

# MARTIN LUTHER



## ON THE JEWS AND THEIR LIES

Introduction And Notes By Clement Pulaski



# MARTIN LUTHER

Father of the Reformation  
and dedicated enemy of Jewry.

# INTRODUCTION

In the entire history of the Church, no saint can be said to rival Martin Luther's boldness in proclaiming the truth. At the risk of his own life, he fearlessly denounced the corruptions of the established Roman hierarchy. His faith was such that he could oppose any worldly power that stood in the way of the pure Gospel message. Luther's blessed strength is felt in every one of his books and sermons, and his legacy is to be treasured by every Bible-believing Christian who can practice his faith without fear of persecution.

However, much to the dismay of contemporary philo-Semites, Luther was equally bold in denouncing the Jews, a group which Luther viewed as being just as corrupt and contrary to God as the worst papist. *On the Jews and Their Lies* is the most notorious of these anti-Jewish texts, and as such, it has often been misrepresented by Jews and their gentile allies. In the pages of *On the Jews and Their Lies*, the reader will find the same care, the same conviction, and the same fire that characterize Luther's greatest works. The Christian is duty bound to read the text for himself, rather than accept the opinion of the world. Martin Luther, the man who stood against the Pope that you might enjoy Christian liberty, saw the Jews as a grave threat, not just to our earthly prosperity, but to our eternal salvation. His message deserves to be heard.

## GOSPEL ANTI-SEMITISM

In trying to explain away anti-Semitism, Jews and their gentile allies often claim that dislike of the Jews arises from the base and vicious regions of the soul. The anti-Semite is accused of envy of Jewish success, or of covetous desire of Jewish possessions. In more recent times, the

disgusting Freudian theory of “sexual repression” is invoked, and anti-Semitism is declared a mental disorder caused by unfulfilled erotic desires. In the case of Luther, none of these explanations apply. Just as in every other endeavor, Luther's chief concern in speaking against the Jews was the spiritual wellbeing of his fellow man. Allowing Jews freedom within a Christian land puts Christian souls in danger of eternal damnation. It is for this reason that Jewish blasphemy and corruption must be combated. According to Luther, “we should not joke about this matter, but very sincerely find counsel against it and **save our souls from the Jews**; that is, from eternal death,” and he urges his fellow pastors to “warn your parishioners against their eternal ruin”<sup>i</sup> that comes from acceptance of the Jews. While Luther does complain about the dishonest business practices and the parasitic nature of the Jews, the bulk of *On the Jews and Their Lies* focuses on theological and exegetical issues. Luther shows in great detail that the Messianic promises of the Old Testament have been plainly and finally fulfilled in Jesus, and that the Jewish hopes for a future Messiah are in vain

Amongst the threats that come from the Jews, Luther mentions Jewish efforts to convert Protestant Christians such as himself. According to Luther, “Three learned Jews came to me in the hope of finding a new Jew in me, because here in Wittenberg we began to read Hebrew. They also pretended that things would soon improve because we Christians were reading their books. When I disputed with them, they acted according to their kind; gave me their interpretations. When I compelled them to remain with the text, they fell from the text and said they had to believe their Rabbis, as we had to believe the Bishops and Doctors, etc”. While these Jewish efforts at conversion never amounted to much, it is easy to see the danger that they would have represented to Luther. The Reformation was a move away from human tradition to the pure word of God. The Protestant position required a more careful study of the Bible in the original languages, and naturally new students of Hebrew might value contact with the Jews, a group which, supposedly, had remained loyal to the original text of the Old Testament. However, during his discussions with the Jews, Luther soon learned that the Jews were no better than papists, for the Jews themselves were slaves to the traditions of the Pharisaic rabbis as set down in the Talmud: “they corrupt their circumcision with human ordinances and ruin their

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i All quotes in the Introduction are taken from *On the Jews and Their Lies* unless otherwise specified. Emphasis is added.

heritage with their arrogance. In the same manner they also desecrate their Sabbath and all their festivals. In brief, all their life and all their deeds, whether they eat, drink, sleep, wake, stand, walk, dress, undress, fast, bathe, pray, or praise, are so sullied with rabbinical, foul ordinances and unbelief, that Moses can no longer be recognized among them. This corresponds to the situation of the papacy in our day, in which Christ and his word can hardly be recognized because of the great vermin of human ordinances.” Adherence to human tradition was the great enemy of the reformers, and leaving Rome to convert to Judaism would simply lead a man from one corrupt human tradition to another.<sup>ii</sup>

