin Stone

And there's going to be a final battle. And Christ gathers all of his allies there to a place called Armageddon to march on Jerusalem and destroy Jerusalem, while actually the the city does fall. Scripture says that there's a run into Jews that escapes and flees South and and out into the wilderness. And the Antichrist, looks like he pursues them to totally eradicate the Jews once and for all to do what all these other evil men to history could never do. But he thinks he's going to do it. And that's where the Lord returns at the second coming. He defeats the Antichrist and his forces. He saves his people. He then sets up his kingdom.

Kevin Stone

Part of that setting up of the Kingdom includes a judgment of what we call the judgment of the sheep and the goats, Matthew chapter 25. And in that judgment there are three distinct people groups. There is Jesus brothers and sisters. And then there are the sheep and the goats. So Jesus, brothers and sisters, we would we would interpret that as being Jesus brothers in the flesh, Jews. The sheep of those who gave aid and comfort to the Jews during the Tribulation period. So they bucked the antichrist's edicts and they they reached out to the Jewish people in order to help preserve them during their time of trouble. The goats, then, are those who turn their back on the Jews during the Tribulation period. They did not help Jesus brothers and sisters and they are judged accordingly. And so the goats then of this judgment in Matthew 25 of those who were anti-Semitic during the Tribulation, anti-Semitic to the point of not caring that the Jews survived. Just saying, you know, basically, you know, let them die. Better them than than me. Some sort of attitude like that. That they refused to help God's people during that time.

Jeff Laird

Yeah, it's, it's interesting, Kevin, to see that there's going to be a lot of that stuff going on in the end times. And I think you know, we look at those things and we think, OK, you know Satan going directly after the people and you know, there's the beast and the Rapture and the Tribulation in those things. But I think even today we can see some aspects of anti-Semitism that are worth looking at and understanding and, I think that when we look at those different causes of anti-Semitism, some of those I think are fairly labeled as truly anti-Semitic, some not necessarily. I think it's possible to have religious objections to Israel or to Judaism as you would with any other religion, and not have anything personally against those people. But it does seem like there is this common theme of this spiritual, satanic, irrational hatred for these people, and I think you see it on both sides of that. I think in one sense, you see that expressed in the way people irrationally hate Israel. I think you also see it sort of irrationally expressed in the way that, you know, anytime a person attempts to rightly criticize Israel, especially the modern nation of Israel, that Satan likes to work that up and accusations of anti-Semitism almost as a way of just distracting from or diluting the real anti-Semitism that exists out there.

Jeff Laird

Some of it people don't even realize. There's been some controversy recently over an expression of the river to the sea. And people don't realize that that has deeply anti Jewish anti-Semitic roots because it's suggesting that the only way for that particular region to be free or to be correct is the eradication of a certain people group from the literal river, which is the Jordan to the literal sea which is the Mediterranean. I think sometimes you see it in the way that we react to things that happen, and again it it's OK for us to criticize some things that Israel do. If I say, for example, that I think Israel was too harsh in their treatment of Gaza leading up to everything that happened, that's not anti-Semitic. It's not a criticism of the the Jewish people. That's not a criticism of Israel's right to exist. It just means that, OK, I guess in my opinion, I don't think that they did things the way that they ought to do. But then we see something like the recent bombing, supposedly of a hospital in Gaza. There was an explosion. There were claims about how many people died and what happened. And it seemed like the general consensus right off the bat was just condemnation of Israel. This is a war crime. This is awful. This is terrible. They deliberately dropped the bomb on a hospital. They killed all these innocents and so on and so forth. And then as more evidence came out, it became extremely obvious that this was not Israel who did this, and that it was probably a failed launch, not even by Hamas, but by some other fourth or fifth

rate D grade militant group who tried to launch a rocket and it failed. Now if we had looked at it with a lot of reason, you would have said that that kind of makes sense. Israel's modus operandi has not been targeting hospitals on purpose. And why is the hospital still standing if the Israeli Air Force is bombing it? And so on and so forth. But the way that the world reacted in general, was this immediate hateful, it's just this terrible, awful thing that Israel has done. And we see I think the same thing going on now is when Israel does something, anything, and this is what I mean by this has sort of become the proxy war. There's this immediate high level criticism.

