

Discover Your Calling Part 3: History of Christian Antisemitism; The Reformation (1/30/015)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/7n8xrtv/discover-your-calling-into-israel-part-3>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are going to continue in our study of your calling into the nation of Israel; discovering your Hebraic roots. If you remember, we began the study in week one by looking at the miraculous work Yeshua did by breaking down the middle wall of separation, and by His grace we saw He had called the Gentiles out from the nations to come be counted, be grafted, into the tree of Israel all through the faith in the Messiah Yeshua whereby taking the Jew and the Gentile and making them one new man in the Messiah Yeshua.

Last week in part two we began to do something quite frightening. We began to pull back the veil, that curtain, on church history. In the process, we discovered there were some disturbing things that had taken place over the course of history which would in fact impact Christianity to such an extent we are feeling these effects to this very day. We found doctrines were being introduced into the church which simply couldn't be supported through biblical means, and the church went so far as to command the Jews and Gentiles forsake direct commandments found in the word of God. Unfortunately, these decrees, these ideologies or theologies, spread like cancer throughout the church infecting the whole mass of the faith.

Today, I'm going to continue to take you through some more painful church history. I'm sorry about that, but there appears to be a very destructive pattern of behavior which continues from generation to generation throughout church history as though Satan himself was applying pressure to some very key points of the faith, to specific commandments of the faith. I think you're going to identify what those are as we continue today.

Last week we went from the 1st century to the 4th century in church history, and we're going to pick up there in the 4th century. I want to begin today by reading to you something known as a profession of faith. Basically, this document had come out of the Church of Constantinople and outlined the requirements for a Jew to convert to Christianity, to the Christian faith. This is going to give you some perspective into the Christian Church's relationship they sought to have with the Jewish people.

This is the outline: *As a preliminary to his acceptance as a catechumen, a Jew' must confess and denounce verbally the whole Hebrew people, and forthwith declare that with his whole heart, in sincere faith, he desires to be received among the Christians. Then he must renounce openly in the church all Jewish superstition, the priest saying, and he, or his sponsor if he is a child, replying in these words: I*

renounce all customs, rights, legalisms, unleavened breads and sacrifices of lambs of the Hebrews, and all other feasts of the Hebrews, sacrifices, prayers, aspersions, purification, sanctifications and propitiations, and fasts, and new moons, and Sabbaths, and superstitions, and hymns and chants and observances and synagogues, and the food and drink of the Hebrews; in one word, I renounce absolutely everything Jewish, every law, right, and custom....

For a Jew to convert to Christianity according to the profession of faith at the Church of Constantinople, the Jew had to renounce absolutely everything Jewish. So what we see Marcion had done in the early second century, here lays the effects of separating law from the gospel. If you separate the law from the gospel, which is perfect harmony, inevitably this is what you will find. You will find the church separating herself from the Jewish people. The only way a Christian could interact with the Jewish person in the fourth century is if in fact the Jewish person no longer talked Jewish, walked Jewish, or looked Jewish.

What is funny is when you look at the first century you had Jews going out persuading Gentiles to live as Jews through faith in the Messiah Yeshua. Then we come to the fourth century, and what do we have? We have Gentiles going out persuading Jews to not live as Jews but to live as Gentiles. The church had officially lost its mind.

So, for a Jewish person to convert to Christianity in the fourth century, he had to forsake the whole Hebrew Bible. He had to forsake Torah and forsake the commandments of God.

I want you to think about something for a second. Think about the things which were listed here that were required of the Jewish person who wanted to convert to Yeshua. I'm going to go through some highlights.

Number one, they had to renounce the whole Hebrew race. This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard of. Follow this to its logical conclusion. If I want to do this, then in fact I would not adhere to the writings of Paul at all because he was a Hebrew. He was a Jew. This makes you wonder if the church knew that.

