



1 John

# The Antichrists

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# Antichrists Are At Work

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- Antichrists are at work, opposing Jesus
- 1 John 2:18–23 and John 14:1–11
- John told his readers that he knew it was the “last hour” because many “antichrists” had come.
- John’s use of the term “the last hour” doesn’t mean he necessarily believed Jesus was coming back right then.
- The “last hour” refers to the coming of the kingdom of God.

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- Jesus inaugurated the kingdom with His death and Resurrection, but the kingdom has not yet come in all its fullness until His Second Coming.
- So this “last hour” refers to the time between His first and second comings, or the entire Church Age.
- The apostles didn’t know exactly when Jesus would return, just that He was coming “soon” (Revelation 22:7).
- But “soon” and “last hour” don’t necessarily mean right away when you’re dealing with a God to whom a day is like a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8).

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# Antichrists Are At Work

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- This means we are also living in the “last hour,” even if Jesus doesn’t come back within the next few years or even our lifetime.
- Every generation since the apostles is part of the “last hour,” which explains why John described “many” antichrists, not just one: the one whom Paul called the “man of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12).
- John used the word to refer to both the one final Antichrist and many others who oppose Christ in every generation of the Church Age.

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- The term “antichrist” is found in Scripture only in John’s letters and only four times (1 John 2:18; 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7).
- Yet the way he spoke about it here assumes the term was being used in the church already; they were expecting “the” Antichrist (singular) to come in the last days.
- John explained that because every generation in the Church Age is part of the “last hour,” every generation will have its own antichrists (plural) who will oppose Christ in its own times.

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# Past Antichrists

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- Emperor Nero - persecutor of the church, his name in Hebrew can add up to 666.



- Emperor Constantius - persecuted Christians and favored congregations that denied the deity of Jesus.

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# Antichrists Are At Work

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- Later, John said that everyone who denies Jesus has “the spirit of the antichrist” (1 John 2:22; 4:3).
- Just as those who abide in Jesus have His Holy Spirit, so these antichrists have the spirit of the Enemy.
- This is how John could say that “any such person” is an antichrist (2 John 1:7).
- John called them “liars” because they denied that Jesus is the Christ.



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- He used this contrast of lies and truth to distinguish them from believers who “know the truth” (2:21).
- They had separated themselves from the apostles, but John was reassuring they actually had the true knowledge “from the Holy.”
- This is the contrast: They have the spirit of antichrist; you have the Holy Spirit.
- They are liars; you know the truth. Whoever confesses the Son really knows the Father, just as Jesus told the disciples at the Last Supper (John 14:6–11).

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# Antichrists Are At Work

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- First John 2:19 has a very repetitive structure in Greek.
- The false teachers left “us” because they were not “of us.” If they were “of us” they would have remained / abided with “us.”
- They did not abide, that it would be made clear that they are not “of us.”
- These false teachers separated themselves from the apostles because the apostles were the true body of Christ, and the false teachers weren’t “of” them. They weren’t in fellowship with Christ.

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# Antichrists Are At Work

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- These false teachers were physically in the church, but they weren't "of us."
- They weren't true members of the body of Christ. They were deceivers who had infiltrated the Church to try to lead the believers astray (1 John 2:26), like wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15).
- John's goal was to both reassure these believers that they had the truth and show them the false teachers in their midst.
- Jesus is the truth. He is the standard. Those who are trying to lead us astray are antichrists, the opposite of Jesus.

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- Christ is the one who gives eternal life
- 1 John 2:24–25 and John 3:16–18
- John had explained to them that these false teachers were clearly antichrists because they denied Jesus, which meant they didn't have special knowledge of God since knowledge of the Father can only come through Jesus.
- The ones who have knowledge of God are those who know Jesus, those who have been anointed by the Holy Spirit.

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- Therefore, John's exhortation was to let the Gospel ("what you heard from the beginning") abide in you.
- This creates a contrast between the message of the apostles and the message of these false prophets.
- John was reassuring the Church that this new message was not the message of Jesus, the one who gives eternal life.
- If you want eternal life, stick with Jesus, with His Gospel.

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- John was reassuring these believers of their salvation.
- Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life (John 3:16).
- If you trust the Gospel for salvation, if you hold fast to that truth, trusting only in Christ for salvation, not anything else, then you will “abide” with Jesus.
- You will be in fellowship with Him.
- You don't need anything else for salvation.