Perhaps the gravest threat that comes from toleration of the Jews is that it makes the Christian a partaker in blasphemy. Over the course of his life, Luther became increasingly aware of what Talmudic Judaism actually teaches. After Luther discovered that the Jews curse Jesus and his mother, and utter all other sorts of abominations, he came to the conclusion that the Christian cannot allow Jewish worship in his own lands. The Jews truly operate a synagogue of Satan, an institution just as vile as any pagan temple. Prohibiting pagan worship while condoning Jewish worship makes the Christian a hypocrite. According to Luther, “If they [the Jews] do not believe as we do, we cannot help it and cannot compel anyone to accept the faith. We, however, should avoid strengthening them in their deliberate lying, blaspheming, cursing and disgracing, also do not become partakers of their devilish raving and ranting by according them protection, meat and drink, lodging and other neighborly kindness.” Once we are made aware of what goes on in Jewish synagogues, we are without excuse if we allow such institutions to flourish.

## **THE CARNAL NATURE OF THE JEW**

In his extensive discussion of the Jewish understanding of Messianic prophecy, Luther reveals that the Jews hope for a very different sort of savior. It is not by accident that the Jews continue to reject Jesus: it is because they despise the very idea of a meek, suffering Messiah whose

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ii See pages 53-59 of my book *Weep Over Jerusalem* for more details on the nature of Talmudic Jewish belief.

kingdom is not of this world. The Jews expect a worldly Messiah who will satisfy all of their carnal desires and bring their gentile enemies into subjection. This is shown when Luther examines the Jewish interpretation of the prophecy of Haggai: “Haggai 2:6,7: *'Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: yet, once, it is a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land. And I will shake all nations! and the desire (chemdath) of all nations shall come.'* The Jews deny that He came when the temple was still standing<sup>iii</sup> and claim that He shall still come, as they now have been waiting 1468 years after the destruction of that same temple—and cannot be called a 'little while,' because they do not yet know the end of such a 'long while'... But here they squirm out of it in this way: Since they cannot deny the 'little while,' they take the expression: 'Desire of Nations,' in Hebrew 'chemdath,' by itself, and crucify it. Say it should not designate 'Messiah,' but should denote all gold and silver of the heathen. Because the word 'chemdath,' according to the grammar, really means *'Desire and love for,'* as that which the heathen desire and love. And now the text shall read thus: *'After a little while the desire of all heathen shall come.'* What is that? What do the heathen desire? Gold, silver, and jewels. You may be inclined to ask why the Jews insert such interpretations here. I will say: Their breath stinks for the gold and silver of the heathen, since no people under the sun always have been, still are, and always will remain more avaricious than they (the Jews) as can be noticed in their cursed usury. They also find comfort with this: 'When Messiah comes, *He* shall take all the gold and silver in the world and distribute it among them (the Jews).' Thus wherever they can direct Scripture to their insatiable avarice they wickedly do so.”

Luther connects this Jewish desire for a worldly Messiah with the support given by the Jews to Bar Kokhba: “The Jews desire no more from their Messiah than that He should be a Kokhba and a worldly king, who would slay the Christians, divide the world among the Jews and make them rich lords.” Bar Kokhba's revolt is a very telling episode in Jewish history. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the faithful Jews who accepted the Messiah preached the good news to their kinsmen for nearly a century. But the apostate Jews persisted in their hardness of heart, and refused salvation. In the early second century these Jews embraced a

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iii Haggai 2:7 continues *“and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.”* The house referred to is the second temple. Thus, according to Haggai, the desire of the nations (the Messiah) will come in a little while, and the second temple will be filled with glory. Because the second temple has already been destroyed, it is impossible that the Messiah has not yet come.



violent and worldly false Messiah named Simon Bar Kokhba, who led his followers in a disastrous revolt against the Romans. The Jews rejected Jesus, who healed the sick and blessed the poor in spirit, but gladly welcomed Bar Kokhba. And although the Bar Kokhba rebellion failed, the Jews still clung to their hope for worldly domination. In Luther's time, the Jews were not in a position to use military force against their enemies, but they could still rely on usury and other dishonest business practices to steal from their Christian hosts. Luther understood that whenever the Jews gain power they will use it to plunder and degrade their hosts, a pattern that has tragically unfolded over the last century in the West.