Take it a step further, very dangerously, he would end up renouncing the Messiah, Christ. Why? Because He was born a Jew. When the magi came across from the east, they came to worship Him, they asked, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" Yeshua lived as a Jew, He walked as a Jew, and He was the Mashiach Ben David. And we find He died as a Jew. What was written over the cross? Pilot had a sign placed above Yeshua's head which read, "Yeshua of Nazareth, King of the Jews." He died as a Jew. And guess what? If you read the Book of Revelation, He is coming back as a Jew.

Number two, they asked them to renounce the feast of God; these beautiful feasts where God has called His children to come to Him, to identify with Him, and to be separate from the world. These beautiful feasts all have the beautiful characteristics of Yeshua, they're asking them to renounce and not celebrate, not identify with, what God has deemed holy.

Number three, they had to renounce New Moons and Sabbaths. When you look at the New Moons and stars, and you see how God hung the sun, the moon, the stars, and the whole host of heavens, you see God of creation in all of it. It identifies you with God by observing these things; by observing His timetable, His schedule, His calendar and Sabbath.

In regard to Sabbath, all of creation was established with the view to the Sabbath. It's at the heart of Israel's law. It is a holy convocation; God is crying out to His people, "Come and meet with Me. This is the day you are to assemble and be with Me." It's a special date with Yeshua.

Furthermore, and interestingly enough, what is Sabbath all about? Worship! It's all about worship, and the church was asking for people coming to accept Christ to denounce this!

Number four, they were to renounce the synagogues. The very place Yeshua grew up teaching. This is the very place the Apostle Paul taught and where Jew and Gentile had come together on the Jewish Sabbath to hear about God and to hear about Yeshua.

Number five, they were to renounce the food and drink of the Hebrews. In other words, forsake wisdom. They were to no longer identify between what is clean and what is unclean. Keep in mind it was for renunciations like this in which the priest was rebuked by God Himself. We find this in Ezekiel 22: 26, **Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.**

What a statement! Did you get that? How is the Lord profaned? When you do not distinguish between holy and unholy. When you hide your eyes from the Sabbath. In Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 you can go read about the dietary laws and what is clean and unclean.

Is it any wonder why this would be the area Satan would want to apply pressure? All the things we just looked at were what the Jewish person was required to renounce. In this list, do you see anything familiar? All of these things are lacking in the church today. Satan has gone out to apply pressure to make sure generation, after generation, after generation don't acquire these things; and consequently, the name of God is blasphemed!

Needless to say, we find the church has cast off her Hebraic roots. Satan's campaign to go out to divide and conquer was proving to be quite successful. In the process of separation of the law from the gospel, we find nature is just merely taking its course here. If you see no value in Torah, if you see no value in the righteousness of God or from hearing His voice, it will only stand to reason you will inevitably not see the value in His people, in the Jewish people.

We shouldn't wonder what happened to the church. We shouldn't wonder why it doesn't look like the church in the Book of Acts where you see the Jew and Gentile gathering in the Jewish synagogues, on the Jewish Sabbath, celebrating the Jewish Messiah. You just read history, and you understand why.

Tragically, as we investigate the history of the church, more and more we find she has nothing but hatred and contempt for the Jew. Understand this; public enemy number one for the Jew, century after century after century, was not the Muslims. It was the Christian Church.

Let me give you some insight to this. I think it is very important to do this. I want to give you some insight from a Jewish perspective on the church. This is from a Jewish author named Mir Simcha Sokolowski. I took this from the great book, *Our Hands are Stained with Blood*, by Dr. Michael Brown. Listen to what Mir Simcha Sokolowski says in his Jewish perspective on the Christian Church: **From his birth, every Christian, practicing or nominal, imbibes the belief that the Jews, i.e., any and every**

individual Jew, are answerable for the murder of his Messiah. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of the acts of persecution, religious coercion [meaning forced conversion] and massacre suffered in history by our People came at the hands of the Christians. Thus we see that Christianity was a significant and major cause of Jewish suffering.