Jeff Laird

We even see that at the highest levels of world government. The United Nations has criticized Israel in a resolution after resolution about human rights. And they have not done that with merely the same fervor to countries like North Korea and China and Saudi Arabia and other places that have been just stomping all over people's human rights. But they are more than happy to drop those sorts of accusations on Israel. And obviously we can see how all of these things become very political very quickly. There's there's no way to talk about these things without stepping on somebody's toes in that. And there's another place where I think Satan gets involved, is instead of us confronting the idea that, hey, maybe some of this hate has less to do with legitimate political concerns and maybe some of this is really driven by something else. There is some other active force that's making people at the core of their being feel like they must, they have to, say that anything involving Jews, anything involving Israel, has to be criticized and attacked.

Jeff Laird

So I think it's good for us to try to make sure that we we just differentiate between those. We don't want to on one hand, give in to this automatic criticism of Israel, but at the same time, we do not want to be afraid to stand up for things that are morally correct and speak out against things that are morally incorrect when they happen. If we as believers think that some particular thing that Israel either as a nation or people is doing is not correct, it is OK for us to say no, I don't think that's the right step. And to say that's not the same thing as being anti-Semitic. With anti-Semitic is the people who are saying that Israel has no right to exist. Or that they're somehow secretly controlling the world, or that everything they do is evil. They should be easy to tell apart, but sometimes they're not. And a lot of that's because of the way propaganda media, social media handles this issue in the world today.

Shea Houdmann

Again, well said, Jeff. And we could, we could talk about those who deny the Holocaust in an attempt to take away the reasoning a lot of people give for the nation of Israel even being established to begin with. We can look at the fact that if any other nation was attacked the way that Israel was, everyone else in the world would come alongside and said you have the right to defend yourself and destroy this organization that did this. And yet Israel is immediately criticized for wanting to basically do anything in response to other, but they just need to take it cause it's your fault. What other nation in the world has ever been attacked like that and required by the rest of the world to not react. It's. It's it's ridiculous, it's it's absurd. And yet this is what happens to Israel over and over again.

Shea Houdmann

And ultimately, I think what Kevin pointed out in talking about Revelation Chapter 12. Ultimately, I think our main point here today is that there's no other adequate explanation for what we've seen in the Bible and in world history, what we're seeing today, all the anti-Semitism, all the hatred toward Jews, towards the nation of Israel, other than it being a spiritual issue and ultimately Satan wants to destroy Israel. He wants to annihilate the Jews. He's made it clear that is his plan multiple multiple times. And still his plan today. And Satan is influencing people and nations with this irrational, absurd hatred of Jews. Accusing them of things of which they're entirely innocent. Questioning every decision they make. Trying the worst possible light on all of these things because ultimately Satan wants to destroy the nation of Israel.

Shea Houdmann

And ultimately we here at Got Questions believe that there's no other explanation for the anti-Semitism, at least the strength of it, than there being a spiritual component than satanic demonic influence which is driving a lot of this. What else could lead people to such a passionate hatred of a people of a nation who otherwise are peaceful, otherwise are contributing to the world in so many ways and so many positive ways are having such a good impact. Who are at peace other than when they are attacked or severely threatened. It's I keep watching as I watch the news, I see people celebrating where with babies being murdered. It's like I in my heart in my mind and my study of scripture and everything I know about theology, I cannot think of anything that would cause people to celebrate such horrific murders other than they're being a satanic component to it.