Together with their carnal hopes, the Jews also have a carnal understanding of righteousness. This carnal understanding is best displayed in the Jew's boasting of his lineage and his circumcision. Luther writes that, "They hold one principle on which they depend and in which they trust so much. That is, they are born of the highest people on earth, of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, etc. We (Goyim) heathen are not human beings in their sight, but hardly worthy to be regarded as worms. For we are not of that high, noble blood, birth and descent...**All prophets have chided them because of it, for it is a proud, carnal assumption without spirit and faith.**" On circumcision, Luther says that: "The other boast and superiority, on account of which they exalt themselves above all other people and despise them, is this: that from Abraham on down they have *circumcision*. God help, how we heathen here must suffer in their schools, prayers, songs and teaching!...they are the very people who always practiced such ungodly manner of idolatry, and false doctrine, **and have had uncircumcised hearts as Moses himself, and all prophets lament over them.**" In his arguments against the Jews, Luther sticks closely to Scripture and often points out that the Jews of his day act in exactly the same manner as the apostate Jews of Biblical times. The prophets, and Jesus himself, often rebuked the Jews for relying on their ancestry and their rituals rather than faith. The message of the Bible from start to finish is that righteousness comes by faith, not by flesh, and certainly not by mere outward observance of ceremonies. Here we can see yet another reason why the staunchly anti-Catholic Luther also despised Judaism: while the papist preaches works righteousness, the Jew preaches flesh righteousness. Faith in God and obedience to his commandments are the true marks of righteous men. When these two things are lacking, any pretensions to righteousness are mere deception.

## LUTHER'S CHANGING ATTITUDE

In an effort to show that Luther was not a completely evil anti-Semite, some Christians will provide quotes by him that seem to be very sympathetic to the Jews. Such quotes are indeed genuine, but they represent an earlier stage in Luther's thought. The most prominent “pro-Jewish” text by Luther is *That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew*, published in 1523. In this text, Luther states:

They (papists) have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property. When they baptize them they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but only subject them to popishness and monkery. **When the Jews then see that Judaism has such strong support in Scripture, and that Christianity has become a mere babble without reliance on Scripture, how can they possibly compose themselves and become right good Christians?** I have myself heard from pious baptized Jews that if they had not in our day heard the gospel they would have remained Jews under the cloak of Christianity for the rest of their days. For they acknowledge that they have never yet heard anything about Christ from those who baptized and taught them.

**I hope that if one deals in a kindly way with the Jews and instructs them carefully from Holy Scripture, many of them will become genuine Christians and turn again to the faith of their fathers, the prophets and patriarchs. They will only be frightened further away from it if their Judaism is so utterly rejected that nothing is allowed to remain, and they are treated only with arrogance and scorn.** If the apostles, who also were Jews, had dealt with us Gentiles as we Gentiles deal with the Jews, there would never have been a Christian among the Gentiles. Since they dealt with us Gentiles in such brotherly fashion, we in our turn ought to treat the Jews in a brotherly manner in order that we might convert some of them. For even we ourselves are not yet all very far along, not to speak of having arrived.<sup>iv</sup>

*On the Jews and Their Lies* was published in 1543, and by this time Luther had learned, through bitter experience, that his earlier view of the Jews was mistaken. In the preceding quote Luther suggests that the corruptions of Rome were the main reason why the Jews continued to resist

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iv <http://www.ccrj.us/dialogika-resources/primary-texts-from-the-history-of-the-relationship/272-luther-1523>  
(accessed 2/24/15) Emphasis added.



