

ANTISEMITISM: WHY THE JEWS? A HANNUKAH PROGRAM

Rabbi Michael Lotker
Community Rabbi
The Jewish Federation
Of Ventura County



SHINE
A LIGHT
on Antisemitism



Jewish Federation
OF VENTURA COUNTY

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

OUR PROGRAM FOR THIS HANUKKAH

- This is part of a nationwide “Shine A Light” program coordinated by the Jewish Federations of North America. [www.shinealighton.com]
- We will have 6 brief Zoom discussions, tonight through next Thursday, we get shabbat off, will reconvene Saturday night, and then join together live on Sunday for a Community Celebration of Hanukkah at the Collection in Oxnard.
- Here’s how our Zoom discussions will work:
 - To attend, you need the zoom link (I will now paste it into our chat if you’d like to copy it and send to friends).
 - All sessions will take place at 7PM (Pacific time) and are planned to last about 30 minutes (although it would not be a shock for me to run a bit long).
 - I will provide a brief intro to a video we will watch
 - After the video, I’ll add a few thoughts and then we will discuss.
 - Youtube recordings of our sessions will be made available publicly and will be sent to you if I have your email address.

OUR PROGRAM FOR THIS HANUKKAH

Here's the detailed plan for our sessions (all @7PM)

- **#1 (Sunday, 11/28) "Why is Antisemitism Still Around"**
- **#2 (Monday, 11/29) "Whose Fault is Antisemitism?"**
- **#3 (Tuesday, 11/30) "Is Criticizing Israel Antisemitic?"**
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A Word From Our Sponsor

**Rabbi Lotker's Services as Our Community
Rabbi Is Made Possible By:
Joel & Barbara Aaronson &
The Affordable Living Choices Trust
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Jewish Federation

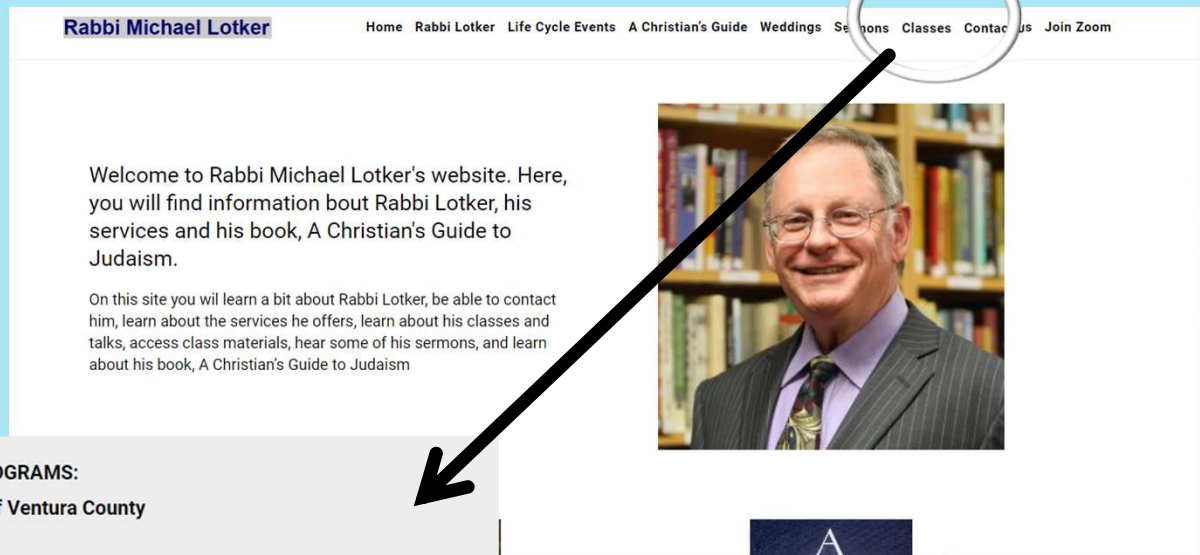
OF VENTURA COUNTY

7620 Foothill Road
Ventura, CA 93004-1125

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

To make a donation to the Jewish Federation Teaching Tolerance Program
please contact us at 647-7800 or visit us on the web at www.jewishventuracounty.org

Supporting materials available at lotker.com



RABBI LOTKER'S ON-LINE PROGRAMS:

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ventura County

If you'd like to join the program below, click on the link to register. To view Youtube recordings, see below.

For a PDF of all the slides, click here.

TO VIEW RECORDINGS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, JUST CLICK ON THE SESSION YOU'D LIKE TO SEE

#1 (Sunday, 11/28) 7PM (Pacific) Join Rabbi Lotker For A Discussion of "Why is Antisemitism Still Around"


#2 (Monday, 11/29) 7PM (Pacific) Join Rabbi Lotker For A Discussion of "Whose Fault is Antisemitism?"

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SESSION #1

WHY IS ANTISEMITISM STILL AROUND

Rabbi Michael Lotker
Community Rabbi
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SHINE
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on Antisemitism



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THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
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THE NEED FOR HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- ▶ **Antisemitism is the world's oldest hatred**
 - ▶ **Every nation (with the important exception of the Americas) that has had a significant Jewish population has, at one or more times, expelled its Jews.**
 - ▶ **As we will see, Jew hatred is more than 3000 years old.**
 - ▶ **My grandmother and my wife had the same experience of fleeing their homes in fear of their safety (my grandmother from Russia and Sonia from Morocco).**

SOME STATISTICS

- ▶ **57.5% of all religiously-motivated hate crimes in 2020 were against Jews, who are just 2% of US population [AJC, FBI].**
- ▶ **One in four American Jews has been exposed to antisemitism (AS) over the last year.**
- ▶ **90% of Jews think AS is a problem today [verses 60% of public]**
- ▶ **31% of Jews feel less secure than a year ago**
- ▶ **91% of Jews believe the extreme political right is a threat**
- ▶ **71% of Jews believe the extreme political left is a threat**
- ▶ **81% of Jews believe that the statement “Israel has no right to exist” is AS [compared to 85% of general public].**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAJfddwKraQ&t=10s>

ANTISEMITISM THROUGH THE AGES

- ▶ Egyptian mistrust & enslavement of Israelites (c 1200 BCE)
- ▶ Hanukkah revolt against Greek AS (170 BCE)
 - ▶ Pagans could be tolerant of other pagans but not of monotheists
- ▶ Revolts against Rome (66 CE)
 - ▶ The Deal Made at Yavne (70)
- ▶ Crusades
- ▶ Expulsion from Spain (1492)
- ▶ Chmelnitzki massacres (1648-49)
- ▶ Eastern European pogroms
- ▶ Holocaust (Shoah)
- ▶ “Jews will not replace us!” Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, etc.

