

# Palestinianism

Bat Ye'or writes in her book, *'Eurabia'*

*'...in the Arab Empire Christian leaders administered the Christian Dhimmis<sup>1</sup> majority to the advantage of the Muslim minority. The Dhimmis Jews performed the same services as the Christians. Christian consciousness in Muslim lands retains through its historical memory the experiences of persecution, vulnerability and genocide. Some Syro-Palestinian Christians, linked since the nineteenth century with powerful European anti-Semitic forces, exploited this anxiety as they strove to cement the Muslim-Christian alliance against Zionism.'*<sup>2</sup>

During and after the Gulf War, there was a proliferation of books related to the Jewish people and Israel in the Japanese market. Professor Masanari Miyazawa of Dousisya Women's College, an expert on Jewish studies in Japan, reported that he noticed at least 56 books related to this theme were published in Japan in 1989, 76 books in 1990, and 150 books in 1991. Out of the total of 282 books, according to professor Miyazawa, 18 were so-called anti-Jewish and the rest were books dealing with political and/or economic issues. With only a few exceptions, the overall tone of those books is pro-Palestinian or pro-Arab.

Due to the anti-Zionistic emphasis of those books and mass media reports, the average Japanese seems to have espoused a similar position toward the Jewish people. This trend has obviously crept into the liberal branch of the Protestant church in Japan, namely the Kyoudan Church. Most of those who belong to this denomination view the establishment of the state of Israel as nothing other than a historical coincidence. According to Pastor Moritade Murayama of Kyoudan Church, the most outspoken leader for the cause of the Palestinians, a so-called Holy Land tour itself is an act of unrighteousness because it recognizes the existence of the state of Israel. He insists that Japanese should never visit Israel, nor even call it the Holy Land.<sup>3</sup>

Bearing in mind that a) the majority of the world's Christians live in the Third World, and b) that most of these Christians have only been taught a New Testament doctrine, is it any wonder that many will side with the Palestinians and regard modern Israel as an aberration? Without a thorough understanding of the Hebrew Bible, it is impossible for Christians to understand what the purposes of the Almighty are, concerning Israel. Without the Hebrew Bible it is impossible to understand that modern Israel and its ongoing existence is a miracle in every sense of the word. Indeed, the ignorance and indifference among professing Christians concerning the formation of the modern State of Israel is nothing short of alarming. Included among these are Bible College students, pastors, theologians and ministers of religion of all Christian denominations. I feel certain, that most of these men (and women) know more about various national and international sporting fixtures than the country and its people out of whom came the Saviour they claim to worship as the God of Creation.

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<sup>1</sup> A Dhimmis is a non-Muslim person in an Islamic nation (e.g. Saudi Arabia)— he may be Jewish or a Christian, but he is regarded as a second class inhabitant, not entitled to citizenship and subject to special rules taxes at the behest of the Government.

<sup>2</sup> Bat Ye'or, *Eurabia*, (Associated University Press: Cranbury, NY; 2005), p.218

<sup>3</sup> Kenichi Nakagawa is founder of the Harvest Time Ministries, the largest TV-Evangelism organization in Japan. He has recently established an organization called J & J Ministries, which is devoted to promoting Jewish Evangelism in Japan.

Extract from: **Replacement Theology** by Frank Selch

Why?

For the simple reason that for most Christians there is no living link with the people who brought Jesus into the world!

What historian, in the entire world, can point to a single people group that had been dispersed throughout the world for thousands of years and then reformed itself as a nation with the same language and object of worship as their forefathers? What people group can point to similar military successes where they had come under simultaneous attack by several, numerically greater nations with superior weaponry and prevailed? What nation on earth is there that remained victorious in five major wars against overwhelming odds, against sustained terror attacks over several decades and substantially retained its dignity and moral high ground—willing to forgive and make peace with those who perpetrated against them?

There has to be something very special about such a people, especially when the very Scriptures, that Christians read, promise such a return!