Christianity, and that Judaism was basically the religion of the Old Testament. But the Jews rejected Protestant Christianity just as they had Medieval Catholicism, and Luther's movement failed to produce the Jewish converts that he had initially hoped for. Even today, 500 years after the Reformation, when large numbers of Evangelicals practically worship the Jews, the apostate sons of Abraham have still not been moved to embrace Jesus in large numbers. As mentioned above, Judaism is the religion of the man-made Talmud, not the religion of the Old Testament. This is something that Luther apparently learned over time, and the more familiar he became with the nature of Judaism the more disgusted he became with it. *On the Jews and Their Lies* represents Luther's mature thought, and in the text he mentions that his earlier toleration of the Jews was based on ignorance of Judaism. After stating that Christians must condemn the false worship of the synagogue, Luther adds that “..such should be done to the glory of God and Christendom, that God may see that we are Christians and have not knowingly tolerated such lying, cursing and blaspheming of His Son and His Christians. **For what we so far have tolerated in ignorance (I myself did not know it), God will forgive us.** Now that we know it, however, and in spite should before our very noses tolerate such a building for the Jew in which they blaspheme, curse, spit upon and disgrace Christ and us, that would be simply too much, as if we did it ourselves and much worse, as you well know.” With his writings against the Jews, Luther hoped that he could undo his past errors and warn his fellow Christians about the wickedness of the antichrist tribe.

## **THE MILDNESS AND CHARITY OF LUTHER'S POSITION**

Although much of *On the Jews and Their Lies* deals with the theological differences between Christianity and Judaism, the sections in which Luther lays out his practical proposals have become the most notorious. Luther is reproached for being hateful, uncharitable, and even genocidal in his suggestions on how to deal with the Jewish problem. Many Jews and their gentile lackeys even blame Luther for the alleged atrocities against the Jews carried out during

WWII. In reality, however, Luther's proposals are rather mild and compassionate, especially given the context of the religious turmoil of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

As noted in the previous section, Luther's first aim was to convert the Jews. He gladly met with Jews to discuss theology, setting aside all previous prejudice. He gave the Jews the benefit of the doubt, assuming that the corruptions of the Catholic church were at fault in Christian-Jewish conflict. He let the Jews speak for themselves and explain their position. Over years of study and interaction with the Jews, Luther learned first-hand the true nature of Judaism, and this is what caused him to arrive at an anti-Jewish position.

Luther came to the conclusion that Judaism is inherently antagonistic to Christianity, and he understood that allowing Jews to live and worship freely in Christian lands was unconscionable. The Jews blasphemed God, they cursed Christians, and they stole from the honest Christian laborer through their parasitic usury. But despite their manifest wickedness, Luther always approached the Jewish problem with great charity: “We cannot extinguish the unquenchable fire of God's wrath (as the prophets say), nor convert the Jews. We must practice great mercy with prayer and godliness that we might rescue a few from the flame and violent heat. **We are not permitted to take revenge.** Revenge is around their neck a thousand times greater than we could wish them.” It should be noted that even after coming to his later anti-Jewish position, Luther still allowed that certain Jews could undergo a genuine conversion. Throughout *On the Jews and Their Lies*, Luther favorably cites Jewish converts to Christianity such as Paul of Burgos and Anton Margaritha, both of whom wrote exposés of Judaism. At the same time, however, Luther understood that their centuries of wickedness had left a mark on the hereditary character of the Jews: “Since childhood they have devoured such poisonous hatred against the Goyim from their parents and Rabbis, and still devour such without ceasing, that according to Psalm 109 it has gone over into their flesh and blood, bone and marrow, and has become their life and being. **And as little as they can alter flesh and blood, bone and marrow, so little can they change such pride and envy.** They just have to stay that way and be ruined, **if God does not perform a special miracle.**” The Christian is not required to tolerate Jewish perfidy while waiting for this miracle to occur.

The most obvious solution to the Jewish problem is to expel the Jews from Christian lands, which is one of the proposals made by Luther. Of course the Jews shriek with rage

whenever this suggestion is made, because, in their minds, they have a right to live in whatever country they choose. More than this, the Jews believe that they have the unique right to an ethnically pure homeland in which they have complete control over their own destiny. They alone amongst mankind have the right to live everywhere, while no other race has the right to live in their Jewish homeland. Only from this twisted Jewish perspective of justice does the proposal for Jews and Christians to live in separate countries seem unfair.

