



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Persecution of the Jews

**H**anukkah. The celebration of God's protection of the Jewish people during Syrian occupation of Jerusalem 165 years before Messiah.

**Antiochus.** The King who demanded to be worshipped. The Jewish people would not bow.

**The Maccabees.** A small band of Jewish zealots who, against all odds, defeated the great Syrian army and rededicated the Temple to the worship of the One True God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Not the first time.**

**Not the last.**

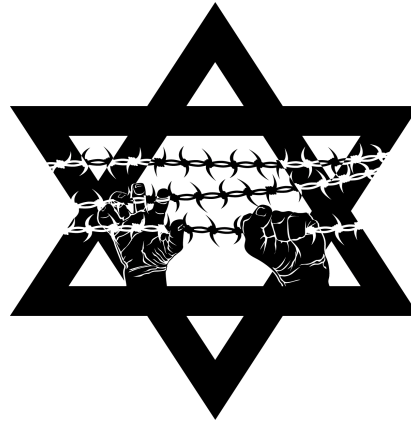
The Jewish people have been targeted by the Canaanites, the Philistines, the Babylonians, the Syrians, Iranians...Haman, Antiochus...Hitler.

Hanukkah. A celebration of God's protection of the Jewish people.

Jewish people have been persecuted, even targeted for annihilation. **It's happening today.**

**I am often asked why the Jewish people have been persecuted over the millennia.** Why have the Jewish people been scoffed at, blamed for the world's problems, gathered into ghettos, kicked out of entire countries, dispersed throughout the world, loaded into railroad cars, and shipped off to gas chambers to be murdered and burned in ovens?

**Why the Jews?**



I was recently asked if the reason for the persecution of the Jewish people is because the Jewish people rejected Jesus. Some may say, "They killed Christ. Shouldn't they be persecuted? In fact the Jews said, 'His blood be on us and our children'".

**It's their fault. The Jews.**

However, not only is the idea that the Jewish people have been and are being persecuted because they "killed Jesus" false, it flies in the face of reason and biblical reality. The Jewish people were persecuted long before Jesus ever came.

There is an old Jewish saying in light of all of the persecution that has happened over the years. Looking up at God the Jewish person asks, "Couldn't you have chosen someone else?" But there is a reason. A purpose. A design. God knows, is aware, and is in control.

**The persecution of the Jewish people throughout the millennia does not point to God's anger towards the Jewish people, rather it points to**

**God's faithfulness to His covenant and promises.**

In light of the season. In light of Hanukkah. In light of the birth of Jesus. Let me explain:

**The Jewish people have a special place in God's heart and plan**

The enemy of God is well aware of God's love for the Jewish people. **The enemy of God was well aware that to destroy the Jewish people before the birth of Jesus would eradicate the very lineage through which the Messiah was to come.** Many attempts were made. None were successful.

**God's promises and covenants began with the Jewish people.** In the book of Genesis He addressed Abraham. "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you". The seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**God made a covenant with the Jewish people.** In Deuteronomy 7 we read about that covenant. "The Lord did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt".

**God chose the Jewish people through whom to show Himself to the world.** He chose the Jewish people to be the Old Covenant people through whom His promises would come.

They had a special place in His heart. They had a special place in His plan. That special place is still there.

### God still shows His faithfulness through the Jewish people

In Jeremiah Chapter 31 God says, through the prophet:

*“He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and the stars to shine by night, who stirs up the seas so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is His name: Only if these decrees vanish from my sight, declares the Lord, will the descendants of Israel cease to be a nation before me.”*

**The Jewish people can never be destroyed.** Israel can never be wiped off of the face of the earth despite attempts by the enemies of the Jews and Israel. God gives His promise in His Word to always protect his first loved. And, He will never be mocked. **The existence of the Jewish people is one of the greatest testimonies to the existence of God Himself for if He did not exist, neither would the Jewish people.**

His covenants are still in effect. Though my Jewish people have, as a people turned their back on their Messiah, God promises that Israel as a nation, as a people, will never be destroyed.

**His faithfulness can be seen in the existence of the Jewish people.** Though the Jewish people have been targeted for annihilation at the hands of their many enemies, they have not only survived, but thrived. **Though many have tried to destroy them (and will continue to try) the Jewish people stand as an example of God’s faithfulness to his promises.**

### God has shown us His salvation through the Jewish people

Salvation is from the Jews. It was God’s design and purpose to send salvation to us through the Jewish people. Two thousand years ago. A Jewish mom. A Jewish dad. A Jewish baby in a manger. **The Messiah was born.**



Because God protected the lineage of the Messiah from countless attempts at destroying the Jewish people and that lineage along with them, Messiah was born in Bethlehem. **Salvation was given to us in the form of a Jewish baby.**

**Thank God for His promises.** Thank God for His faithfulness. Thank God that we can see His faithfulness and promises in the existence of His first chosen people. **The Jews.**

**So I ask again, “Why have the Jewish people been persecuted throughout the ages?”** My answer. The Jewish people have been persecuted because they are a special people in God’s heart and plan. They have been persecuted because the enemy of God knows that though he can never destroy them, he will continue to try in order to make God out to be the liar. The Jewish people have been persecuted because the enemy of God knows that Jesus is going to return to Jerusalem, the City of the Jews, to establish His Kingdom.

Jesus. Born in a manger. Died on a cross. Will return as a King.

During this holiday season...please pray for my people.

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God has given us so much through the Jewish people.

Please help us bring Jesus back to them.

## Thank You!

**There is no greater way to show love for Israel and the Jewish people than to give them the gift of salvation.** It is our prayer that next year, as we celebrate the birth of Messiah, more Jewish people will be celebrating with us because of the work that we have done.

As we approach the end of the year please remember my people. Pray about including our ministry in your year end giving. **Help us to bring Jesus back to the people who have given us Jesus.**

**Thank you for loving the Jewish people.** Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us as we bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

**As always, your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.**

In the service of the King,

Murray Tilles...for the staff  
Light of Messiah Ministries

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