

## Holocaust fact sheet:

After 60 years of being hidden away from the public, Nazi records about the 17.5 million people — Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, mental patients, handicapped, political prisoners and other undesirables — they persecuted during the regime's 12 years in power will be open to the public.

The [ITS Holocaust Archive in Bad Arolsen, Germany](#) contains the fullest records of Nazi persecutions in existence. The archives contain 50 million pages, housed in thousands of filing cabinets in six buildings. Overall, there are 16 miles of shelves holding information about the victims of the Nazis.

Toward the end of the war, when the Germans were struggling, the record keeping was not able to keep up with the extermination. An unknown numbers of prisoners were marched directly from trains to gas chambers in places like [Auschwitz](#) without being registered.

The immensity of information in the archives will provide Holocaust researchers with work for generations. Holocaust scholars have already started to revise their estimates of the number of camps run by the Nazis according to new information being found. And the archives present a formidable obstacle to Holocaust deniers.

During the period of 1933 to 1945, over 40,000 concentration camps or other types of detainment facilities were established by the Nazi regime. The Nazis forced Jews out of their homes, crowded them into ghettos, and then deported them to either a concentration or a death camp. Most died of either starvation, disease, overwork, shooting, or gas, and then their bodies were either dumped into a mass grave or cremated.

By late 1943, however, the German and Axis authorities recognized they were losing the war and had no time to continue counting. Instead, they ramped up the number of deaths and began destroying existing records and evidence of previous mass executions. Total estimates used today are based on postwar studies and research of the existing data and do not reflect all of those who were killed without any official records being made.

In addition to at least 7 million Jews officially killed, the Axis killed around 5.7 million non-Jewish Soviet citizens, around 3 million non-Jewish Soviet prisoners of war, 300,000 Serb citizens, around 250,000 people with disabilities living in institutions, around 300,000 Roma (Gypsies). Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and German political opponents account for at least another 100,000 people. Estimates of the total number of people who died "officially" in the Holocaust now range between 15 and 20 million.

There are two Holocaust Memorial Days: (1) 27 Nissan, established by the state of Israel in 1959 and (2) the 27 Day of January, established by the U.N. On Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the date when Auschwitz camp was liberated by the Red Army. Many individual countries observe one or both of these dates, or they have established one of their own.

Reading: Margaret p. 137 and Ps. 26. Jewish Hero: John the Baptist. Carrier: Aaron

**Annual Holocaust Sermon: Counting the Omer, Coming to Terms With the Holocaust**

There is a growing body of literature which studies various aspects of the Holocaust, especially as more and more information comes to light, and sadly, as more and more survivors pass on. However, when the Nazis realized they were losing the war, they began a systematic destruction of incriminating documents. They also accelerated the murder of Jews and other death camp residents, without taking the time to record their names or their fabricated causes of death. Their bodies were either buried or burned and their ashes were scattered in an attempt to underplay the scale of the slaughter.

This darkest of events in modern history is so well documented that those who deny it or minimize it have less success in suppressing the reality of the slaughter, than those Nazi perpetrators who first committed the atrocity and tried to hide it. It is the most shameful chapter in the modern life of both Poland and Germany, because, despite the help a minority of people gave to their Jewish neighbours, most citizens either turned a blind eye to the atrocities or actively participated in the rounding up and slaughter of Jews (not forgetting other minority groups who were also slaughtered).

It is not an easy thing for the descendants of Nazi perpetrators and collaborators to admit that their family members were actively involved in this massive slaughter. However denial does not remove the stain and minimizing the tragedy, it is just another lie that places those who embrace the lie, among the ranks of the guilty ones who were so invested in perpetrating the Holocaust. It is a crime in both Germany and Poland to deny the Holocaust and yet neither nation has succeeded in their efforts to make antisemitism a thing of the past.

The only solution which will prevent the resurgence of the another Holocaust is threefold. First, we must cherish the memory of those who perished and care for the survivors and their children. Second, we must educate people about the horror which led up to the Holocaust, and never let anyone deny it or minimize its extent. Lastly, we must combat all and any forms of religious or racial hatred that is leveled against anyone in our modern world.

For us, as believers, we may also need to come to terms with why G-d permitted such a horrible fate to befall His Chosen People, who were the main target of this genocide. I find it shocking that some orthodox Jews teach that the victims of the Jewish Holocaust died because they ate pork or stole bread. I find it equally shocking that some Christian and secular sources claim that it is the will of G-d for the Jewish people to disappear into the pages of history, because, when they rejected the Messiah, G-d apparently rejected them.