If, however, separation is impossible, then action must be taken to eliminate the two great evils associated with the Jews: blasphemous worship and parasitic economic practices. To this end, Luther proposed that synagogue services and Jewish religious instruction be banned, and that Jews be compelled to engage in honest labor. (These proposals might seem shocking to the contemporary reader, but it is well to remember that blasphemy was largely illegal in the United States up until a 1952 Supreme Court ruling. Just as a Christian would reasonably demand that a mosque or Satanic temple not be installed in his community, likewise should he oppose the Jewish synagogue of Satan.) Even in his firm proposals against the Jews, Luther's charity is evident. Every proposal is aimed at furthering the Gospel, both by keeping Christians free from Jewish corruption and by fostering an environment in which hard Jewish hearts might be softened. A good example of this is Luther's proposal for the confiscation of Jewish wealth. Luther viewed usury as a form of theft, and from this he reasoned that all of the wealth possessed by Jews was essentially stolen from their hosts. But even though this wealth was the rightful possession of Christians, he did not propose that it be returned to them: “..everything [the Jews] have they have stolen from us...and robbed through their usury, since they have no other income. Such money should be used as follows: whenever a Jew is truly converted, he be given one, two, or three hundred florins according to his person, that he may begin to support his poor wife and child and/or support the aged and infirm. For such property which was obtained dishonestly is cursed where it is not turned to good use with God's blessing.” This is a truly Christian example of opposing evil with good.

## A NOTE ON THE TEXT

The text used for this edition is taken from an anonymous translation published in 1948 by Gerald L.K. Smith's Christian Nationalist Crusade (CNC). A pdf scan of the original publication is available online free of charge.<sup>v</sup> The only other English translation that I have come across is by Martin H. Bertram and was published in 1971 by Fortress Press. There are several versions of the Bertram translation available online and in print, most of which appear to be unauthorized and many of which fail to cite their source. I have not seen anything indicating that the Bertram translation is in the public domain, which is why I did not use it for this edition. It is also worth noting that some of the electronic versions of the Bertram translation contain errors or are incomplete.

Unfortunately, the CNC translation is highly abridged. There are large sections of the text that are omitted, often with a note in brackets giving a brief description of the missing material. To supplement these brief descriptions, I have inserted longer footnotes giving a more complete summary of the points covered. However, the reader should not assume that these footnotes contain every single idea expressed by Luther in the original. Readers who wish to consult the complete text are directed to acquire a copy of the Bertram translation. However, I believe that even in its abridged form, the translation is very useful. Luther's original text is repetitive at times, and only those with a strong interest in theology are likely to read the entire thing. The abridged translation will allow the more casual reader to learn the main points of Luther's anti-Jewish position.

Finally, it is necessary to counter some possible criticisms of the present translation. *On the Jews and Their Lies* is the one book that philo-Semitic Christians really wish did not exist. In their desperation, some philo-Semites have simply declared that the book is either a forgery or that anti-Semites have distorted the book's content. This charge is certain to be leveled against the CNC translation, because Smith and his organization were overtly anti-Jewish. In order to defend the CNC translation, I will compare some passages from the CNC and the

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v <https://archive.org/details/TheJewsAndTheirLies1543En1948>

Bertram translation (Bertram himself is a philo-Semite and strongly condemns Luther's attitude, which makes his translation more trustworthy in the eyes of his fellow politically correct Christians). The most controversial passages of the book are those in which Luther gives certain recommendations to secular rulers. When comparing the CNC and the Bertram translations of these passages, we do notice some slight differences:

CNC translation: *“First, that we avoid their synagogues and schools and warn people against them.”*

Bertram translation: *“First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them”* (page 268).

CNC translation: *“Secondly, that you also refuse to let them own houses among us.”*

Bertram translation: *“I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed”* (page 269).

CNC translation: *“Fourthly, that you prohibit their Rabbis to teach.”*

Bertram translation: *“I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life or limb”* (page 269).

From these comparisons, it is obvious that the CNC translation has not misrepresented the text in order to make Luther appear more anti-Semitic. Both translations contain Luther's anti-Jewish measures, and the CNC translation actually uses softer language than the Bertram translation. Contemporary anti-Semites have not hijacked Luther for their own purposes. Luther was one of us.