Do we really wonder why the Jews are not rushing to convert to Christianity today? When you have Christians putting all the blame of the death of the Messiah on the Jews as though the whole Hebrew race is responsible? The Jews are held responsible. For centuries the church identified the Jews as Christ killers. What a ridiculous statement!

Again, it makes you wonder if they read the New Testament, John 3:16, **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son...** (Emphasis added). Read John 10:18, **No one takes it [His life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself....** And I am pretty sure every man on the earth has sinned. In fact, He, Yeshua, came to die for our sins. We all equally share the blame for why He came.

As a result of this kind of behavior, we find the church embracing with open arms anti-Semitism. And remember this type of rhetoric is a symptom of the lawless cancer that was injected by Satan to divide the law from the gospel, that beautiful harmony.

Let me give you some further insight into the fourth century. The following quote is by a man named John Chrysostom. If you ever studied church history, you know exactly who I'm talking about. He was the Archbishop of Constantinople. He was an early church father who was huge in the realms of Christianity. He was a great influence to the Christian Church.

I want to read to you a passage and give you some perspective on what he thought of the synagogue; on what he thought of the Jewish people. While I read this, keep in mind this man had a nickname. He was called the Golden Mouth because he was so articulate and eloquent in his words. Listen to what he has to say, **The Synagogue is worse than a brothel...it is a den of scoundrels in the repair of wild beasts...the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults...the refuge of brigands and debauchees, and the cavern of devils. It is a criminal assembly of Jews...a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ...**[so we can see that theology being invoked] **a house worse than a drinking shop...a den of thieves, a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, the refuge of devils, a golf and a abyss of perdition. "..."** I would say the same things about their souls...as for me, I hate the synagogue... I hate the Jews for the same reason.

Well, tell me what you really think, John. He displays such hatred pouring forth for the people of God. Such hatred for the synagogue, a place established to assemble, to study God's word, to acknowledge the holy convocation of Shabbat. It would have done Mr. Chrysostom well to actually read the New Testament Book of Acts where we do see the Jew and Gentile worshiping together on the Sabbath. It would also have done him well to actually read the writings of Paul in order to see Paul's heart was for the Jewish nation.

Listen to these words. These are words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 9:1-5, **I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.**

Paul mourned for his Jewish brethren. He loved his own people more than he loved himself, and he outlines in this passage just how glorious the nation of Israel is. These terms of endearment Paul gives here is merely a reflection of what is in his heart.

And here's the deal, if we love Yeshua, and Yeshua loves His people, those who profess Him will also make the same confession Paul made.

I want to show you a story found in the Gospel of Luke. It is one of the most beautiful love stories I have ever read in my life. It is possibly one of the most beautiful love stories in all of scripture because it actually gives us a picture of what it means for a Jew and a Gentile to be *echad*, to live as one, to be one new man in the Messiah Yeshua.

We find the story in Luke 7:1-3, **Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.**

The first thing we need to do is identify the characters in the story. We have a Roman Centurion. He is a Gentile; he's not a Jew. This Roman Centurion has a servant who is also not a Jew. Then we have the elders of the Jews and Yeshua.

Now, according to the story, the centurion hears about Yeshua, and no doubt heard Yeshua is healing the sick, raising the dead, giving sight to the blind, restoring the ability to walk to the lame, and loosening the tongues of the mute. If we look in verse three, the text explicitly states the centurion sent elders of the Jews to Yeshua. In the Greek it is *presbyteros*. It is elder. In other words, the men that this centurion had sent to Yeshua were men of renown; they were men who sat in positions of authority. They were well respected in their community. They were not insignificant.

Then we come to Luke 7:4, and we read, **And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving.**

So here you have Jewish men. These were not just any Jewish men; they were men of renown. They are coming to Yeshua and begging on behalf of who? Of a Gentile! Who has ever heard of such a thing!

