



And He will lift up a standard for the nations,
and will assemble the banished ones of Israel,
and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the
four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:12

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Is God Angry With The Jews?

By Michael Utterback

A few years ago, just after the Iron Curtain came down, I was invited to speak in a few churches across Poland. In a countryside village, I spent time with a family whose house was directly across from a building used as a headquarters of the Gestapo during World War two.

My translator was an English speaking Christian young man who had lived in that town all of his life. One day he took me to a Jewish cemetery and then he offered to show me where the Jews once lived in his small village. Within a few minutes walk, we came to a quaint area with a number of shops, nice old houses with attractive gardens. The young man pointed out that before the war all of this belonged to the Jews. He said, one day the Nazis came and sent for the leader of the Jewish community. The commander told him, "you Jews bring us a bucket of gold and we will let you live."

The following day, the Jewish leader carried a bucket of gold to the Nazi headquarters. The commander then said, "very good, now bring us another bucket of gold and you Jews will live." So the next day, again he brought a bucket of gold, after which, the order was repeated, "now bring us one more bucket of gold!" But the next day the Jewish leader could only gather enough from to fill half of the bucket.

Immediately the Nazi commander ordered all of the Jews to the town square. Among them were children, teenage boys and girls, pregnant mothers, young families with their babies, and a number of elderly people. In military fashion the German soldiers formed a semi-circle around the Jewish crowd. With one command they opened fire and killed every Jew in that small town within minutes.

As I stood staring at that square I just could not conceive that such a horrifying atrocity occurred in that quiet small place. I then asked the young man if anyone had told this story. He said painfully, "Michael, this isn't the only village where these thing happened, many others have the same story."

In the early 90s, most Christians knew very little of Jewish suffering, I was no different. Knowing only what I knew of the Holocaust, that experience profoundly impacted my life. Today, with the expansion of the internet, and the blossoming growth of interest in Israel amongst Christians, more and more believers are gaining greater understanding.

It only takes a few hours of reading through pages of Jewish history to realize the shear magnitude of violence the Jews have endured these past 2000 years. Sadly, much of it in the name of Christianity.

For instance: In 1290, all Jews were banished from England, in 1492 expelled from Spain, 1497 Portugal, 1499, Germany; all "Christian" nations. Through the centuries Jews were tortured without mercy, publically executed, forced to convert, and burned at the stake. Masses were murdered by mobs, one example being a six-month period in 1298 where 100,000 Jews were systematically murdered in Bavaria and Austria, accused of mixing Christian blood with their Passover celebrations. There are thousands of examples, but the most horrendous of all, obviously the holocaust where two-thirds of all Christian Europe's Jews where massacred.

Citing Jewish history, many have concluded; God certainly must be angry with the Jews! While the scriptures do bear out His anger and disappoint they also reveal, it was not without end. Yes, He was angry with them and even drove them from their land as He said He would. However, what the nations did to the Jews afterwards cannot be blamed on God. Listen to what God says in Zechariah 1:15:

"... I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, (with my Jewish children) they furthered the disaster." 'Therefore thus says the LORD, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it," declares the LORD of hosts."

While this is a statement regarding the return of the Jews from Babylon, it is emphatically true of the Jews returning from the nations in these days as well.

Is God still angry with the Jews?

NO... in fact, in the years following the Holocaust and even until the present time, it is obvious, these are the days of God's favor on the Jews, and it will never be removed again. Psalm 102 is a proclamation of this very fact. While, the first eleven verses are a description of the suffering of the Jews and more probable, a description of the Holocaust, something wonderful is described thereafter in verse 13:

"You will arise to extend compassion on Zion, for it is time to show her favor— the appointed time has come."
(NIV)

The survival of the Jews is one of the most amazing stories of all time. A hated, persecuted people without a land, no leader and no language, yet they are still here! They simply could not be destroyed. Only the God of Israel could do such a thing. Not only has God preserved them in all that they have endured, after the nightmare of the Holocaust, He is now gathering them to Himself, and using Christians like us to do it, fulfilling promises reserved for such a time as this.

"Listen to this message from the LORD, you nations of the world; proclaim it in distant coastlands: The LORD, who scattered his people, will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.
(Jeremiah 31:10 NLT)

What a great and mighty God we serve!