Therefore, if Christians consider the Hebrew Scriptures as superseded, irrelevant and outdated – except for the purpose of encouraging themselves and theologizing – they have no hope of understanding God's purposes.

## Islam

Only a few years ago, experts on Anti-Christ and the *End-Times* looked quite aghast at suggestions of the possibility that Islam could be linked with *End-Time* events, let alone be THE religious system capable of producing the Anti-Christ. Today, there are voices everywhere calling out with a similar message we had begun to spread several years ago, but were ridiculed! May their voices be heard far and wide!

What we are witnessing in our day is the fruit of two thousand years of rampant, virulent anti-Semitism throughout most of Christianity born out of a largely non-biblical theology. However, this anti-Semitism was/is only a tool for the eventual and total subjugation of the human race to non-biblical/satanic forces. The church's leaning on Greek philosophy and pagan mythology for most of her theology, has succeeded in rendering the Judeo-Christian way of life obsolete for unbelievers and Replacement Theology is busy keeping the believers asleep to the crucial teaching of the Bible.

The consequence of this has created a vacuum that longs to be filled. By a seeming coincidence Islam happens to be on the ascendancy with an extremely successful and virile program of Evangelism.

Menachem Benhayim<sup>4</sup> writes, *'Probably the most grotesque claim for Israel's replacement by the Church is Jewish national and spiritual failure. Then what hope is there for the Church among the gentiles, whose failures and fragmentation during 2000 years of history have been on massive scale far greater than Israel's in Scripture and history?'*

*A part of this Christian history from the first century onward includes: "Immorality such as is not even named among the pagans" (1Cor 5:1); those who are "neither cold nor hot ... but are to be*

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<sup>4</sup> Menachem Benhayim, formerly Secretary for the International Messianic Jewish Alliance, and one of the founders of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel, is retired and living with his wife, Haya, in Jerusalem.

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*spewed out ...” (Rev 3:16); endless factionalism, monstrous hierarchal systems, bloody religious wars, idolatry, misrepresentation of Jesus, alliances with some of the most evil regimes of history, anti-Semitism, racism, etc.*

*It will not do to argue that those manifestations did not involve the true Church. Were the churches in Corinth, Laodicea, Rome, and elsewhere excluded from the true Church when their sinfulness was addressed; or is it only Israel which sins and grieves the Holy Spirit so that it loses all its biblical prerogatives?*

*No doubt a Muslim theologian could argue that the Church’s sins required its replacement by Islam!’*

And it is this later point, which is about to be accomplished by Islam with the help of the Christian church and the secular nations of the world. By denying, or ignoring the Biblical reality that the Almighty did not raise up a people for His redemptive purposes just to discard them for another batch, because they were so utterly unco-operative and ‘stiff-necked’ – the world itself has become blinded to the truth. As Islam manages to direct all the worlds energy into focusing on Israel and Palestine, Christian and secular leaders are prevented from recognizing its evil strategy.

Let me run this scenario past you: (better as a diagram?)

- **God chooses Isaac over Ishmael**
- **The descendants of Ishmael, etc forsake the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and become idolaters with the Baals, etc**
- **Jesus is born and affirms the God of the Bible as the true God**
- **Christianity cuts itself off from its Hebrew roots and adopts Greek philosophy and Pagan mysticism as a blueprint for life**
- **Muhammad is born and begins to proclaim a different god and replaces the God of the Bible with Allah, the Moongod**
- **Allah tells Muhammad that God has no son**
- **The Bible is replaced by Muslims with the Qur’an (Koran) s Allah’s greatest revelation**
- **Muhammad replaces Jesus as the last, greatest and final revelation**
- **The Christian calendar is replaced with an Islamic one**
- **Sabbath and Sunday worship is replaced with Friday prayers**
- **Jerusalem is replaced with Mecca as the focal point of all prayer**
- **Temple Mount in Jerusalem is claimed by Muslims as an Islamic Holy site and Jews and Christians are denied access.**
- **The Hebrew Yeshua/Jesus is replaced with the Islamic/Palestinian Isa**
- **The Hebraic Messiah is replaced with the Islamic Mahdi.**
- **The Messianic Kingdom of God, based on the righteousness of the biblical Creator, is replaced by a global rule of Allah through Sharia law.<sup>5</sup>**