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- We can stand before the throne of God with confidence
- 1 John 2:26–29; 1 Corinthians 2:10–16; and Hebrews 4:14–16
- In verse 26, John made it very clear that he was writing all of this to help them stand firm in the truth. He reminded them of the Gospel truth they originally heard and that it is Christ alone who saves them; they didn't need anything else to be saved (2:24–25).
- But in this section, he also reassured them that they had “the anointing” of the Holy Spirit and didn't need any other “special knowledge.”

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- Jesus told the disciples that when He left them and ascended to the Father, the Father would send the Spirit to “teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).
- Because He is the Spirit of truth, He would guide them into all the truth (John 16:13).
- Paul explained that the Holy Spirit supernaturally teaches us by helping us to understand His Word (1 Corinthians 2:10–16).



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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- The Holy Spirit does not teach us something new or different beyond God's Word, such as what the false teachers were teaching.
- The Spirit does help us interpret God's Word, giving us a supernatural understanding by His power (1 Corinthians 2:12–13).
- Because the Holy Spirit is God, He has the thoughts of God (1 Corinthians 2:11). Because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we have the mind of Christ in us (1 Corinthians 2:16).

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- This meant they could have confidence before the throne of the Father when Christ comes again in judgment. They did not have to fear His return.
- This is apocalyptic language, talking about Christ's return.
- When Jesus came the first time, He did not come to judge the world but to save it (John 3:16–19).
- But when He returns, it will be to judge (Matthew 25:31–46; Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1).

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# Christ Gives Eternal Life

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- Those of us who abide in Christ will be judged as righteous because His righteousness has been given to us by His grace through faith (Romans 4).
- Therefore, we don't have to fear His coming.
- We can look forward to it with joyful anticipation.
- Even now, we can draw near to the throne of God with confidence to find mercy and grace in times of need (Hebrews 4:14–16).

# Antisemitism

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# Hamas Attack on Israel

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## **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE OCTOBER 7 HAMAS ATTACK ON ISRAEL**

At 6:30 a.m., October 7, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group controlling Gaza, launched an unprovoked and vicious surprise attack on Israel. Using rockets, paragliders, boats, motorcycles and other vehicles, and whatever other means they could, terrorists infiltrated Israel. More than 1,400 people have been killed, including 30 Americans, and that number will undoubtedly rise. Over 4,200 are critically wounded. Over 199 people, from all over the world, have been taken hostage in Gaza.