Lets begin the long process of finding answers as to why this was permitted, but let me preface my remarks with two assertions. When we try to understand G-d and the folly of human history, we eventually reach a brick wall where no further explanations are possible. When this happens, we need to invoke Deut. 29:29, not as a cop-out, but as an admission that there are somethings we can never explain. Part of this also needs to be the assertion that over and above the horror and the complexity of human history, G-d is sovereign and His purposes will always be fulfilled no matter what horror befalls our world.

The second assertion has to do with a sudden population explosion among the Jews of eastern Europe in the early 1800's, where their numbers are said to have more than tripled. Coupled with this, was a series of vicious pogroms (persecutions) which caused a mass exodus of Eastern European Jews. By 1900, most Jewish communities around the world had an Eastern

European (Ashkenasi) majority. The L-rd was multiplying His people so that there would be many survivors before the Holocaust wiped out most of Eastern Europe's Jews.

Now lets look at why the L-rd permitted such a catastrophe and generally speaking there are three reasons. Let me begin with the one which troubles me the most. After our people were let out of the ghettos, there was a sharp rise in a new form of antisemitism as Jews lived scattered among the Gentile populations. The old antisemitic lies were joined by modern conspiracy accusations and governments and other authorities did little or nothing to respond to these lies and slanders. People actually believed that Jews were conspiring to try to take over the world and were secretly running the economies of the world.

In fact, many people in high places believed and still believe, that there is an international Jewish conspiracy to take over the world and subvert Christian civilization. The professional and financial success of Jewish people was attributed to these slanders and not just to our commitment to education and hard work. Calls from the highest levels of government asked for measures to be taken against the Jewish people, wherever we were found. Antisemitism and racial hatred were even fashionable and have not yet fully disappeared.

Hitler and the Nazis clearly proclaimed their hatred of the Jews long before they came to power, as well as their desire to eradicate this population, both at home and abroad. Instead of speaking out against it, most people ignored it or silently agreed with it, because after all, it was just the Jews. Unless there is a firm commitment to take an active stand against antisemitism (and antizionism) and racial and religious hatred of any kind, this kind of horror will again raise its ugly head – as it appears once more to be doing worldwide.

People who did not take action against the rise of antisemitism actually contributed to it because the monsters knew that no one would stop them. They gave silent permission.

My next point is that hatred of the Jews and of Christians is of satanic origin (see Revelation 12) because after the death and resurrection of our blessed Messiah, the enemy has been making war on both Jews and Christians. He has also made a non too subtle incursion into many Christian churches who have joined with him to hate the Chosen People because we supposedly killed the Messiah. We are labeled Christ killers, which is beyond ludicrous because He came into the world to die on the cross and to rise from the dead and ascend back into heaven. It was the whole purpose of His earthly ministry and not our fault.

He stopped Peter's attempt to foil His arrest and He was delivered over to both the Jewish authorities and to the Romans, because He came to die for both Jews and Gentiles. All the members of the early church were Jews who came to believe in the Messiah from Nazareth. There is a spiritual resistance among many modern Jewish people who refuse to examine the claims of our Messiah, but His blood is not on our hands – it was voluntarily shed for all the nations and generations of mankind. We all killed Him, not just the Jews.

The perpetrators of the Holocaust were not doing G-d's will by taking vengeance on the Jews for their supposed crimes against the Messiah and the world. They were serving Satan who has always hated us and those Christians who hold the testimony of Yeshua. Spewing hatred against the Jews is satanic, especially among Christians and is part of a generational worldwide satanic plot for our extermination. But guess what, we are still here and will be here until the kingdom comes.

My last point in our discussion for today is one that could easily be misunderstood and twisted, so listen carefully. Basically when mankind was created in the Garden, Adam and Eve received and passed on five gifts to their children and we are still passing them on to our children until the kingdom should come. These five gifts are: (1) free will, (2) dignity, (3) time, (4) energy and (5) giftedness. What this means is that within very defined limits we are free to choose how we respond to both the happenstances of our lives and to the actions we initiate by our own choices. We cannot choose to sprout wings and we cannot gain control over any of the physical laws which govern how our world functions. We were born to choose and there is another feature of this reality.

Choosing not to choose is also a choice, as is surrendering our right to choose to any ideology or dictator. Leaders will receive a greater judgment because, too many times, they gain an influence over their followers, that G-d never intended any man to exercise over another. Gaining this control is the spirit of Antichrist.