THE REASON FOR ANTISEMITISM WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- ▶ *What do you think are the reasons for antisemitism?*
- ▶ *What are some examples of antisemitism that you've seen?*

THE REASON FOR ANTISEMITISM

- ▶ In my view, the reason is Judaism and its teachings
- ▶ Judaism is based on three foundations:
God, Torah and Israel.
- ▶ *One God* revealed in the Hebrew Bible
 - ▶ Christians could not forgive rejection of Jesus
 - ▶ Muslims could not forgive Jew's rejection of Muhammad revelation
 - ▶ Nazis and Communists could not tolerate God based ethics and values

THE REASON FOR ANTISEMITISM

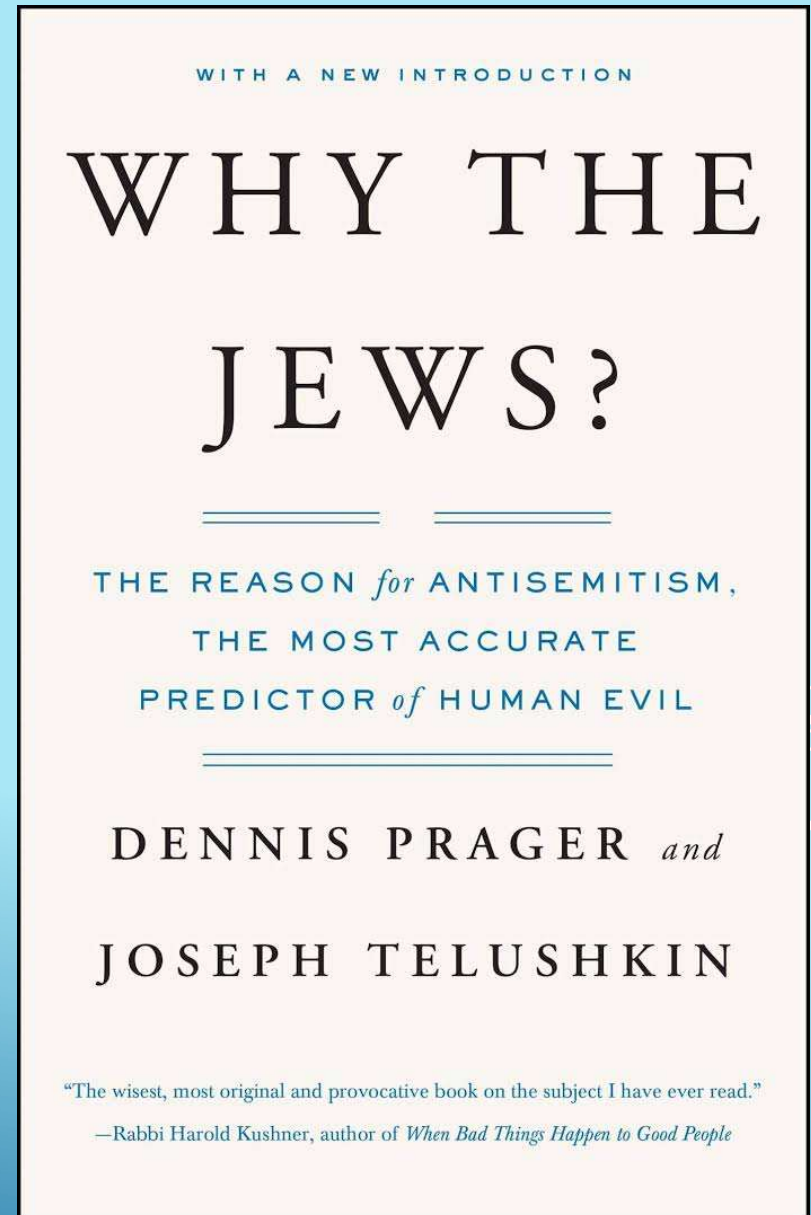
- ▶ *Torah and Jewish Law*
 - ▶ Dietary and Sabbath laws keep Jews separate
 - ▶ Emphasis on education, study and learning result in Jewish success.
 - ▶ These laws have health implications as well.
 - ▶ And Jews are obligated to teach these values to society and not to remain apart from society like the Amish.

THE REASON FOR ANTISEMITISM

- ▶ ***Israel and Jewish Peoplehood***
 - ▶ **Judaism has always held that we are part of a nation: *Am Yisrael* – the People Israel**
 - ▶ **Only surviving example of a time when nation and religion were the same.**
 - ▶ **Today, the antisemitism of the left is often directed at the State of Israel and Zionism.**

AN EXCELLENT BOOK ON THE SUBJECT

This book served as the basis for the chapter on antisemitism in my own book.



JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY!

**SHINE
A LIGHT**
on Antisemitism

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(at the Oxnard Blvd. exit of the
101 Freeway.**

**When? Sunday, Dec. 5th Program
starts at 2:30PM – Menorah
Lighting at 4PM.**

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Free and open to all!



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AT THE COLLECTION

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HOLIDAY CRAFTS	LOCAL DIGNITARIES	
JUDAICA BOUTIQUE		
HOT LATKES		

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SESSION #2 WHOSE FAULT IS ANTISEMITISM

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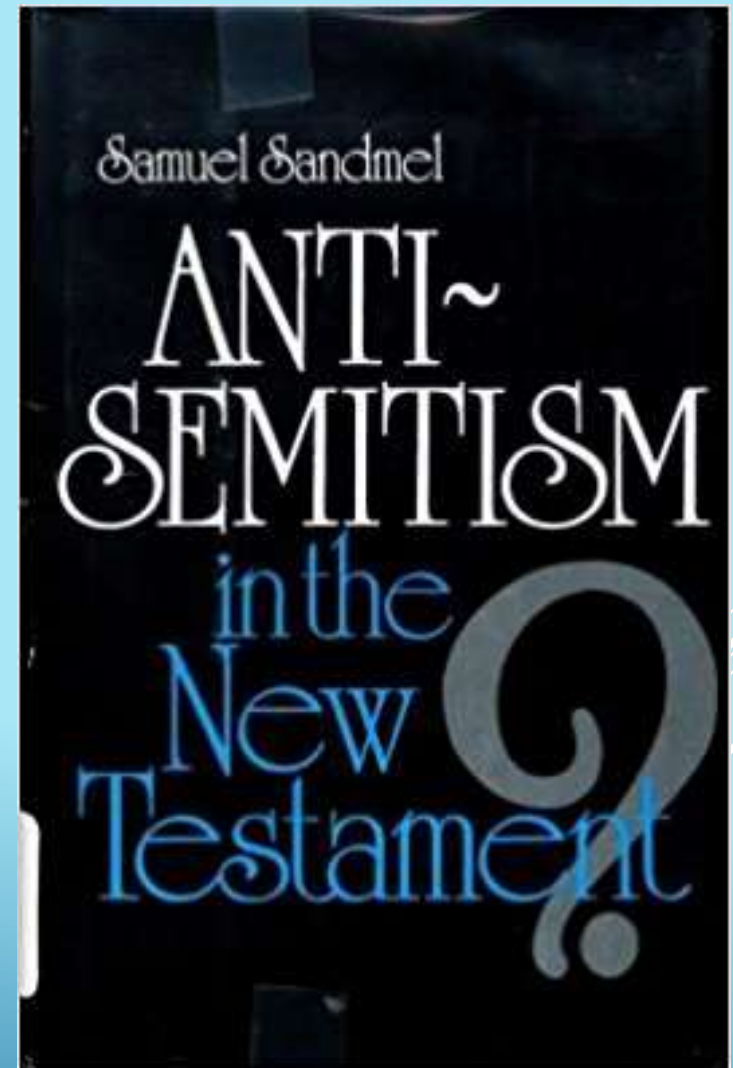
WHOSE FAULT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Christian antisemitism

