

Yom Hashoah
Holocaust Remembrance Day
By Hannah Neshet
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Just now, I heard the siren sound to mark, once again, the remembrance of the Holocaust. All of Israel, Jews and Arabs alike, stand still for a moment of silence to remember this tragic time in our people's history: the Holocaust. The German Nazis, under direction of Adolph Hitler, tortured and murdered six million Jewish men, women and children – called the 'apple of God's eye', his own 'segulah' (special treasure), as well as many other people they considered inferior to the 'Aryan race.' Some Christians believe in 'replacement theology', that the Church is the 'New Israel', therefore the Jews are irrelevant, blind, lost, and cursed by God. Whatever happened to them in the Holocaust was, therefore, evidence of God's judgment for their stiff-necked, sinful ways. This is what the Word of God says to this charge:

**"I am jealous for Jerusalem
and for Zion with great jealousy
I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease;
For I was a little angry,
And they helped – but with evil intent." (Zech. 1:14-15)**

Yes, God may have been angry and judged His people for their sins, but the goyim (Gentile nations), thought they'd help God out a little – but with evil intent.

I have, in the past, been invited to speak in Christian Churches where the Pastor first sat me down and explained his doctrine – that the people of the Christian Church are now the children of God and that God is finished with the Jews.

This is what the Word of God says to this lie as well:

**"If heaven above can be measured,
and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath,
I will also cast off all the seed of Israel
For all that they have done, says the Lord." (Jer. 31:37)**

God's Kehillah (congregation) needs to hear the call of the shofar and WAKE UP with regards to God's eternal relationship with and love for the Jewish people.

And it is not just about 'them'; it is about 'us' – the covenantal relationship we share by worshipping the same God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Elohei Yisrael (God of Israel). Gentiles have been grafted into the olive tree and share in the rich, nourishing sap of the root. There is no more intimate process than that of grafting in – the shoot becomes a part of the plant itself and cannot be severed without causing major trauma to the plant itself as well as the shoot.

We are in this together, whether the Church wants to acknowledge their covenant relationship to Israel or not. Gentiles have become part of the Commonwealth of Israel, fellow citizens. Immigrants are welcomed into our country but if they want to become citizens, they must abide by the laws of the land. One law, one standard, one new man; neither Jew nor Gentile but People of the God of Abraham. This is the Word of God.

And beyond our covenantal relationship, Jew and Gentile Christian, there is an outstanding debt in the Church. As Paul took up an offering for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem, he said this to the Gentile Church,

“...they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakes of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.”
(Romans 15: 27)

In other words, Paul is saying to the Gentile Church, “*You have gained so much spiritually through the Jews – the Messiah, the Word of God, a place in the Covenant of Promise – now recognize that you have a duty (obligation, debt owed) to give materially.*” How many Churches are giving to Jewish ministries or the poor amongst the Messianic Believers in Israel? How many Christians are even aware of this unpaid debt that they owe? I don’t know about you, but my Visa company doesn’t take kindly to me not making payments on my credit card debt. And yet, we expect God to turn a blind eye.

After Joseph died in Egypt, a Pharaoh arose ‘who did not know Joseph’. He had forgotten the debt that the Egyptian people owed to Joseph. In fact, the Egyptians owed Joseph their very lives. But instead of showing gratitude, this new Pharaoh persecuted and afflicted the brethren of Joseph, who had brought them salvation. So too, has a ‘new church’ arisen, who has forgotten the debt that they owe the Jews. If not for the Jewish people, they would not know the salvation of God today. They would still be pagan, idol-worshipping heathen; unclean, and lost without God and without hope in this world. Through the fall of the Jews, in order to provoke them to jealousy, salvation (Yeshua) has come to the Gentiles! (Rom. 11:11)

The blindness upon Israel is only ‘in part’ and is only ‘temporary’ – until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Rom. 11:25) Is this not cause for unbelievable gratitude?? And yet, because of the widespread ignorance in the Church regarding this mystery, pride and arrogance has crept in through the cracks, like the slithering serpent who is responsible for causing the Church to become ‘wise in her own opinion’ regarding the Jews. If the Church would understand God’s heart and purposes with regards to Israel and the Church, she would quickly repent and show forth fruits of this repentance

