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The Persecution of the Jews: From Pharaoh to the Antichrist



By Steven J. Hogan

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One condition that must be met before Christ's 2nd coming is increasing Jewish persecution. This Antisemitism has been taking place since the beginning days of Israel's existence when they were growing up in Egypt, and 3600 years later it still goes on, and will continue right up until Christ's return. Revelation 12 best summarizes this hellish opposition against the Jews, this persecution driven and directed by the devil himself. The imagery is given of a seven-headed, ten-horned dragon, depicting eight different devilish empires opposing the Jews. Seven of these are now in the past, but one more, the Antichrist's 10 nation kingdom, is still to come.

Revelation 12:1-5 takes us from the birth of Israel to the birth of Christ. The pregnant woman with 12 stars is the nation of Israel, and she was in painful labor during this time. That's because Satan was using six different kingdoms to persecute the Jews and prevent the Savior from

being born – they were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. These God hating kingdoms wanted to wipe out the Jews and Jesus, but none were successful, for verse 5 tells us about the birth of Jesus Christ, the future Ruler, and that He ascended into heaven. And that's all it says, for the main point of this verse isn't about Christ being the Savior, but that Christ will be the King over the world.

Revelation 12 isn't about the church age, it's about the *"woman"*, the Jews, being persecuted by the devil. Looking back we see that there's about a 2000 year gap between verses 5 and 6, taking us from Christ's 1st coming to the last half of Daniel's 70th week and Christ's 2nd coming. But where were the Jews during this entire time? When Jesus was on earth, He repeatedly predicted that wrath was coming upon the Jews (Luke 19:41-44, 20:16, 21:20-24, 23:28-31), and this tragically took place around 70AD. Historians tell us that close to 1 million Jews were killed by the Romans, and Luke 21:24 says the rest would then *"be led captive into all the nations, and will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles."* God's word has come true, for there's been great persecution against the Jews over the course of all those years, but by God's mercy, they were never completely destroyed – a remnant of Jews has always survived.

The Diaspora, this worldwide Jewish displacement, lasted a long time, a little over 1800 years, but by the promises of God and for the purposes of God, the Jews have miraculously been returning to their land. And the persecution continued, their darkest days occurring when this devilish Hitler led a holocaust resulting in the mass murder of close to 6 million Jews. God was sovereign in that their deaths led to the rebirth of their nation in 1948. The anti-Semitic attacks kept coming – there was the Sinai War of 1956, the Six Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Lebanon War of 1982, and in addition, a great deal of global opposition.

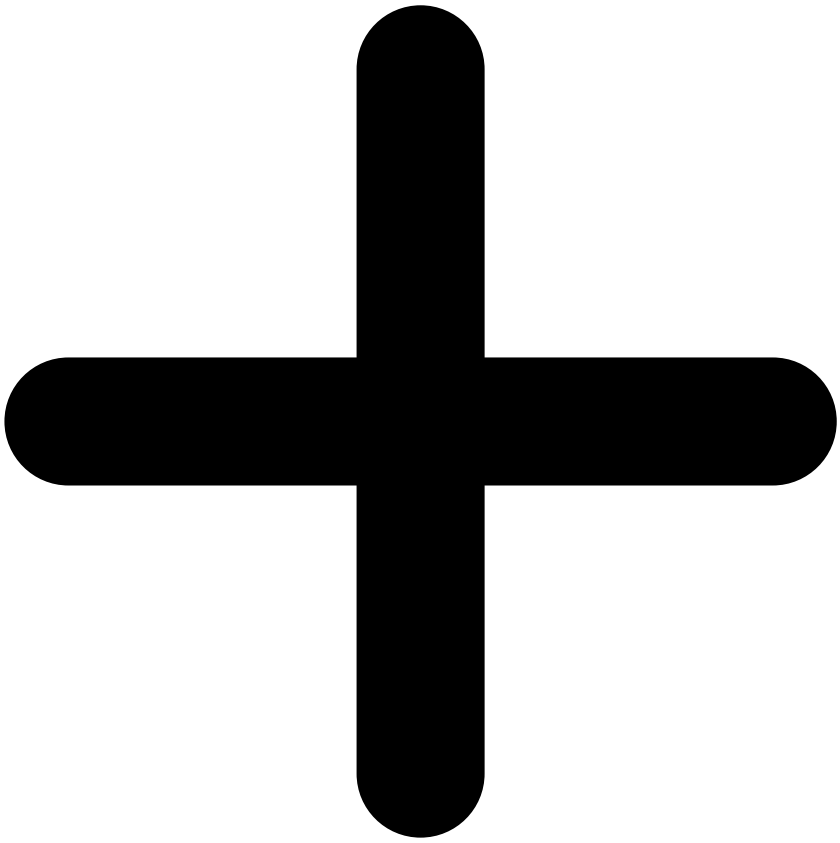
Now it's 2017, and it's obvious to those who watch world affairs, that there's a major effort underway to get a peace treaty between the Jews

and Palestinians. What's amazing is that over 2500 years ago God predicted that a covenant between the Jews and the Antichrist would be confirmed, and it would take place right at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week, that end times' prophecy packed 7 year time frame (Daniel 9:24-27).

I don't believe it will be too long before this covenant is signed, and life may then be a bit better for the Jews, but this *"peace"* will be short lived. That's because the Antichrist is a liar. We then come to the midpoint of Daniels' 70th week, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 tells us that this *"son of destruction… takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."* All discerning Jews and Christians will know that this is the Antichrist. This most evil man will begin persecuting the Jews, then the Christians. Starting in Jerusalem, this great persecution will spread to the whole world. *"There will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now"* (Matthew 24:15-21).

The good news is that a sizable Jewish remnant will escape (Matthew 24:16-26, Revelation 12:13-16). But not all will get away from the Antichrist and his forces of evil, and the killing fields will once again be red with the blood of the Jews. Even the United States will abandon the Jews and be against them. In fact, *"All nations of the earth will be gathered against it"* (Zechariah 12:3). This Jewish persecution will continue *"until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled"* (Luke 21:24). Then God will fulfill His promise of salvation for the Jews. *"And thus all Israel will be saved… This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins* (Romans 11:25-26). Then begin the glory years, the millennial kingdom age, and all believers from all time, you and me included, will join the Jews in worshiping and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen."* Psalm 72:19

P.S. I've just posted another article about your future: Prophecy Psalms for the Jews and for You – Part 2.





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