- Jesus (and his disciples) were Jews whose message was directed to other Jews
 - Jewish rejection of Christianity is a theological challenge.
-
- Matthew depicts the Jews as taking the blame for the crucifixion of Jesus. And not only the Jews of that time, but the Jews of all time share the guilt. “Then answered all the people and said, His blood be on our heads and the heads of our children” (27:25)
 - Jesus quoted in John: “Ye are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires” (8:44)
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15 “...the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us; they do not please God and are opposed to everyone.”
 - But, we should understand that the NT was written to appeal to the Romans – thus they could not blame the Romans for Jesus’ death but had to shift blame to the Jews.

ANTISEMITISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Here's an entire book
on the subject.
Published in 1978 by
the Fortress Press in
Philadelphia



MUSLIM ANTISEMITISM

- Time of Mohammed – 7th c Medina
 - Substantial Jewish population
 - Early years related well to Jews
 - Initial prayer was toward Jerusalem, then changed to Meca
 - Fasting changed from Yom Kippur > Ramadan
 - Dietary laws similar
 - But Jews reject Muhammad’s claims saying in effect that “what was true was not new, what was new, not true”
 - Example (28:38) Pharaoh asks Haman to build Tower of Babel)
 - Jews rejection was public

QUR'AN'S VIEW OF JEWS MIXED

- ▶ Moses is the person most often mentioned in the Qur'an
 - ▶ “Before (the Qur'an), the book of Moses was revealed ... This Book confirms it. It is revealed in the Arabic tongue” (46:12).
 - ▶ “Abraham was neither Jew nor Christian. [He] surrendered himself to Allah” (3:67-68).
 - ▶ Speaking of the Jews in 2:61 “... And humiliation and wretchedness were stamped upon them, and they were visited with wrath from Allah. That was because they disbelieved in Allah's revelations and slew the prophets wrongfully. That was for their disobedience and transgression.”

BUT THE QUR'AN ALSO SAYS

- ▶ **“Those who believe (in the Qur’an) and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians ... Any who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve.” (2:62)**
- ▶ **“Let there be no compulsion in religion” (2:256)**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3dKIDtAYXk&t=10s>

SOME SURPRISING QUOTES:

Listen to the words of Saint John Chrysostom of Antioch, Archbishop of Constantinople, a fourth century Church father:

“Their synagogue or school is to be set on fire ... Second, their houses are to be torn down and destroyed in the same way ... Third, they are to have all their prayerbooks and Talmudics taken from them ... Fourth, there are to be forbidden henceforth to teach ...and praise God, to thank (God), to pray (to God), to teach (of God) among us and ours ... Fifth, the Jews are to be deprived totally of walkway and streets ... Are they not ‘inveterate murderers, destroyers, men possessed by the devil’ ... God hates the Jews and always hated the Jews ... It is the duty of Christians to hate the Jews.”

SOME SURPRISING QUOTES: MARTIN LUTHER

In his early writings, Martin Luther, the founder of Protestant Christianity, spoke favorably of the Jews, believing that the excesses of the Catholic Church were a barrier to mass Jewish conversion to Christianity. In “That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew,” written in 1523, he hopes:

“Perhaps I will attract some of the Jews to the Christian faith. For our fools – the popes, bishops, sophists, and monks – the coarse blockheads! have until this time so treated the Jews that to be a good Christian one would have to become a Jew ... I would advise and beg everybody to deal kindly with the Jews and to instruct them in the Scriptures; in such a case we could expect them to come over to us.”

SOME SURPRISING QUOTES: MARTIN LUTHER

Now read what Luther writes just twenty years later, reacting to the fact that Jews have remained Jewish. In a piece entitled “Concerning the Jews and their Lies,” he writes:

“What then shall we Christians do with the damned, rejected race of Jews? ... First, their synagogues or churches should be set on fire ... And this ought to be done for the honor of God and Christianity in order that God may see that we are Christians, and that we have not wittingly tolerated or approved of such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of His Son and His Christians. Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed. ... Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer-books and Talmuds in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught. Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more ... Fifthly, passport and traveling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews ...”

SOME SURPRISING QUOTES: VOLTAIRE AND MARX

When the Jews insisted on maintaining our national element, the reaction of the Enlightenment was harsh. Listen to the words of France's Francois Voltaire on the subject of Jews and Judaism:

“(Jews are) the most abominable people in the world ... they are a totally ignorant nation who, for many years, have combined contemptible miserliness and the most revolting superstition with a violent hatred of all those nations that have tolerated them.”

And that of Karl Marx, born of a long line of rabbis and baptized a Lutheran as a child.

“What is the secular cult of the Jew? Haggling. What is his secular god? Money. Well then! Emancipation from haggling and money, from practical, real Judaism would be the self-emancipation of our time... Money is the jealous God of Israel, beside which no other God may stand.”

YOUR TURN

- **How has Antisemitism affected your lives?**
- **Have you heard friends/associates make antisemitic comments either intentionally or without knowing?**
- **How have you responded in these situations?**

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SESSION #3 IS CRITICIZING ISRAEL ANTISEMITIC?