I really want you to put this into perspective. You need to put yourself in the shoes of these Jewish men because here these Jewish men are given an opportunity of a lifetime. They get to come before Yeshua the Messiah, to get the ear of the Messiah, and to look at Him face to face. Think about this opportunity of a lifetime. They know whatever they ask, Yeshua can do it. If they would have walked up and said, "Lord Yeshua, take this star from the heavens that is ten times the size of the earth and bring it down and put it in my hand," He could have done it. There is nothing He can't do! The elders are given an opportunity of a lifetime here!

Given all that, nowhere in this passage, and this is very important, will you find they asked anything for themselves. This is mind-blowing! Could I count on you, if you saw Yeshua face-to-face, to ask Him for my needs? I mean, every time I go to prayer, believe me, I bring my list, and I start going through it, and I'm really concerned about myself. It is like, "I'm dumb as rocks; please, Lord, give me wisdom. Give me

more wisdom; give me more strength. Give me more this; give me more that.” It is always give me, give me, and give me.

In this story, however, nowhere will you find these men of renown, these Jewish men who are going on behalf of a Gentile, ask for anything but only the needs of the Gentile. What was it about this Gentile that would provoke these Jewish men to do such a thing? We are given the answer to that question in the next verse, **for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue** (Luke 7:5).

This is what the Messianic Kingdom looks like. You have Jew and Gentile living together as one new man in Yeshua. Think about this story of love. It is love, built upon love. It is an intercessory story.

Now let's go back to the Roman Centurion for a second. He was not the one who had the need. The problem was his servant. Going back to this time in history, servants were a dime a dozen. If one died, you went out and got another one. But this Centurion does not do that.

So you have this Roman Centurion who has the opportunity of lifetime. He is a man of faith, and anything he asks, Yeshua can accomplish, yet he asks nothing for himself. He asks on behalf of a servant; and the Jewish men that go on behalf of this Gentile ask nothing for themselves. This is intercession built upon intercession, love upon love.

I think we can learn a lot from this story. Gentiles who believe in Yeshua, I promise you, love the nation of Israel. They will have love for their Jewish brethren. This is what the church should look like.

Now I want to point out one other thing before I continue. Did you notice what the Gentile had done? His love wasn't in word or in tongue. His love was in deed and in truth. What did the text say? He built the Jewish people a synagogue. I wonder what Mr. Chrysostom, who hated the synagogue, thought of this Gentile who loved the Jewish nation and built them a synagogue?

Let's jump ahead in church history a couple hundred years. I want to take you to the Fourth Council of Toledo in 633AD. There were several canons established at this council, and I'm just going to share a couple of them with you to show you just how aggressive the campaign of the church was against the Jewish nation.

Canon 60: **We decree that the sons and daughters of Jews are to be separated from their parent, lest they likewise be involved in their errors.**

Can you imagine the atrocities of the church that knows no boundaries? Can you imagine having your children taken from you in the name of Jesus lest, God forbid, the Hebrew people do what they were commanded to do by God? And that is to train up their children in the way they should go, and the way they should walk.

Why did the church go out to separate the parent from his children? Because they didn't want them teaching them Torah, which is the very thing God commanded the people of Israel to do; to train up their children in the way they should walk. They were to remind them of what the commandments were. It was their obligation. You can read about this in Deuteronomy 6 and the Proverbs. This is what they were supposed to do. They were supposed to teach the children how to keep Sabbath, and that it was holy. They were to teach their children to distinguish between clean and unclean.

Let me ask you this, how many of you would like to give Christianity a try when they're in the business of child abduction? I mean seriously! Let me remind you that stripping a child away from their parents is kidnapping, and according to scripture it's punishable by death, and it should be. They were taking little Jewish children away from their parents, and we wonder why the Jewish people don't want to hear about Christ. For us to be effective lights to the Jewish people, to the rest of the world, it is imperative that we know Christian history. We need to have that sensitivity. It is going to give us a greater ability to witness to them.