ON THE  
JEWS AND  
THEIR LIES  
BY MARTIN LUTHER

I had decided not to write anymore, neither of the Jews, nor against the Jews. Because I have learned, however, that those miserable, wicked people do not cease trying to win over to themselves us, that is, the Christians also, I have permitted this booklet to go forth that I might be found among those who have resisted such poisonous undertaking of the Jews, and have warned the Christians to be on their guard against them. I would not have thought that a Christian would permit himself to be fooled by the Jews to share their exile and misery. But the Devil is the God of the world, and where God's word is not, he has easy sailing, not only among the weak, but also among the strong. God help us. Amen.

MARTIN LUTHER



Dear Sir and Good Friend:

I have received a treatise of a Jew carrying on a conversation with a Christian in which the Jew has the audacity to pervert and misconstrue the passages of Scripture (which we use for our faith, of our Lord Christ, and of Mary, His mother) whereby he means to overthrow the foundation of our faith.

To this I give to you and to him this answer.

It is not my intention to quarrel with the Jews or to learn from them how they interpret and understand the Scriptures. I have known all that before. Much less do I intend to convert the Jews. For that is impossible. Nor does it do any good among the Jews everywhere, and they have generally become worse. Also, because they became so hardened to visitations that they do not want to become conscious of the terrible dilemma, that they have now been in exile for over fourteen hundred years, and cannot yet see an end or a definite time (of relief) through fervent, eternal crying and screaming to God (as they suppose). (I say) If visitations do not help, we might as well figure that our talking and interpreting will help much less.

#### NO USE TO QUARREL

Therefore, a Christian should be satisfied and not quarrel with the Jews. But if you think you must or desire to talk with them, do not say more than this: "Do you hear, Jew, do you know that your principality together with the temple and priesthood are destroyed now for 1460 years? For this year, as we Christians write after the birth of Christ 1543, it is exactly 1469 years, and it is exactly 1469 years, and it is thus going on 1500 years since Vespasian and Titus destroyed Jerusalem and expelled the Jews from it." On this little nut let the Jews bite and dispute among themselves as long as they want to.

For such terrible wrath of God is sufficient proof that they certainly must be in error and

doing wrong; even a child can grasp that. For no one should think of God so terrible that He would punish his own nation so unmercifully and keep silent by neither comforting words nor indicating the duration or end of such misery! Who would want to believe in such a God, hope in Him, or trust in Him? Therefore, this wrath leads to the conclusion that the Jews are certainly rejected by God and are not His people anymore, and He also is not their God anymore; according to the passage, Hosea 1:9 “*Lo, Ammi: You are not my people, so also am I not your God.*” Yea, they are in a terrible dilemma. Whatever interpretation they may place on it, we see the thing before our eyes, it does not deceive us.

#### VICTIMS OF THE WRATH OF GOD

And wherever there should be a spark of sense and reason in them, they would certainly think to themselves thus: “O Lord God, things are not right with us, our misery is too great, our exile too long and too hard, God has forgotten us,” etc. I, of course, am not a Jew, but I seriously do not like to think about such terrible wrath of God over this nation. I shudder so much that it penetrates my body and life. What will be the eternal wrath of God in hell over all false Christians and unbelievers?

Well, the Jews may regard our Lord Jesus Christ as whatever they desire; we see the fulfillment of Luke 21:20-23: “*When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh—for these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled*” [King James Version, Chapter 21:20,22].

In short, as was said: Do not dispute much with the Jews about the articles of our faith. From childhood they have been brought up with poison and hatred against our Lord, that there is no hope until they arrive at the point where through their misery they become soft and compelled to confess that the Messiah has come and is our Lord Jesus Christ. Otherwise it is altogether too soon, yea, altogether in vain to dispute with them...In order to strengthen our faith, we shall consider a few instances of foolishness in their faith and interpretation of the

Scriptures, because they slander our faith in such a mean way. Should it bring about the improvement of a Jew, that he become ashamed, so much the better! We are not talking *with* the Jews, but *of* the Jews and their deeds, which our German people well know.

They hold one principle on which they depend and in which they trust so much. That is, they are born of the highest people on earth, of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, etc. We (Goyim) heathen are not human beings in their sight, but hardly worthy to be regarded as worms. For we are not of that high, noble blood, birth and descent.