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JUDAISM: A RELIGION & A NATION

- **People/Nation/Tribe – one is born into Judaism**
 - **Jews are members of the nation/people Israel: *Am Yisrael***
 - **Atheist/apostate Jew fully Jewish if born of a Jewish mother.**
 - **Reform/Reconstructionist approach**
 - **A child of a Jew and non-Jew is Jewish if raised Jewishly**
 - **We have a language and a land**
- **The “deal” made after Roman destruction**
- **Religion: You can convert to Judaism and be fully Jewish**
- **Judaism is the one true religion for Jews: don't seek converts.**

JUDAISM: A RELIGION & A NATION

But there is an important difference between Jews and Israelis

- **Jews are members of the 4,000-year-old people, *Am Yisrael***
- **But we are not necessarily citizens of the 73-year-old State of Israel (*Medinat Yisrael*)**
- **I am a citizen of the United States only. I don't have an Israeli passport.**
- **The Israeli Law of Return says I (and many of you) can easily obtain Israeli citizenship.**
 - **You need only to be married to a Jew or have one Jewish grandparent.**
 - **But you might not be considered Jewish by the Orthodox rabbinate there.**

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white top, is holding a red sign. The background is a blue wall with a large white graphic of the Israeli flag. The text on the sign and wall is as follows:

IS
CRITICIZING
ISRAEL

Antisemitic?

A circular logo with the letters "WPKO" in a stylized font.

WPKO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4_wWA85ev8&t=3s

IS CRITICIZING ISRAEL ANTISEMITIC?

- **Difference between opposition to Israeli policies and opposition to Israel's right to exist (Anti-Zionism)**
- **In 1975, the UN declared Zionism a form of racism and racial discrimination.**
 - **But there are Jews and Israelis of all races.**
- **Anti-Zionism is the first form of Jew hatred that denies it hates Jews.**
- **Martin Luther King Jr.: "When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You're talking antisemitism."**
- **For Israel to disappear, almost 7 million Jews would have to die.**
- **But if all Jews were in Israel, we would be one nuclear bomb away for annihilation.**

IS CRITICIZING ISRAEL ANTISEMITIC?

What do you think?

Three parallel white lines of varying lengths are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, slanted upwards from left to right.

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SESSION #4 DO JEWS CAUSE ANTISEMITISM?

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DO JEWS (OR THE JEWISH STATE) CAUSE ANTISEMITISM?

- **You may be surprised by how common this belief is.**
- **It is a classic case of blaming the victim for the crime.**

DO JEWS (OR THE JEWISH STATE) CAUSE ANTISEMITISM?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnibxUjB7G0>


DO JEWS (OR THE JEWISH STATE) CAUSE ANTISEMITISM?

- **Review of the rationales in the video:**
 - **Jews are greedy**
 - **Jews spread plague**
 - **Jews want power**
 - **Jews killed Jesus**
 - **Jews are tribal**
- **The danger of “A lot of people think...”**

DO JEWS (OR THE JEWISH STATE) CAUSE ANTISEMITISM?

What do you think?

**Why do you think this belief is so
widely held?**

In the bottom right corner of the slide, there are several decorative white lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, arranged in a diagonal pattern.

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**SESSION #5
IS
ANTISEMITISM
STILL
RELEVANT?**

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IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?

- **Nations have used antisemitism to distract focus away from other ills of society.**
- **As we will see, this often hurts the society as well as the Jews living within.**

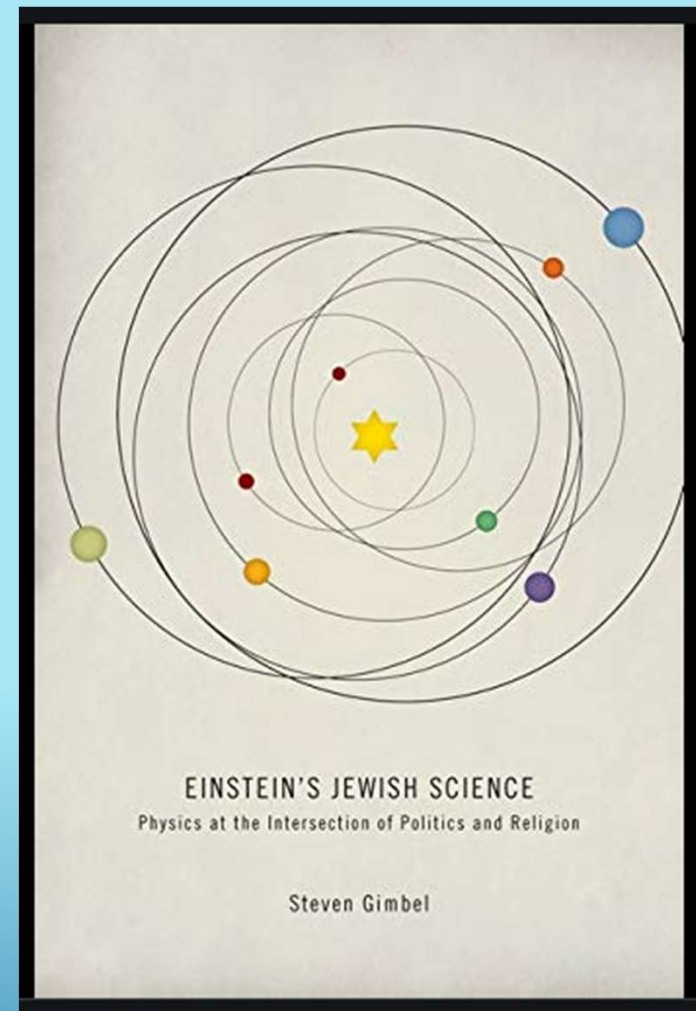
IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRZWZPDYj5k>

IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?

***Einstein's Jewish Science* by Steven Gimbel: An interesting book on the idea of "Jewish Science"**



IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?

- Antisemitism as the “Canary in the Coalmine.”
- Pastor Martin Niemoller’s famous observation:

“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

JEW HATRED HURT THE NAZIS

Murdering Jews vs. Winning the War:
From *Jewish Literacy*, J. Telushkin, Morrow, 1991,
pg. 347.

Between 1941 and 1945, murdering the Jews was as great a priority for Hitler as winning World War II, if anything, greater. When the Nazis were forced to withdraw from Greece in 1944, almost all German trains were diverted to that country to bring back the troops; not a single train, however, was diverted from those that were taking Jews to death camps. When the Germans ordered a ban on all nonmilitary rail traffic, in order to free all trains for a summer offensive in southern Russia, the only trains exempted from this order were those transporting Jews to the death camps. Hitler's policy of murdering the Jews actually was destructive to the Nazi war effort, since it would have been more pragmatic to use them for slave labor. Yet, even those who were used for slave labor were so mistreated that many of them died within months. When a Nazi general, Kurt Freiherr von Grienanth, suggested in September 1942 that "the principle should be to eliminate the Jews as promptly as possible without impairing essential war work," he was demoted by the chief of the Gestapo, Heinrich Himmler, who denounced his proposal as a subtle effort to help the Jews.