I think the catholic scholar Ed Flannery articulates it the best. I also pulled this out of the book, *Our Hands are Stained with Blood*. This is what he says, [The vast majority of Christians, even while educated, are all but totally ignorant of what happened to the Jews in history and of the culpable involvement of the church....It is little exaggeration to state that those pages of history Jews have committed to memory are the very ones that have been torn from Christian \(and secular\) history books.](#) (Dr. Michael Brown).

I couldn't agree more that the problem is those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it.

Let me show you another canon from this council. Canon 63: [Jews having Christian wives, are to be admonished by the bishop of their diocese, that if they desire to abide with them they must become Christian and if, being so admonished, they refuse to obey, they shall be separated.](#)

You want to talk about literally destroying families? Nobody was better than the Christian Church. Apparently this council literally sought to destroy the entirety of the Jewish home. It wasn't enough to take the children from the parents, but then they also sought to destroy holy matrimony. According to this canon, if your spouse didn't convert to the tenants of the so-called Christian Church, the church would force separation.

Again, this is the church violating biblical standards which were readily available in the New Testament on how you would deal with situations like this. For example, 1 Peter 3:1, [Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives.](#)

It doesn't say, "Wives, run for your lives; your husband has lost his mind." It tells wives to submit to their husband so the Godly conduct you display, and your husband sees, is to win him over. But not according to the Christian Church in the 4th century and onward.

One of the most tragic things I have ever read is what is known as the Visigoth Professions. In the mid 7th century, it was a letter sent from the Jews who were in Toledo. They sent this letter to the king professing their allegiance to the Catholic Church, and this letter mirrors those professions of faith we read about in the Church of Constantinople 300 years earlier. In other words, what I'm saying is that here you saw all these proclamations of what a Jew must confess to convert to Christianity, and over 300 years later we are seeing a letter that is literally answering the very same tenants that were required by the Church of Constantinople. My point is this; Satan put in his thumb in keeping the pressure on specific observances found in scripture generation after generation and century after century.

I want to look at this letter, the Visigoth Professions, and you're going to see this is a tragic letter to read, [To our most merciful and tranquil lord Recceswinth the king, from us the Jews of Toledo as](#)

witnessed or signed below. We well remember how we were long ago and rightly constrained to sign this Declaration promising in the name of King Chinthila's holy memory to support the catholic faith; and we have done so. However, because our pertinacious lack of faith and the ancient errors of our fathers [that] held us back from believing wholly in Our Lord Jesus Christ or accepting the Catholic truth with all our hearts, we therefore make these promises to your greater glory, on behalf of both of ourselves and our wives and children, through this our Declaration, undertaking for the future not to become involved in any Jewish rights or customs nor to associate with the accused Jews who remain unbaptized. We will not follow our habit of contracting incestuous unions or practicing fornication with our own relatives to the sixth degree. [In other words, Jews would not marry other Jews. This is the attack of Satan to go out to break down Israel] we will not on any pretext, either ourselves, our children or our descendants, choose wives from our own race; but in the case of both sexes we will always link ourselves in matrimony with Christians; We will not practice carnal circumcision, celebrate the Passover, the Sabbath or any of the other feast days connected with the Jewish religion. We will not keep to our old habit of discrimination and the matter of food....

In other words, the Jews were fully rejecting the instructions, the commandments, found in scripture. This is the confession. These things had to be compromised, renounced, to come into the Christian Church or into what I would call the catholic faith.

This is the destructive pattern of behavior we see repeatedly happening. Satan puts his thumb in putting pressure on not wanting them to observe feasts, not wanting them to observe Sabbaths, and not acknowledging between clean food and unclean. Look at the last statement, [We will not keep to our old habit of discrimination and the matter of food](#). It's a complete breakdown in society.