# Reactions



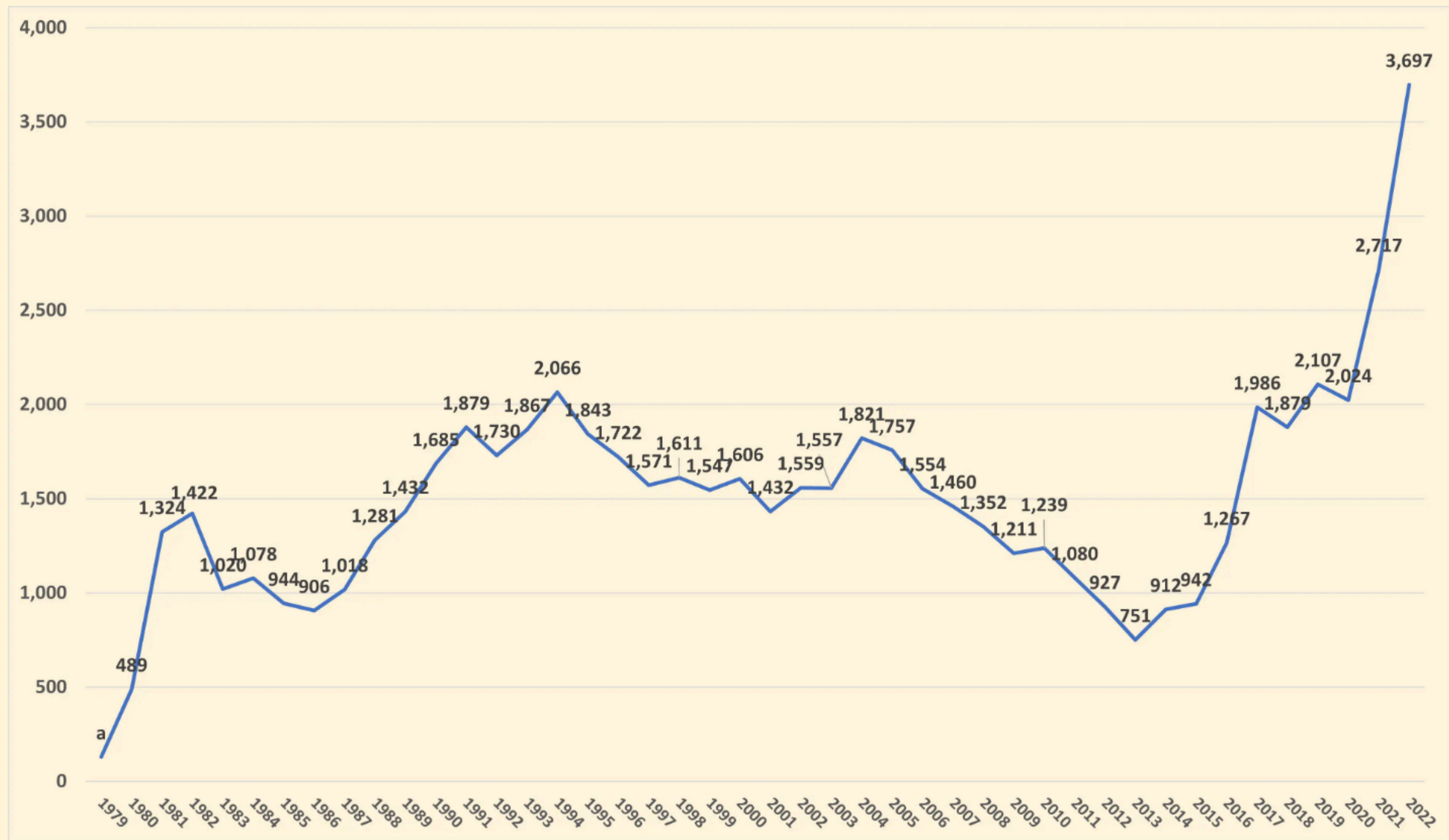
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# Antisemitism

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- “Gas the Jews” – chant on the steps of the Sydney Opera House (October 2023)
- “The Holocaust isn't about race” – Whoopi Goldberg (February 2022).
- “Gunman is found guilty in the deadliest attack on Jewish people in US history – AP (June 2023)
- “Antisemitism rose in the US in 2022 and shows little sign of abating worldwide” – AP (April 2023)