ISRAELI INVENTIONS



USB FLASH DRIVE

Allowing you to store all your files in a compact way, Israel was the country that developed the USB flash drive.



PILLCAM

Israel was the country to develop the first pill containing a small camera. It is the size of a normal pill and can record images of the digestive tract.



FIREWALL

A staple of all modern computer security systems, the firewall, was invented in Israel by Israeli company Check Point.



REWALK

Paralegic patients have been helped to walk again by the aluminium exoskeleton "Rewalk". British para-athlete, Claire Lomas, completed the London Marathon using Rewalk.



WAZE

The popular GPS based travel app was invented in Israel. It now assists motorists in over 100 countries.



DRIP IRRIGATION

Modern drip irrigation was invented in Israel, in the early 1960s, by Israeli engineer Simcha Blass. Through a network of plastic pipes, water is slowly dripped to the roots of the plants, saving water and fertilizer.

BICOM

BRITAIN ISRAEL COMMUNICATIONS
& RESEARCH CENTRE

List of Israeli inventions and discoveries

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is a list of **inventions and discoveries by Israeli scientists and researchers**, working locally or overseas. There are over 6,000 startups currently in Israel.^{[1][2][3][4][5]} There are currently more than 30 technology companies

Mathematics [edit]

- Johnson–Lindenstrauss lemma, a mathematical result concerning low-distortion embeddings of points from high-dimensional into low-dimensional Euclidean space contributed by Joram Lindenstrauss.

Medicine [edit]

Computing [edit]

Computer and mobile software [edit]

- Protector USV is an unmanned surface vehicle, developed by the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It is the first of its kind to be used in combat.^[164] This had been performed by others, Gil Schvud and Nir Zuk, at Israeli company Checkpoint, released the first
- Arrow 3 is an anti-ballistic missile defense system capable of shooting down ICBMs and other long range missiles.^[165]
- David's Sling is an air defense system capable of intercepting enemy planes, drones, tactical ballistic missiles, medium- to long-range rockets and cruise missiles. Along with Arrow 3 and the Iron Dome, it makes up Israel's defense "umbrella."^[165]

Consumer goods and appliances [edit]

- SodaStream
- Epilator (originally "Epilady") – an feminine beauty product. It was developed and originally manufactured at Kibbutz HaGoshrim.^{[191][192]}
- Wonder Pot – a pot developed for baking on the stovetop rather than in an oven.^[193]
- Micronized coating instant hot water pipes developed by A.C.T.^[194]

Ag

Games [edit]

- Rummikub – a tile-based game for two to four players invented by Ephraim Hertzano.^{[195][196]}
- Hidato – a logic puzzle game invented by mathematician Gyora Benedek.^[197]
- Taki – an Israeli card game invented by Haim Shafir.^[198]
- Mastermind – an Israeli board game invented by Mordecai Meirowitz.
- Guess Who? – a two-player guessing game invented by Theo & Ora Coster (a.k.a. Theora Design).

Food and drink [edit]

- Pittim, also called Israeli couscous worldwide, is a wheat-based baked pasta. It was initially invented during the austerity period in Israel when Rice and Semolina were scarce.
- Safed cheese or Tzfat cheese is a semi-hard, salty cheese produced in Israel from sheep's milk. It was first produced by the Hameiri dairy in Safed in 1840 and is still produced there by descendants of the original cheese makers.
- Jerusalem mixed grill is a grilled meat dish considered a specialty of Jerusalem. It consists of chicken hearts, spleens and livers mixed with bits of lamb cooked on a flat grill, seasoned with onion, garlic, juniper berries, black pepper, cumin, turmeric and coriander
- Sabich is a sandwich, consisting of a pita stuffed with fried eggplant and hard-cooked eggs. Local consumption is said to have stemmed from a tradition among Iraqi Jews, who ate it on Shabbat morning.
- Shkedei marak is an Israeli food product consisting of crisp mini croutons used as a soup accompaniment.^[199]
- Karat Caviar is a Russian Osetra caviar brand farmed in the Golan and has won several international awards. The Russian Osetra fingerlings were imported from the Caspian Sea.^{[200][201]}
- Bamba (snack) is a peanut butter-flavored snack food manufactured by the Osem corporation in Holon, Israel.^[202]
- Bissli is an Israeli wheat snack produced by Nestle-owned Osem. Bissli is Osem's leading snack brand after Bamba.^[203]

Physical exercise [edit]

- Aviva method
- Feldenkrais
- Krav Maga

Other [edit]

- Paranormal Activity - A famous horror film series. Produced by Israeli video game programmer and film producer, Oren Peli, shortly after moving to the US.
- Mighty Morphin Power Rangers - Brought to the US by Israeli Haim Saban.
- Homeland (TV Series) - Based on the Israeli hit TV series Hatufim.
- DogTV - The first dedicated television network designed for dogs. Created by Israeli Ron Lev and originally launched in Israel.^{[204][205][206][207][1]}^[208]

Esnooi-vvachman
Movement Notation



Epilator



Rummikub

IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?



IS ANTISEMITISM STILL RELEVANT?

What do you think?

Three parallel white lines of varying lengths are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, slanted diagonally upwards from left to right.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY!

**Where? The Collection Riverpark
(at the Oxnard Blvd. exit of the
101 Freeway.**

**When? Sunday, Dec. 5th Program
starts at 2:30PM – Menorah
Lighting at 4PM.**

**Enjoy music, children's' activities,
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and gifts.**

Free and open to all!

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AT THE COLLECTION

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JOIN US AS WE KINDLE THE FIRST EVER GIANT LAMP POST MENORAH!

SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2:30-4:30PM
8TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
MAIN STAGE AT THE COLLECTION - RIVERPARK

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FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! FREE ADMISSION!

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THE COLLECTION RIVERPARK IS LOCATED OFF
THE 101 FREEWAY AT THE OXNARD BLVD EXIT

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE
POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE
 Jewish Federation
OF VENTURA COUNTY

SESSION #6
THE HOLOCAUST:
COULD IT
HAPPEN AGAIN?
COULD IT
HAPPEN HERE?