Continuing, [With regard to swine's flesh we promise to observe this rule, that if through long custom we are hardly able to eat it, we shall not through fastidiousness or error refuse the things that are cooked with it. And if in all the matters touched on above we are found in any way to transgress, either presuming to work against the Christian Faith, or promising in words to perform actions suitable to the Catholic religion....](#)

I want you to understand something; all through church history what you are finding are confessions that first you had to renounce God's commandments in general, but then confession to convert to the Catholic Church. In other words, I am coming into the catholic faith. You were to be baptized the catholic way. You were not baptized into the death of the Messiah; you are baptized into the church.

Let's jump ahead to the reformation. The reformation was really birthed in about 1517 with a German monk by the name of Martin Luther. He was ordained a priest in 1507 and began working as a professor, teaching theology in 1508 at the university of Wittenberg. We have all heard of him; he is called the father of Protestantism. He published a famous work.

I want to give you a little background on Luther. Again, he was a monk and a Catholic priest. He came out with the 95 Thesis in an attempt to reform the church. He never started off on an endeavor to start a new movement of Protestantism. He was trying to reform what he was already a part of. He saw errors and flaws in the Christian or Catholic Church, and he wanted to reform those errors. The thing which really got the Catholic Church heated was his work of 95 Thesis.

I want to show you just a couple of these things, so you understand where Luther was coming from, and for you to understand the things he was rejecting.

Number 21—Hence those who preach indulgences are in error when they say that a man is absolved and saved from every penalty by the pope's indulgences.

Number 26—The pope does excellence excellently when he grants remission to the souls in purgatory on account of intercessions made on their behalf, and not by the power of the keys (which he cannot exercise for them).

Number 27—There is no divine authority for preaching that the soul flies out of purgatory immediately [when] the money clinks in the bottom of the chest.

Number 28—It is certainly possible that when the money clinks in the bottom of the chest, avarice and greed increase; but when the church offers intercession, all depends on the will of God.

I wanted to show you some of these, but you can read all the 95 Thesis on your own. What you will find over and over again is that Luther was upset with the indulgences of the church. The church was going out and basically taxing the people so they could repair their buildings and do all these things. But the problem with that is it's one thing to go out and tax people; however, it's another thing to sell it for forgiveness of sins.

If you go through these 95 Thesis, you will find this was the primary objection. It was not any of the things we touched on today that the Catholic Church, the Christian Church at the time, was promoting.

So, if you wonder why we have those things today, you need to understand Luther was a catholic priest, and he took a lot of Catholicism with him. The things he was seeking to reform, while I agree with, was not even touching the tip of the iceberg of the issues that were going awry in the Catholic Church.

I want to read to you something from a book called *The History of Jewish Christianity*. I want to read you a quote made by Luther. Luther had published a work in 1523 under the title that Jesus was born a Jew. It is a remarkable passage. Keep in mind Luther was part of the Catholic Church. This is what he said, *Those fools the papists, bishops, sophists, monks, have formally so dealt with the Jews, that every good Christian would rather have been a Jew. And if I had been a Jew, and seen such stupidity and such blockheads reign in the Christian Church, I would rather be a pig than a Christian.*

That is a powerful statement! In other words, if that is what you're calling Christianity, I don't want it. I don't want to be called a Christian. With these words, I agree.

He goes on and says, *They have treated the Jews as if they were dogs, not men, and as if they were fit for nothing but to be reviled. They are the blood relations of our Lord; therefore, if we respect flesh and blood, the Jews belonged to Christ more than we. I beg, therefore, my dear Papist, if you become tired of abusing me as a heretic, that you begin to revile me as a Jew. Therefore, it is my advice that we should treat them kindly, but now we drive them by force treating them deceitfully or ignominiously saying they must have Christian blood to wash away the Jewish stain, and I know not what nonsense.*

We're going to end here today. Next week we're going to pick up right where we left off. And though these words are some of the most beautiful articulated words against the Christian Church, we are going to find that Luther, unfortunately, did not continue in that vein but actually compounded the problem.

Shabbat shalom