This is their argument, and in my opinion the foremost and strongest. Therefore, God must suffer them in their schools, prayers, songs, doctrine and entire life; there they stand before Him and pester Him (that I may speak of God in such human manner). He must hear how they exalt themselves and praise God for separating them from the heathen, and permitting them to be born of the holy fathers and chosen them for His own, holy nation, etc. And there is no end of boasting about blood and bodily birth of the fathers.

#### THEIR SELF-RIGHTEOUS BOASTING

In order that their raving, frantic and foolish nonsense might be perfect, they praise and thank God, *first*, that they are human beings and not animals; *secondly*, that they are Israelites and not Goyim (heathen); *thirdly*, that they were created as *Men* and not as *Women*.<sup>1</sup> Such foolishness they do not have from Israel, but from the Goyim. For thus the historians write that the Greek Plato daily gave such praise and thanks to God, if such blasphemy and haughtiness could be called the praise of God. For that man also praised his gods for these three things, that he was man and not animal, a man and not a woman, a Greek and not a non-Greek of barbarian. Such is

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1 Jews still pray in the same manner today:

“...three blessings in Ashkenazic liturgy are somewhat different from the rest of them: they thank God for not making one a gentile, a slave or a woman.” Schoenberg, Shira. *Jewish Prayers: Early Morning Blessings (Birkhot Hashahar)*. [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/birkhot\\_hashahar.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/birkhot_hashahar.html) (accessed 11/29/14)

the praying of a fool and the praise of a blasphemous barbarian; just as the Mals<sup>2</sup> imagine that they alone are human beings and all the rest of the world nothing but inhuman beings, ducks, or mice.

Well, no one can deprive them of their boasting about blood and the tribe of Israel. In the Old Testament they lost many a battle on that account. (No Jew understands this.) All prophets have chided them because of it, for it is a proud, carnal assumption without spirit and faith; but they have also been murdered and persecuted because of it.

## CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL

Our Lord also calls them “Vipers.” In John 8:39: “*If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*” Verse 44: “*Ye are of your father, the Devil.*”

This was unbearable for them, that they should be the children of the Devil, as they cannot bear it yet. For if they would have to give us this foundation (Abraham's children), everything they have built upon it would have to fall and be different. [In the following this self-praise is refuted from Scripture as unfounded assumptions. These dissertations then close with these words:]<sup>3</sup>

2 In place of “Mals” Bertram has “Italians”. In his other writings, Luther bitterly complains about the transfer of German wealth to Italy under the papacy.

3 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following arguments:

-It is foolish to boast of being a man and not a woman, because God made both men and women, and because we are all born of women.

-Fleshly descent from Abraham is irrelevant if an individual is not faithful to God's covenant. “*And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant*” (Genesis 17:14).

-The following NT passages show how displeasing the boastful prayers of the Jews are to God. “*Where is boasting then? It is excluded*” (Romans 3:27). “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*” (John 3:6). “*Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted*” (Luke 18:10-14).

-Abraham's noble descent would have benefited him nothing if God had not called him out of the idolatrous ways of his fathers. “*Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him...*” (Joshua 24:2-3).

But this will I say for the strengthening of our faith. For the Jews will not let this pride and this glory of their nobility and blood be taken away from them, as said above. They are hardened.

Our people, however, should be on their guard against these hardened, condemned people (who accuse God of lying and proudly despise the whole world), that they be not misled. For the Jews would gladly entice us to accept their faith and do so wherever they can. For if God should be gracious toward the Jews, they first would have to do away out of their schools, out of their hearts, and out of their mouths, all such blasphemous prayers and songs, and the boasting and pride about their blood. For such prayer constantly increases God's wrath upon them. But they will not do this, nor humble themselves, except a few individuals whom God draws especially and redeems them from their terrible destruction.<sup>4</sup>

## EXALT THEMSELVES

The other boast and superiority, on account of which they exalt themselves above all other people and despise them, is this: that from Abraham on down they have *circumcision*. God help, how we heathen here must suffer in their schools, prayers, songs and teaching! How ugly we despised people stink before their noses because we are not circumcised, etc...

[Here follow lengthy theological treatises based on numerous passages from Scripture.]<sup>5</sup>

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-When Abraham speaks to God, it is with great humility, not typical Jewish pride. "*And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes*" (Genesis 18:27).

