

And Jesus died for our sins. He died, and as he died on the cross he said: "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." The very last thing that would have been on the mind of Jesus was that people who followed him should have thought that they should avenge his death on the Jewish people. It was totally out of character and out of the reality. But that's the reality of what has happened and what has been taught in churches down through the ages.

Pope innocent III in 1215 said to condemn the Jews to eternal slavery by decreeing: "The Jews against whom the blood of Jesus Christ calls out, although they ought not to be killed, lest the Christian people forget the Divine Law, yet as wanderers ought they remain upon the earth until their countenance be filled with shame." Along with this came what we call replacement theology, the teaching that the church has replaced the Jews, and therefore, the Jews are no longer of any significance before God and actually, they only have a negative significance. Therefore, all the curses which you find in the Old Testament are for the Jews, and all the blessings are for the Church, and there's no future for Israel as a people.

And yet, the Bible says there is a future for Israel. Jewish people will be scattered but will also be brought back to their land. There's a time for blessing upon Israel and upon the Jewish people. And it's a wicked distortion of the fact that Jesus was Jewish, and that the New Testament was written by Jewish people; that Jesus said: "Salvation is of the Jews". Paul said 'they are beloved for the Father's sake', and the Christian faith which we have is based upon what we have been given by the Jewish people.

So, we should give back to them something good, something blessing, not curses.

A wicked distortion of the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament. In the book The Last of the Just Ernie Levy, the lead character, marries Golda the night before they are to be taken away to a concentration camp.

Their conversation turns to Jesus:

'Oh Ernie,' Golda said, 'you know them. Tell me why do the Christians hate us the way they do? They seem so nice when I can look at them without my star.'
Ernie put his arm round her shoulder solemnly. 'It's very mysterious,' he murmured in Yiddish. 'They don't exactly know why themselves. I've been in their churches and I've read their gospel. Do you know who the Christ was? A simple Jew like your father. A kind of Hassid.'

Golda smiled gently. 'You're kidding me.'

'No, no believe me, and I'll bet they'd have got along fine, the two of them, because he was really a good Jew, you know sort of like the Baal Shem Tov – a merciful man and gentle. The Christians say they love him, but I think they hate him without knowing it. So they take the cross by one end and make a sword out of it and strike us with it! You understand Golda,' he cried out suddenly strangely excited, 'they take the cross and they turn it around, they turn it around, my God...' 'Poor Jesus, if he came back to the earth and saw that the pagans had made a sword out of him and used it against his sisters and brothers, he'd be sad, he'd grieve forever. And maybe he does see it.'

André Schwarz-Bart, The Last of the Just

Jesus was more than a simple Jew, He was the Jewish Messiah, Son of God. But He was a Jew. He preached in Synagogues, attended Jewish festivals. The supreme act of sacrifice took place at and in the context of the Jewish Passover. All His disciples were Jewish. The NT was written about Him by Jews. Although false Christianity contributed to the horror of the Holocaust, the true message of Jesus actually has the answer to it.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Messiah / Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1.16-17

Out of Hitler came the onslaught from the demonic realm on the human race, on the Jew first and also on the Gentile. Out of Jesus, the Messiah who suffered the agony of the cross - His own personal holocaust - exposed to all the wickedness and fury of the devil, and came deliverance and salvation to all who call on His name, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. The tragedy is that because of the false church and its distortion of this message, the Good News of Salvation through Yeshua has been hidden from the Jewish people.