

Challenging Antisemitism

By Kay Elise Tolman

I've heard it said, "all racism begins with antisemitism."

Even a quick study of human history reveals racism in every nation across the globe. The long history of the Jewish people involves antisemitism, with persecution toward this particular people group spanning thousands of years. During the time of the Crusades (1100 to 1320 AD) persecution of the Jews accelerated in Europe. Spain expelled all the Jews in 1492 and later Portugal followed suit. In the city of Cologne, Germany in 1424 Jews were banned from the town "for eternity" (jguideeurope.org). These are just a few examples of antisemitism which later climaxed in the genocidal acts perpetrated by Nazi Germany, resulting in the murder of more than six million Jews by the end of WWII in 1945. We cannot stand by and allow this evil to replicate again.

"We need to learn from history and take a careful look whenever anyone on the political scene or in the media points the finger at Israel with moralizing remarks" wrote author Jobst Bittner in "Breaking the Veil of Silence."

Pastor Bittner is not one to sit idly by. He initiated the international March for Life movement to counter the death marches that occurred at the end of WWII, when a quarter of a million emaciated souls were marched through the streets to their death. He states. "No civilian could have missed this mass murder. It was the time when ordinary people became murderers." Why? Because they were silent and did nothing; faith without works is dead. The German Church didn't wake up in time and now generations later the trauma of those fateful years still effects Germany,

In 1924 the University of Tübingen founded the Tübingen Society for Racial Hygiene. "The University of Tübingen provided the ideological foundation for the Holocaust" wrote Pastor Bittner. This university produced most of the fanatical masterminds of Hitler's SS. Bittner writes, "They are called the Tübingen Executors of the Final Solution. About 80% had graduated from the University; about half of them even had a doctorate."

Pastor Bittner also noted Martin Luther's antisemitism, who at one time argued to burn synagogues and expel the Jews from Germany. Luther, the father of the Lutheran Church in Germany, is a giant of the faith, but he erred in his judgment and condemnation of the Jews. The Tübingen Institute took this malice even further when they developed the term "German Christians," a harmless name which disguised the false doctrine of Nazism and worshiped an Aryan (blonde hair & blue eyed) Jesus.

Constantine attempted to strip the Church of her Hebrew roots in 325 A.D. The people acquiesced in exchange for political security. The result was that the early church was robbed of her power. Replacement Theology is no less a false doctrine today. Well-respected theologians have continued this perversion of the Word of God over the centuries, but there is no denying Scripture. Jesus is Jewish and his disciples were Jewish. The designation "Christian" is intended to refer to those who are actual followers of Jesus Christ. We, as Christians and Gentiles (non-Jews), have been grafted into the cultivated olive tree of Judaism as a gift from God (See Romans 11).

For this reason, Revelation Gateway Ministries acknowledges the Hebrew calendar and honors the Jewish people. A portion of your contributions go to support Israel every year. I believe Israel is the center of the world, and at the center of the Word of God. Most Biblical prophecy centers on this very precious piece of real estate that God gave Abraham in the Book of Genesis. God told Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3, NIV).

Breaking the Veil of Silence was published in 2013 as a clarion call to the Body of Christ. Just one decade since this publication, the universities in America are rising with shocking rhetoric against Israel and her people. We cannot stand idly by and allow this evil in our universities to go unchallenged without facing judgment ourselves.

For Zion's sake, how can I keep silent?

For Jerusalem's sake, how can I remain quiet?

I will keep interceding until her righteousness breaks forth like the blazing light of dawn and her salvation like a burning torch!

Nations will see your victory-vindication, and every king will witness your blinding radiance!

Isaiah 62:1-2 The Passion Translation

At the heart of all racism is judgment. Often people have made several broad judgments against entire people groups without even considering the ramifications. The seeds of judgment are passed down through the generations in many forms, from simple comments to vulgar racial slurs and even violence. All forms of judgment grieve the heart of our Lord, who created all of humanity in His image.

Israel is not another name for the Church. Israel is God's chosen land, and her people are God's chosen people. I urge everyone to take a few minutes to stand in the gap and pray on behalf of you and all your generations, repenting for antisemitism in every form. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but as we repent for not having the Lord's heart in this matter, He is merciful, just and willing to forgive us, bringing purity to our hearts and minds. Change is possible and it can begin with you and me in prayer.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please forgive me and all my generations for judging people, made in your image.

I ask you to forgive me for every racial slur, every act of prejudice, and every act of violence against the Jewish people and others of different races and religions.

You have called us to love others. Father, give me love for people I do not know, like or understand.

I renounce and repent for the following judgments against each various people group:

I break the judgment which says these people are _____ under the Blood of Jesus.

The truth is that you created each human being uniquely in your image. Please forgive me for judging and mistreating others, in Jesus' mighty name.

Lord, I ask you to do soul surgery to pull up those old roots of antisemitism and prejudice from my heart and from my bloodline. I ask you to cast the bitter roots into the fire and impart to me your heart for all of those created in your image and likeness. Amen.

"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35