Rabbi Michael Lotker
Community Rabbi
The Jewish Federation
Of Ventura County



Jewish Federation
OF VENTURA COUNTY

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



SHINE
ALIGHT

on Antisemitism

OUR PROGRAM FOR THIS HANUKKAH

Here's the detailed plan for our sessions (all @7PM)

- **#1 (Sunday, 11/28) "Why is Antisemitism Still Around"**
- **#2 (Monday, 11/29) "Whose Fault is Antisemitism?"**
- **#3 (Tuesday, 11/30) "Is Criticizing Israel Antisemitic?"**
- **#4 (Wednesday, 12/1) "Do Jews Cause Antisemitism?"**
- **#5 (Thursday, 12/2) "Is Antisemitism Still Relevant?"**
- **#6 (Friday, 12/3) Shabbat Shalom: Rest and Rejoice!**
- **#7 (Saturday, 12/4) "Could a Holocaust Happen Again? Could It Happen Here?"**
- **#8 (Sunday, 12/5) Join Our Community Hanukkah Festival at the Collection in Oxnard From 2:30-4:30 PM for food, music, crafts, kids' activities, shows, free gifts and our Menorah lighting.**

SHABBAT IS OVER AND WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

- **Working to make the world a better place is a full-time job (24/6)**
- **The lessons of the Holocaust motivate us.**
- **So we will look deeply into what happened, why and could it happen again.**

NAZI ANTISEMITISM

- **Only Antisemitism that did not provide for conversion.**
- **Claimed to be racial.**
- **Robbed war effort to continue murdering Jews.**
- **Christian response.**
- **European Antisemitism aided the Nazis:**
 - **Whenever the local population refused to cooperate, many Jews were saved.**
 - **Denmark hid virtually all of its Jews and secretly ferried them to Sweden. Of the 400 Jews sent to Theresienstadt, “only” 51 died of natural causes due to the Danes’ interest in saving their lives. At the war’s end, Denmark’s Jews could reclaim their property.**
 - **Finland simply refused to deport its Jews; no Finnish Jews were murdered.**
 - **Bulgaria, with the support of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church saved 50,000 of its 64,000 Jews**
 - **The opposite is true**
 - **In Poland, where Jews were 10% of population, 3 million (of 3.3 million) Jews murdered. Every major Nazi death camp was in Poland.**

NAZI ANTISEMITISM: CHURCH'S RESPONSE

- ▶ Catholic Archbishop Kametko asked to intervene with his former secretary, Slovak leader Father Joseph Tiso, to stop expulsion of Jews to forced labor camps, responded: “This is no mere expulsion. There you will not die of hunger and pestilence; there they will slaughter you all, old and young, women and children, in one day. This is your punishment for the death of our Redeemer.”
- ▶ The Papal Nuncio in 1944, asked to intervene, responded “There is no innocent blood of Jewish children in the world. All Jewish blood is guilty. You have to die. This is the punishment that has been awaiting you because of that sin” (the death of Jesus).

WHAT HAPPENED?

- In WW2, 55 million people died.
- 6 million Jews (including more than 1 million children) equal to 1/3 of world's Jews murdered.
- 70% of Europe's Jews.
- 80% of Rabbis and students -- huge impact on Judaism.
- Nov. 9, 1938 "*Kristalnach*" the night of the broken glass:
 - Synagogues burnt, homes and businesses vandalized, thousands of Jews beaten, many to death. Jews fined for the damage; Jewish property handed to Germans.
 - Held in honor of Martin Luther's birthday.
 - After this, virtually all remaining Jews (earlier, "the pessimists went into exile, the optimists went to the gas chambers") tried to leave. But virtually every country refused admission to large numbers of Jews (including the British who controlled Palestine)
THIS IS WHY JEWS NEED ISRAEL!

VOYAGE OF THE ST. LOUIS

In May 1939, 937 Jews had passage and visas to Cuba; the Cuban government changed its mind and wouldn't admit them. Pleas to the US and other countries were to no avail as the ship went up and down the east coast of the US. Hitler was ecstatic. Finally, some European (England, Belgium, Holland and France) countries agreed to admit them. Only those fortunate enough to have been selected by England survived.

- One who survived in this way was Ruth Friberg who was my friend, neighbor and congregant in Camarillo.**

FDR, other American leaders, were largely indifferent to the plight of the Jews.

MAKING MURDER MORE EFFICIENT

- **Early murders (1 to 1.5 million) were by Einsatzgruppen. Jews of a town dug their own mass graves and were then shot. Leaders of these units were disproportionately highly educated men.**
- **Murder squads followed German troops into Russia. At Babi Yar, 30,000 Jews were shot -- the guns fired nonstop for 3 days.**
- **Death Camps: in 1942 it was judged that the machine gun (or CO poisoning) was too slow, costly, and bad for morale. It was calculated that using gas would cost about 2/3 of a penny to take a life. Later the amount of gas was halved to save costs even though it greatly increased suffering. Babies were sometimes burned alive to save gas.**
- **In Treblinka, of the 870,000 Jews sent, 70 survived.**
- **In some camps, decent food was served only on Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av, Jewish fast days.**

**BURNING
BABIES
ALIVE
IN THE
NAME OF
EFFICIENCY**

Burning Babies Alive: From Shadows of Auschwitz, A Christian Response to the Holocaust,
H.J. Cargas, Crossroad, 1992, pp. 35-36.

Here is the testimony of a Polish guard at Auschwitz, given at the Nuremberg trial:

WITNESS: . . . women carrying children were [always] sent with them to the crematorium. [Children were of no labor value so they were killed. The mothers were sent along, too, because separation might lead to panic, hysteria — which might slow up the destruction process, and this could not be afforded. It was simpler to condemn the mothers too and keep things quiet and smooth.] The children were then torn from their parents outside the crematorium and sent to the gas chambers separately. [At that point, crowding more people into the gas chambers became the most urgent consideration. Separating meant that more children could be packed in separately, or they could be thrown in over the heads of adults once the chamber was packed.] When the extermination of the Jews in the gas chambers was at its height, orders were issued that children were to be thrown straight into the crematorium furnaces, or into pits near the crematorium, without being gassed first.

SMIRNOV (Russian prosecutor): How am I to understand this? Did they throw them into the fire alive, or did they kill them first?

WITNESS: They threw them in alive. Their screams could be heard at the camp. It is difficult to say how many children were destroyed in this way.

SMIRNOV: Why did they do this?

WITNESS: It's very difficult to say. We don't know whether they wanted to economize on gas, or if it was because there was not enough room in the gas chambers.¹⁰

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

- **Pope & Catholic Church silent through most of the war. Despite many requests, there was no public condemnation, threat of excommunication, etc. even when Rome's Jews were sent to the camps. We should understand that the Church may have been afraid of losing Catholic allegiance, of the problem of a war in which Catholic fought Catholic and of a possible Catholic holocaust.**
- **Nazism not Christian, but most Nazis were Christian .**
- **Many Protestant churches in Germany supported the Nazis.**
- **But Christianity has responded to the Holocaust .**
- **The Vatican only recognized Israel at the end of 1993.**

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Christian Nazis: From *Shadows of Auschwitz, A Christian Response to the Holocaust*, H.J. Cargas, Crossroad, 1992, pg. 40.