Coupled with this is the flip side of choosing – dignity, which means suffering the consequences of our own choices and of the choices which others have made. The Hindus and Buddhists call this karma, but what this means is that a lot of what happens to us in this life is the product of other people's choices, just as our choices can have an impact in other people's lives. The Bible calls it reaping and sowing and too many of the world's problems have been when innocent sheep reap the horror that goats, pigs and wolves have sown.

Thankfully, the third gift is a limited shelf life, we call time. Re-incarnation is a pipe dream and a myth, because each of us are only given a certain amount of time and only our legacy will live on after us, if future generations choose to let it. Death comes to us all only once and even the most evil of monsters who have ever lived, can only kill us once. And one day, their reign of terror will be over when it is their turn to sleep in the dust, then Judgment Day.

Coupled with this allotment of limited time is a measure of limited energy which increases as we grow towards our prime and then gradually diminishes as we turn into seniors and old fogies. I am beginning to experience this, because while my endurance and concentration are still developing, my physical abilities are not. There are things we should invest our energy into while we have it and then learn to coast, as we approach our golden years. Energy is a generational phenomenon which each generation gets, but which can't be passed on from one generation to another, except as a legacy or as an example.

Lastly, we are born with both an element of giftedness and a measure of disability. Some of us have special talents and definite strengths, but these also come with weaknesses and flaws that are also part of who we are in this world. We are all gifted and we are all flawed. Have you discovered your giftedness and have you come to terms with your flaws?

Having identified the five gifts which G-d endowed the human race with, let me apply it to the Holocaust. People made evil choices that impacted other people, but only within the limits established and enforced by G-d. Europeans and others had been sowing and reaping racial hatred of the Jews for generations and this growing monster of lies, gave rise to the Nazi execution of so many of our innocent people and other minorities they targeted. .

If G-d had intervened to stop the Holocaust, He would have had to bring human history to a premature close before His purposes were completely fulfilled. Racial hatred and antisemitism brought on the Holocaust, along with the silent cooperation of those who did not speak out

against these lies. Before they could complete their task, the Nazis ran out of time and ran out of energy and we are still bringing closure to this horrible legacy which those monsters have left us with. We need to learn the lessons it teaches and not repeat the mistakes which made possible the greatest genocidal slaughter of modern times.

G-d did intervene to make sure that the Axis did not win, because the final anti-Christ has not yet been revealed and there are still many gifted people who need to be born into our world before it is brought to an end to which it is moving.

In the annals of human history, the Holocaust is one of the greatest evils ever perpetrated by one group of people against another group of people. It both breaks my heart and stirs up incredible rage which flares up, both against the original perpetrators of this horror and against their contemporary denier henchmen, who encourage hatred and violence against Jews, based on false allegations and false conspiracy theories.

I wish the Holocaust had never happened, but I am firmly committed to making sure it never happens again. "Never again" is a slogan you will hear pronounced during these remembrances. G-d permitted this and other atrocities to happen, because evil people have been sowing and reaping, since Cain first rose up and slew his brother Abel. He only lets things go so far, but will one day bring about a final intervention in the affairs of mankind when our Messiah returns to establish His eternal kingdom over all the nations and generations of mankind. Judgment Day is coming, slowly, but surely.

Too frequently, bad things happen to good people and the wicked prosper as they rape and pillage their way through life, sometimes generationally. How should we respond to this? Not with one of the various versions of a false teaching which claims that when you come to faith, your problems will go away and all your dreams will come true. This is one of the most potentially destructive spiritual lies which has shipwrecked so many gullible believers because the claim is also made that if you are sick or in trouble, it is because either you have sinned or your faith is not strong enough. Here are two passages which fly in the face of this fallacy:

***“Fortifying the spirit of the disciples, exhorting them to persevere in the faith, saying that it is through many tribulations that we must enter the kingdom of G-d. . . My well beloved do not find it strange to be in the furnace of trials as if it were something extraordinary. Rejoice rather for the part you have in the sufferings of the Messiah, in order that you may be joyful and glad when His glory appears.:* (Acts 13:22 & I Peter 1:12,13).**

Telling suffering people that it is their fault is what Job's friends tried to do, because they had a flawed view of the mystery of suffering. It is true that when you come to faith you discover the power of forgiveness and the spiritual regeneration which changes your life and how you relate to life. You are a totally new creature with a totally new perspective on life and you are filled with so much strength and joy that your life becomes an amazing expression of hope and faith and love because suddenly you are homeward bound and you know what the purpose of life is all about.