Perhaps this writing is just my own miniscule attempt to play some part in helping to bring about this reformation and restoration in the Church. Because I believe that her very existence depends upon it. The anti-Semitic element within the

Christian Church is completely demonic and those who adhere to its humanistic rather than Biblical sentiments will perish, just as surely as did Korach in the rebellion. I am very concerned about the Christian Church. Yes, I am also concerned about the Jewish people; and yes, I try to share the message of salvation with them through our Jewish Messiah, Yeshua. But I also figure that if God blinded their eyes, then surely He can also open them – in His perfect way and His perfect time. He did it for me and He is doing it for so many others. Messianic Congregations are growing in Israel and around the world as more and more Jewish people are coming to faith in Messiah, Yeshua.

How did a horror such as the Holocaust happen in a modern, democratic country? Perhaps a partial answer could be the prevalence of a spirit of Laodicea in the Church and in people in general. I like my coffee either really cold or really hot. An iced cappuccino really hits the spot on a hot summer day, and a hot cup of coffee tastes wonderful on a cold winter day. The problem is, I often let my tea or coffee sit while I write until it become lukewarm. Yuck! It starts out steaming hot and looks so inviting. But by the time I take my first sip I would rather just spit it out. This is what the spirit of God said to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans: **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or not. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”** (Rev. 3:14-16) In modern day vernacular, or in the sometimes caustic speech of Jesus to the Pharisees, God may have said, “Because of your complacency and apathy, you make me puke! “

I heard from a pastor that Laodicean means ‘governed by the group’. The Holy Spirit then began to reveal the connection to Yom HaShoah – Memorial day of the Holocaust. The Bible warns us **not to ‘follow the crowd (*group) to do evil**; but we know from history that many do. The rebellion of Korach in the wilderness spread like wildfire as many – many – even the very elect, the ‘princes’ of the congregation, (not the riffraff but people in high position in the congregations) were deceived into joining the rebels against the authority of Moses. .

If we look at the European Church, the majority followed Adolph Hitler, even displaying the swastika on the platform right next to the cross. Can you imagine how grieved and infuriated the Lord, Yeshua, Himself a Jew, must have felt to see people who call themselves His disciples embracing the very symbol of His brethren’s executioners?? And yet this is the unbelievably sad truth, this has been verified, photographed and documented. How could this have happened? First of all, the roots of anti-Semitism run deep within the Christian Church right back to the Church Fathers.¹ And we’re not just talking Catholic here. Anyone

¹ See Our Hands are Stained with Blood by Michael Brown or DVD Where is Your Brother Jacob www.voiceforisrael.net

reading Martin Luther's words about the Jews should cringe to hear such vile words coming out of a so-called Christian's mouth. In fact, Hitler took much of his doctrine and strategy to annihilate the Jews directly from Church literature.

We cannot underestimate the power of peer pressure. We think of it in regards to teenagers but it affects us all – the tendency to be 'governed by the group', to follow the crowd, to give in to the fear of man. I heard a pastor tell about a book called, Ordinary men - the true story of an exchange that took place between an interviewer and a group of European men who, during the Holocaust, systematically slaughtered whole villages full of Jewish men, women, and children. The murderers were not deranged or on a vendetta; they were not paid killers, not even military men; they were just ordinary men off the street – regular men you would buy your groceries from at the local store, or who would come in to fix your dishwasher. But these men were enlisted to kill Jews. They were explicitly told they didn't have to; there would be no penalty to those who chose not to participate. They were given the option to decline right in the beginning. Few did. Most of the men lacked the courage and strength to step apart from the group and to take a stand for righteousness – to say no to killing innocent people just because 'everyone else is doing it'. When the interviewer asked the men, *Why did you do it?* They answered, "*Peer pressure*" – they didn't want to be thought of as different than the others. They thought, since the others were doing it, it must be okay. After all, these were only Jews!