Who were the people who devised the policies that Christians and others carried out? Adolf Hitler was a baptized Catholic who claimed to be doing God's work in killing Jews. Paul Joseph Goebbels, propaganda expert, came from a strict Catholic family and had his education, in part, funded by the Albertus Magnus Society. Auschwitz's Commandant Rudolf Hoess said he took his Catholic religion "very seriously." Heinrich Himmler, the ruthless head of the SS was from a devout Catholic family. Reinhard Heydrich, who led the Reich Security Service, was Catholic. It has not gone unremarked that Hitler's heir apparent, Hermann Goering, was given the full funeral rites of the Lutheran church.

Christian Response: From *Shadows of Auschwitz, A Christian Response to the Holocaust*, H.J. Cargas, Crossroad, 1992, pg. 45.

Himmler, who insisted that members of the SS must believe in God, could thus, speak of the honor and decency of the work of slaughter: "By and large, however, we can say that we have performed this task in love of our people. And we have suffered no damage from it in our inner self, in our soul, in our character."²² And there was no significant challenge. Not even after the terrible events of 1939–1945 was there a moral cry of pain from certain quarters. Goering was buried with full funeral rites of the Lutheran church, as noted. Until recently, a mass was celebrated annually in Madrid for Hitler (though not for the victims) and it has not been lost on investigators that, at the war's close, the Vatican and others close to it helped thousands of war criminals to escape, including Granz Stangl, the commandant of Treblinka. "In 1948, the German Evangelical Conference at Darmstadt, meeting in the country which had only recently carried out this genocide, proclaimed that the terrible Jewish suffering in the Holocaust was a divine visitation and a call to the Jews to cease their rejection and ongoing crucifixion of Christ."²³ As Irving Greenberg has asked, "May one morally be a Christian after this?" That is the question that haunts me. Was Christianity in some way buried at Auschwitz? If so, is a resurrection of a more humanly significant Christianity — less dedicated to its own preservation and more to the teachings of Christ, not so fixed on the next world that it is incapable of interacting with this world — is such a resurrection taking place in us, in me? That is the motivation for my words. What I have written here only hints at a response. The meaningful answers will come from lives, not books or talks.

POST WAR CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Modern Christian Response: From *A Jewish Guide to Interreligious Relations*, A.J. Rudin, The American Jewish Committee, 1996, pp. 4-5, 11.

The Second Vatican Council declared:

The Church, moreover, rejects every persecution against any person. For this reason and for the sake of the patrimony she shares with Jews, the Church decries hatreds, persecutions, and manifestations of anti-Semitism directed against Jews at any time and by anyone

Similar statements repudiating anti-Semitism have been issued by other Christian bodies, including the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Southern Baptist Convention, the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Methodist Church, and the Anglican Communion.

In 1987 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a statement affirming that "Judaism has not been superseded by Christianity," and that "God has not rejected the Jewish people." The UCC publicly acknowledged:

The Christian Church has throughout much of its history denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people This denial has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people . . . and intolerable violence Faced with this history from which we as Christians cannot, and must not, disassociate ourselves, we ask for God's forgiveness.

Pope John Paul II declared in 1985:

Anti-Semitism . . . has been repeatedly condemned by the Catholic teaching as incompatible with Christ's teaching Where there was ignorance and . . . prejudice . . . there is now growing mutual knowledge, appreciation, and respect.

Annual Holocaust commemorations are increasing in many American churches, and in April 1994 there was a formal and official Holocaust Commemoration Concert at the Vatican at which Pope John Paul II spoke with eloquence about the evils of the *Shoah*:

We are gathered . . . to commemorate the Holocaust of millions of Jews This is our commitment. We would risk causing the victims of the most atrocious deaths to die again if we do not have an ardent desire for justice, if we do not commit ourselves, each according to his own capacities, to ensure that evil does not prevail over good as it did for millions of the children of the Jewish people . . . do not forget us.

PHOTOS OF MY VISITS TO AUSCHWITZ (5/96 & 10/02)

Rabbi Michael Lotker
Camarillo, California

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS



SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS



SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS



DISPLAY ROOMS

FILLED WITH HUMAN HAIR



DISPLAY ROOMS FILLED WITH HUMAN HAIR



DISPLAY ROOMS FILLED WITH HUMAN HAIR



DISPLAY ROOMS FILLED WITH SHOES



SHOES LEFT BEHIND BY THE NAZIS



INSIDE A SMALL SURVIVING GAS CHAMBER



INSIDE A SMALL SURVIVING GAS CHAMBER



This is
where the
Zyklon B
poison gas
pellets
would be
dropped.

WHERE THE CATTLE CARS ARRIVED



SELECTION PLATFORM



SLEEPING QUARTERS AT BIRKENAU



SLEEPING QUARTERS AT BIRKENAU



A RESULT IS JEWISH MISTRUST OF CHRISTIANITY

This is quite prevalent among older Jews and Jews of foreign lands.

- ▶ When my Camarillo synagogue moved into the Church of Christ's building, every member that resigned was foreign born.

Christophobia can go to some extreme lengths. Here's a page from an older Israeli math book.



COULD IT HAPPEN AGAIN? HERE?

Judaism teaches that we have free will.

- **We have, in our nature, both a desire to do good, called the *yetzer tov* and the desire to do evil, the *yetzer ha-rah*.**
- **Both inclinations are necessary and they are at war with each other.**
- **A fascinating insight is gained through the Milgram Experiment (made into an excellent 2015 film called “Experimenter.”)**

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE? TODAY?