However, coupled with this, you have really angered the forces of evil in this world, under the leadership of the great enemy of our souls and they will do everything and anything to shipwreck your faith and make your life as miserable as possible as you are learning to walk in the light

and be salty in this world. I call this the spiritual resistance of this age which is determined to choke out the light and cover the world with the same depth of wickedness and darkness which once occurred in the days of Noah.

Sometimes believers and other soldiers of the light are systematically targeted, in a series of attempts to both discredit their spirituality and to push them beyond their breaking point, because their world is always seeming to be falling apart. This can be happening at the same time as they make incredible spiritual progress and as they see amazing answers to prayer. Take a look at 2 Corin.11:19-33 if you want to see what the Spirit filled overcomer's life of victory should look like.

It is a dichotomy, where two opposite realities exist at the same time. While we are basking in the light and walking with the King, at the same time we are rejected and persecuted as our lives are under constant attack. I wish I could say that walking with the L-rd will empower your life to float up to glory on a cloud of joyful ease. This is simply not true, despite what those on-line and noisy TV preachers want to make you believe as you empty your pockets to support their luxurious lifestyle.

G-d answers prayer and is our Great Shepherd to guide through the valleys of the shadow of death, as we travel through this life to our Father's Home in Glory. But the straight and narrow is a bumpy ride and is a constant conflict with the forces of evil which are always trying to tear us apart and knock us back into the world we are no longer a part of.

The enemy is prowling through this world, looking for victims to devour and turning people into monsters who will make victims of their fellow travelers. I have never had it so good since the day I gave my heart to the L-rd, but nobody really knows the terrible weight of sorrows I have seen and have experienced. This is not because of anything that I have done to deserve them, but because I am being targeted by the enemy in one or more of his generational eradication campaigns.

He wants to shut down and drown out the voice of faith and of righteousness and truth and justice and one of his most spectacular successes was the Holocaust. But did you know that Stalin killed more people than died in the Holocaust and so did Mao? And besides the ludicrous genocide of the indigenous peoples of North and South America, the all time record goes to Genghis Khan.

His forces liquidated an estimated 300 million Chinese (and other peoples who got in his way) and his forces also killed 50% of the population of the Middle East. His descendants made the rivers run red with blood when they conquered India, so there are many unfortunate historical precedents for the horror which we know as the Holocaust. Its victims did nothing wrong to merit the extermination campaigns which were leveled against them.

The unholy horrors of the first world war punched a hole in the psyche of Europe and the enemy plowed through it to create as much havoc and wreak as much murder and destruction as his could, before the allies finally shut Hitler's killing machine down. His voice and the voice of his henchmen have been shrieking and whispering and twisting and perverting in his generational campaign to subvert human history and bring a second great darkness upon our unsuspecting, techno driven secularizing world.

Whether you are a victim of one of his individualized campaigns of terror and oppression or whether you fall victim to one of his national or international campaigns of horror and destruction, know that you were not targeted because you did anything wrong or were somehow asking for all the trouble that has come your way. He hates the light and despises the salt and wants to both crush those who are soldiers of the light and poison the world against the salt which would bring them to the light.

When bad things happen to good people and when innocent people suffer through no fault of their own, it is really the direct product of a conflict in the heavenlies. The purposes of G-d are moving relentlessly towards the coming of the final kingdom and the power of darkness is doing everything that it can to slow up and derail this inevitable eventuality. Sometimes the enemy takes out his wrath upon innocents and on believers, because there is really nothing he can do to stop the eventual arrival of the kingdom, except to cause as much pain and suffering as he can, before he is confined to the eternal flames of the lake of fire.

The Holocaust was a satanic horror perpetrated on innocents who did nothing to deserve such horror. When we are also targeted and go through senseless pain and incredible difficulties which we had no part in causing, it may be because we have angered the enemy and he wants to shut us up because we are on the winning team. He never succeeded in shutting up the voice of the Jewish people and may he never succeed in shutting up our voices as we walk in the light and are salty in this darkening world.

Am Yisrael Chai (the people of Israel live). Od Avinu Chai (Our Father lives). Od Mashiach Chai (our Messiah Lives) and the kingdom is coming! Shabbat Shalom and Shavua Tov.