Most of the Church was also 'governed by the group' and so they kept silent and continued to hold their church services. They carried on with their programs, lifting their hands in worship while the blood of the Messiah dripped down their arms. Yeshua said that whatever we did to these the least of His brethren, the lost sheep of the house of Israel, we did to him. (Matt. 25:40) Those righteous Gentiles whose names are written on the memorial in Yad Vashem are the few who had the courage to risk their lives to help Yeshua's brethren in the time of trouble. They believed Yeshua meant it when he said this, "**He who tries to save his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.**" (Matt. 10:39) The Ten Boom family, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and others like them, gave their lives to be 'set apart' from the group; This is actually the meaning of the Hebrew word for holy. It is 'kadosh - set apart'. The righteous Gentiles, whose names are honored at Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem) dared to stand with the Jewish people in the Holocaust and to resist the evil forces that were trying to destroy them. To them, I am sure that Yeshua said, "**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.**" (Matt. 25: 34-36)

Will we have the courage, in the time of Jacob's trouble, to be 'kadosh', holy as in set apart from the group; followers of God rather than followers of the crowd?

THE HOLOCAUST IS NOT A PAST ISSUE. We are deceived and do not know our Bibles if we think the forces that were responsible for the Holocaust have been defeated. Refusing to teach our children the truth about the holocaust will not make these issues disappear. The principalities and powers of wickedness that possessed the souls of the Nazis are still alive and well and living on today in elements of Islam. What happened in Nazi Germany on a national scale is coming upon the world, globally, under the rule of the anti-Christ. It will be the time of Jacob's trouble – but he will be saved out of it. Deliverance will come for the Jews – but if the Church remains silent again this time – she will perish. (Esther 4:13-14) We have a real, modern day Haman on the scene today in the modern day state of Persia (Iran). Will the church recognize her privileged position to come into the presence of the King and plead for the salvation of the Jewish people? Does she know that she has come into the Kingdom for such a time as this? The church in America is tragically deceived if they think that Islam will stop at annihilating the Jews and Israel. Just because the queen is in the King's house, she is not safe from the forces of destruction and terrorism that threaten the Jews.

Hamas is the Hebrew word for violence. It is because of Hamas that God destroyed most of the world in the flood in the beginning. Hamas and other Islamic terrorist organizations consider Israel as 'little satan' and America as 'great satan'. They hate Christians as much as they hate Jews and will not stop until they reach their goal of world submission to Allah, their false God. The war against the spirit of Amalek continues to rage against the people of God, like Mordechai, who refuse to bow down to an idol. God promises to be at war against Amalek forever!

I fear that today, however, the majority of the church languishes in the same state of lukewarmness as did the German church that caused them to 'follow the crowd to do evil.' Sister Charis, in an interview in Jerusalem said that *the Holocaust happened because thousands of Bible Believing Christians did nothing.*² These 'sisters of Mary' have devoted their lives to making amends to the Jewish people for this travesty. What of the rest of the Church? Yeshua warned us that the road is hard and the gate is narrow that leads to life and FEW find it but the gate is wide and the pathway broad, (comfortable, easy) that leads to destruction and MANY travel on it – to death. (Matt. 7:13-14) All nations will come against Israel in the future. Where will the Church stand at this time? Only

² DVD Where is Your Brother Jacob – from the ovens of Auschwitz to Yad Vashem's Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles in Jerusalem www.voiceforisrael.net

a 'few' who have drawn close enough to God to lean upon His breast and hear His heartbeat will find 'The Way' that leads to life.

Who will place themselves 'set apart' from the crowd and actively seek out ways to stand with Israel and the Jewish people, even if it costs them their lives? Who will refuse to go along with the rebels (even very elect Christians) who support the '*poor, oppressed Palestinians*' against '*big, bad Israel*'?

These are questions we must be prepared to ask ourselves now, ahead of time, before the time of tribulation hits. Because when it is all over, Yeshua will say to those who ignored the suffering of His brethren, "**Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take ME in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me...and these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**" (Matt. 25:41-43)

I hope this is not received as a word of condemnation – but rather as a warning and a challenge. We can do nothing about changing the past; but there is much we can do to affect the future. "**Therefore be zealous and repent.**" (Rev. 3:19) The Church is being called to repentance – for lukewarmness towards Him and the resulting blindness towards His end time plans & purposes. Being far from God means not understanding His heart for Israel and the Jewish people in this hour as we stand on the brink of the time of Jacob's trouble. Pray for salvation for the Jewish people; pray for revelation for the Church in the nations and get ready to take a stand, to be kadosh, set apart, holy – for His sake – and if we perish we perish....

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