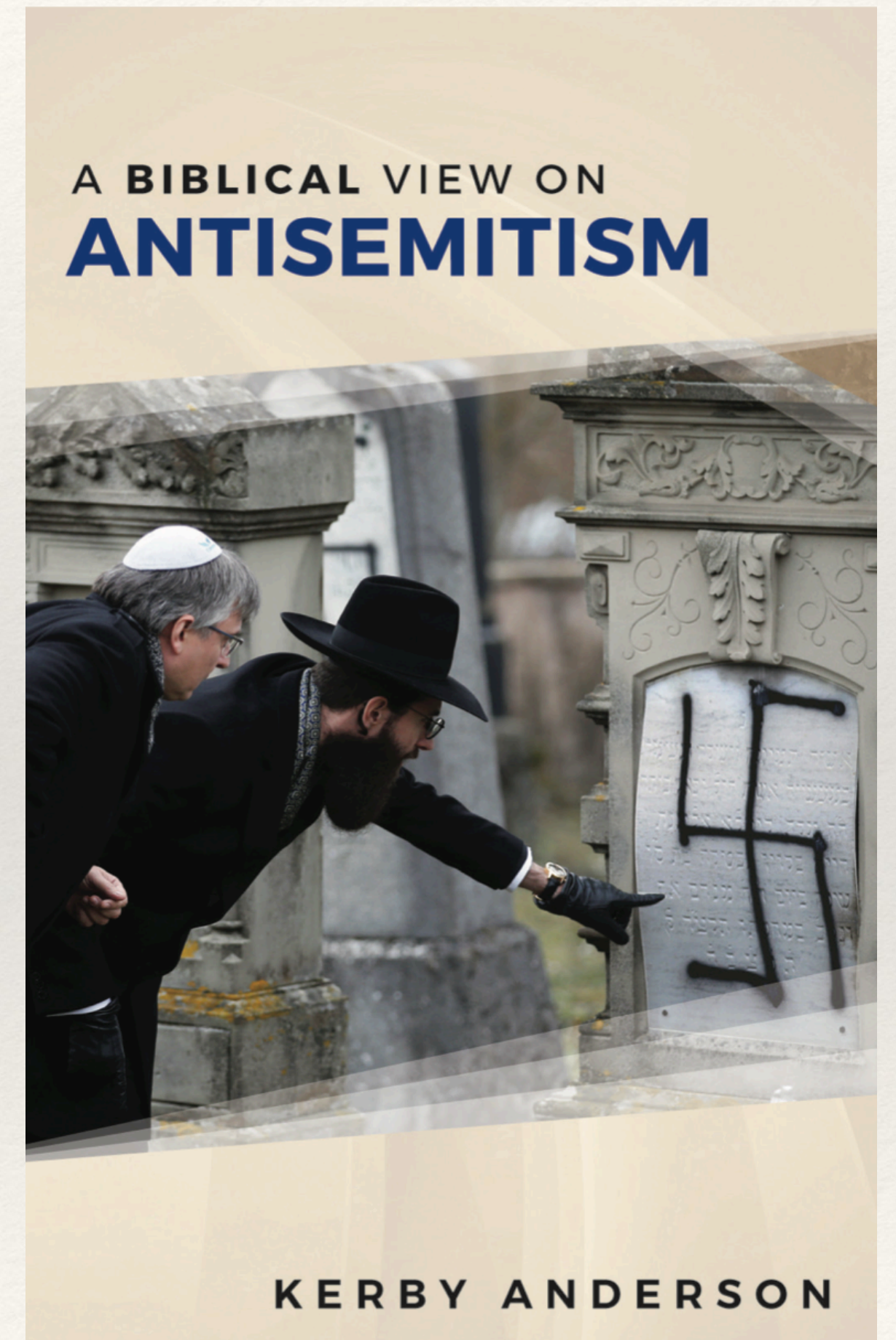
# Antisemitism





# Antisemitism

- Antisemitism has been defined as hostility toward or prejudice against Jews as a religious or racial group.
- A German journalist Wilhelm Marr first coined the term in the 19th century.
- Prejudice against Jews has existed for millennia.
- One definition includes “calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of radical ideology.”



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# Antisemitism in History

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- Antisemitism is not merely a modern problem.
- In the book of Esther (3:6), we read the story of how Haman “sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.”
- Other pagan groups and false religions persecuted the Jews because of their belief in monotheism and their allegiance to God.
- Jews were persecuted in Europe, often by Christian leaders (Catholic, Protestant) and society in general.

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# Antisemitic Myths

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- One of the myths is often referred to as “blood libel.”
- According to this false allegation, Jews murder Christian children in order to use their blood in the baking of unleavened bread during Passover.
- Another myth was the false belief that Jews are the center of a worldwide conspiracy against the West.
- The *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was a fabricated text supposedly describing a Jewish plan for global domination. This antisemitic tract was first published in Russia and then translated into various languages.

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# How Should We Respond?

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- Most Christians accept the biblical principle that the Jews are God's chosen people.
- Deuteronomy 14:2 says, "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."
- This may also partially explain why antisemitism exists.
- God chose the Jews, and thus Satan opposes what God has chosen.

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# How Should We Respond?

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- If you think about it, antisemitism is irrational. Jews make up a very small percentage of the world's population. It isn't very rational to think that such a small number of people control the world's politics and economics.
- And hatred of Israel by Arab nations isn't very rational. Israel is about the size of New Jersey and is surrounded by Arab countries with more than 500 times the land area.
- Yet, Israel is the epicenter of so much of the conflict in the Middle East.

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# How Should We Respond?

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- Even if someone doesn't believe the Jews are a chosen people, they should still treat the Jews with the same dignity as any other religious or ethnic group. All of us are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and worthy of respect and dignity.
- Antisemitism is contrary to any human rights standard that exists even in the secular world.
- We should also realize that once one ethnic or religious group is singled out for persecution, it may only be a matter of time before other groups will be marked for similar acts of disrespect, intolerance, and persecution.