THE MILGRAM EXPERIMENT – NEW HAVEN 1961



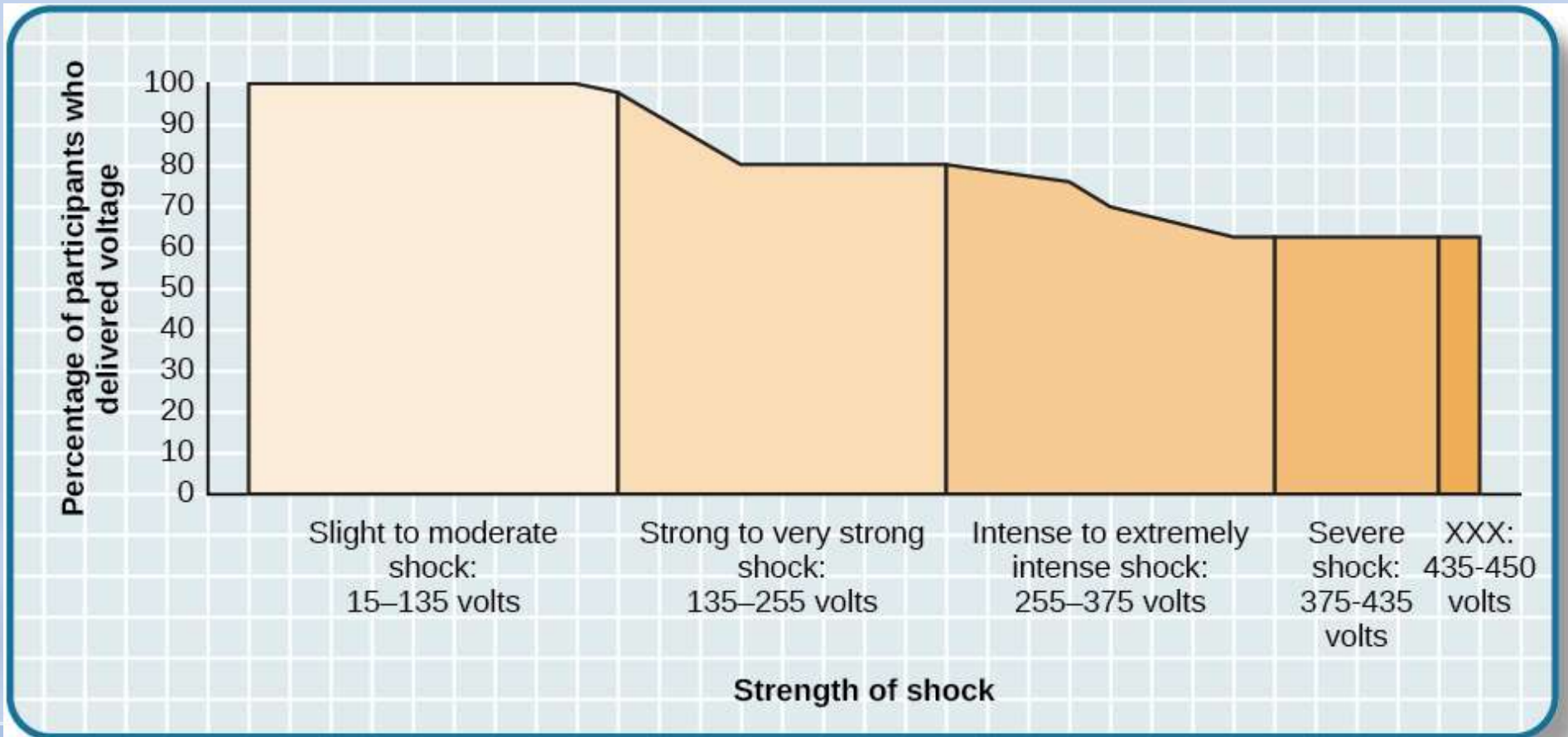
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOYLCy5PVgM>

THE MILGRAM EXPERIMENT

SHINE
ALIGHT
on Antisemitism

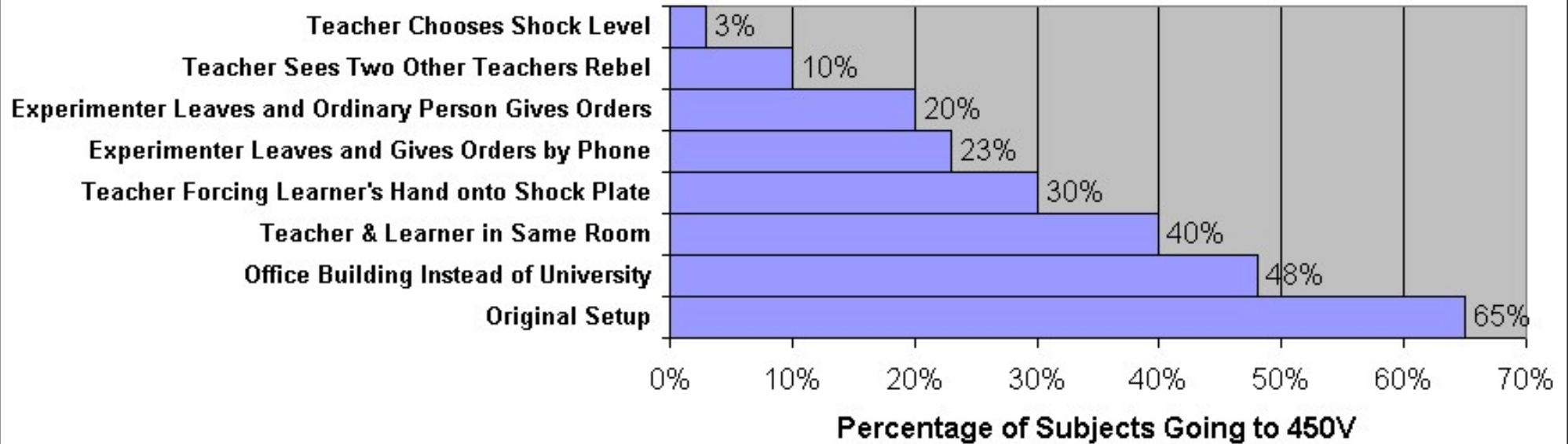


THE MILGRAM EXPERIMENT



THE MILGRAM EXPERIMENT

Variations on Milgram's Experiment



ADL FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiAT2IEzJAc&t=190s>

YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM

- Since 1994, we have sent over 100,000 students and their teachers to Museum of Tolerance. This year we have added virtual programs from the LA Holocaust Museum for 5th to 12th graders brought right into the classroom. Holographic interviews with survivors interactively designed to help students with age appropriate answers to their questions about the Holocaust from eyewitness accounts.
 - *“The students were literally speechless as we toured the Holocaust section. The Tolerance exhibits showed them that all of us suffer when intolerance exists. They return to the classroom with a changed view of the world.”* Joann Dwork, 8th grade Language Arts & Social Studies teacher, Mesa Union School.
 - Teachers and students have expressed how a trip to the Museum was a transformative educational experience! We have comments and testimonials from thousands of students.
- The Jewish Federation maintains a licensed social worker (LMSW) dedicated to our Holocaust Survivor community. She helps with food insecurity, medical and dental care, and rental assistance. The survivor community has very complicated issues as they age.

WHY I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR JEWISH FUTURE

- **In the “bad old days,” Jews were generally given the choice of “convert, leave or die.”**
 - **Only those Jews fiercely and passionately attached to Judaism stayed Jewish.**
- **In these “good new days,” Jews are told “join us, we love you, marry me.”**
 - **Only those Jews fiercely and passionately attached to Judaism stayed Jewish.**
- **My hope and belief is that there will continue to be select number of Jews who remain loyal to God, Torah and Israel and who will keep lighting candles.**

JOIN US TOMORROW!

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