The pivotal point of this entire mess is Palestine— for it is the physical starting point for replacement theology. It is a historical fact that the name was given to the region by Hadrian, the Roman Emperor who defeated the Jewish Zealots in 135 C.E. The people who live in this region are

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<sup>5</sup> For a wider treatment of this subject read [\*Dancing With the Scimitar of Islam\*](#)

not even pure Arabs either, for they were settled there by the Turks and are largely of Balkan stock.<sup>6</sup> Is it then so strange that none of the Arab countries wanted them either when Israel became a nation?

However, Palestinians became useful tools in the hands of Islamists in their fight against the Zionists. Christian churches throughout the Middle East had lived in Dhimmitude for centuries and Palestinian Clergy especially have refused to see themselves as a minority APART from their Islamic masters. Father Raed Awad Abusahlia, the then chancellor of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, explained in his *Olive Branch* of October 2000 that Christians are so inseparable from the Muslims that they should not even be called a minority.<sup>7</sup>

What has been happening by stealth is that Palestinian Christianity has become the Trojan horse for Islam. Most likely, Arab clergy have long ago succumbed to Islamic pressure and adjusted their theology so that there is virtually no difference any longer. It is this synthesized PLT's agenda that is to nullify the whole concept of chosenness, thereby voiding all land promises that justify Israel's rebirth. According to Mitri Raheb, God did kind acts for many peoples therefore the Jews were not exceptional. Raheb also points to Amos 9:7 "...did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Arameans from Kir?", to argue the Jews were not the only people to whom God showed kindness. As for God's promise to "...plant them in this land [Israel] with all my heart and soul," Ateek says, Jewish and Christian Zionists need to move beyond their primitive notion of a nationalistic God to a more universal God.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, Israel's right to exist is something Ateek has never accepted. During a Jerusalem interfaith dialogue with Jewish leaders in 2005, Ateek said that if Israel had the right to exist it should have been created somewhere else.

From Ateek's perspective, the Israeli occupation is the root of all evil. He makes no apology for Palestinian terrorism or its contribution toward the plight of Palestinian Christians. There is no recognition that Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist government, is a far greater threat to Palestinian Christians than Zionism.

To the contrary!

Ateek presents PLT as a theology based on justice, but he redefines Godly justice to fit a sociopolitical context. The result is more narrow than ever before, as God is only on the side of Palestinians. Sabeel says "*Christ is not in the tanks and jet fighters, fighting on the side of the oppressors... God is in the city of Gaza, in the Jenin camp and in the old city of Nablus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.*"

Sabeel enjoys the active support of many of the mainline liberal denominations (i.e. Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ). These church groups ignore the danger of Sabeel's theology! But PLT is not just an ill-informed misguided teaching - it is a dangerous propaganda tool cleverly wielded by Sabeel to undermine Israel's right to the land in the eyes of the wider Christian world. All the while, this anti-Semitic politically-driven theology void of the Gospel hides behind a façade of peace, justice, and love. As Yeshua warned his followers, "*Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*"

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<sup>6</sup> When the Ottoman Turks conquered most of the Balkan Peninsula in the late Middle Ages, they followed ancient practices of relocating large numbers of vanquished people to other parts of their empire—in this case the territory known as Palestine.

<sup>7</sup> Bat Ye'or in *Eurabia*, p.222

<sup>8</sup> Ateek, and indeed many Christian theologians, fail to acknowledge the fact that although the Creator of the Universe is universal in nature, He only identified Himself to one people and through the revelations made to and through them.