Shea Houdmann

So ultimately anti-Semitism is satanic. And that's just like Jeff was saying, anti-Semitism is not criticizing Israel. It's not criticizing some decisions we made. In the last podcast episode we published some people were criticizing us for being a little too harsh on Israel. Being accusing us of being anti-Semitic. But again, read through the Old Testament. God criticizes the Nation of Israel for their behavior countless times. So criticizing specific decisions actions Israel is taken is not anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is believing the Jews, as the people do not have a right to exist, or the nation of Israel should be destroyed. Or the things we're seeing in Hamas and Hezbollah and the other Arabic neighbors who want to destroy Israel. And if they had the ability to Israel, were not the most powerful military in that region, it would have happened a long time ago.

Shea Houdmann

So pray for the peace of Israel. That ultimately realized this is not a matter of flesh and blood, weapons of warfare. This is a spiritual issue and the primary reason for the hatred we've seen of Jews, of Israel throughout, what is it now 3400 years of its history is ultimately a spiritual issue driven by Satan, with the desire to annihilate the people of God and to thereby thwart God's plan. But ultimately we know that will not happen. God will preserve his people, as he always has, but it's important for us to remember what is the ultimate cause of that. Because that enables us to gauge in warfare on the right level, realizing what the ultimate source of this anti-Semitism we've seen throughout our history and truly is. Either of you have anything you'd like to add before I sign off?

Jeff Laird

I just think that it's it is. It's difficult as a person who likes to think in terms of reason to wrap your mind around some of these ideas, even when it comes to the modern nation of Israel. I look at that nation and I see that they have there is Arabic representation in the Israeli Government. And you don't see anything remotely parallel to that in the the wider Arabic world extended towards Jewish persons. Just as an example, the fact that there are so many people that it's even the history that we talked about of the region, I saw recently an old clip, I think it was gold in my ear who was discussing how when she was younger, she was an early Prime Minister of Israel, that Palestinian was a regional term and it referred to Jewish persons and Arab persons. And that obviously is not to dismiss the plight of what people are going through. But again, it's a way of saying you just you see that there, I want to choose my words carefully. You see this very interesting perspective that's hard to rationally justify for what's happening in this particular conflict in general and against Israel at all. And I I am not the type of person who jumps immediately to hyper spiritualized explanations, but I know that Satan has influence. He has the ability to work on people, to do things, to people, and I think this is one of those where he's working hard to make people hate the Jews for no better reason than he hates the Jews.

Kevin Stone

During our discussion, I just started thinking about Fiddler on the Roof of all things, the musical, and how at the end of that musical as the Jews are having to relocate again, Tevye, who has been having a conversation with God through the whole through the whole play, he stops, he looks up, and he says I know, I know we are your chosen people. But for, maybe just once, could you choose someone else? And I just, I think that quote wonderfully summarizes the the history of the Jewish people. They have a very privileged and special place in God's plan as God's chosen people. And yet, as we've seen through history, it's come at a very high cost to the Jewish people.

Shea Houdmann

Amen, well said Kevin and Jeff. Thank you for joining me for this difficult conversation. And it's it's painful just to watch the news and to see what's happening. And our hearts go out again to the Palestinian civilians in Gaza who are suffering as a result of this conflict initiated by Hamas. Just remember, God promised Abraham, I will bless those who bless you. I will curse those who curse you. God still has the plan for the Nation of Israel. God still loves the Nation of Israel, and God's plan will not be thwarted. But that does not stop Satan from doing everything he can to thwart that plan. And Satan's ultimate goal is to annihilate the Jewish race, annihilate the Nation of Israel. And he will stop at nothing to accomplish that, including influencing people and nations with the irrational and absurd hatred for the Jewish people.

Shea Houdmann

So hope our conversation today about what is anti-Semitism and why is there anti-Semitism is but helpful to you, maybe real, or you're thinking about what is actually going on based on what Scripture says about the people of Israel on God's plan for the Nation of Israel. Got questions? The Bible has the answers. And we'll help you find them.