-Esau and Jacob shared the exact same ancestry, and yet God loved one and not the other.

-Ishmael was a fleshly son of Abraham, but this did not guarantee him a share in Abraham's inheritance.

-As a European, Luther could just as well boast of being a son of Noah through Japheth.

-David shows that despite their lineage, the Jews are still born in sin. "*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*" (Psalm 51:5).

4 When Luther said above that it is impossible to convert the Jews, he clearly meant that they cannot be converted en masse. Individual Jews certainly have experienced genuine conversion.

5 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-If circumcision were sufficient to distinguish the Jews as God's people, then no circumcised man could be damned.

-Abraham was commanded to circumcise not just his sons but his slaves as well (Genesis 17:12), and he circumcised Ishmael before he circumcised Isaac (Genesis 17:23). Therefore, the Ishmaelites have just as much (if not more) reason to boast of circumcision.

-In addition to the Ishmaelites, the Edomites and other nations are also circumcised. Circumcision does not make any of these nations God's people.

-Jewish circumcision involves very painful and unnecessary damage to the genitals, beyond what the Bible

They are pictured in it in a masterful manner before all heathen; for they are the very people who always practiced such ungodly manner of idolatry, and false doctrine, and have had uncircumcised hearts as Moses himself, and all prophets lament over them; but at the same time have endeavored to please God and for that reason killed the prophets. They are the wicked and hardened people who did not suffer themselves to be converted from their evil to good deeds through preaching, teaching, chiding of the prophets, as Scripture testifies everywhere. Yet they want to be God's servants and stand before Him! They are boastful, proud fools who to this day can not do more than to praise themselves because of their nobility and blood; praise themselves alone and despise and condemn the whole world in their schools, prayers, and teachings; yet they imagine themselves to be standing before God as His dearest children!

#### LIARS AND BLOODHOUNDS

They are the real liars and bloodhounds, who have not only perverted and falsified the entire Scriptures from beginning to end and without ceasing with their interpretations. And all of the anxious sighing, longing and hope of their hearts is directed to the time when some day they would like to deal with us heathen as they dealt with the heathen in Persia at the time of Esther. O how they love that book Esther, which so nicely agrees with their bloodthirsty, revengeful and murderous desire and hope! The sun never did shine on a more bloodthirsty and revengeful people as they who imagine to be the people of God who desire to and think they must murder and crush the heathen. And the foremost undertaking which they expect of their Messiah is that He should slay and murder the whole world with their sword. As they at first demonstrated

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commands. This violates Deuteronomy 4:2, "*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*"

-Moses demands that the Jews be circumcised in heart (Deuteronomy 10:16). He also accuses the Jews of not being circumcised in heart. This shows that having physical circumcision does not guarantee righteousness or favor with God.

-Jeremiah also accuses the rebellious Jews of having uncircumcised hearts (Jeremiah 4:4) and uncircumcised ears (Jeremiah 6:10). Jeremiah also says "*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart*" (Jeremiah 9:25-26).

against us Christians and would like to do so now, if they only could; have also tried it often and have been repeatedly struck on their snouts. But of this perhaps later.

[Here Luther uncovers the deepest cause of the ever-recurring persecution of the Jews: their own fault and overbearing pride. Luther now enumerates more references of which the Jews boast, in addition to circumcision; the Mosaic Law and the Jewish self-righteousness based on it, cites the multitude of Bible passages which lament over the falling away, unbelief and unrighteousness of the Jewish nation and speaks of the Devils with whom he compares the Jews.]<sup>6</sup>

#### WORSE THAN THE HEATHEN

How much better it would be for them if they did not have God's Commandment or did not know it. For if they did not have it, they would be uncondemned. They are condemned because

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6 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

- Job was one of the greatest OT saints, despite the fact that he was descended from Nahor and God did not impose circumcision on his heirs.
- Elisha did not require Naaman to be circumcised (2 Kings 5).
- Jonah did not require the people of Nineveh to be circumcised.
- Daniel converted kings of Persia and they remained uncircumcised.
- Joseph instructed the Egyptians and did not require them to be circumcised (Psalm 105:22).
- According to St. Paul (Romans 3), both circumcised and uncircumcised are under the curse of sin. The advantage of circumcision is that the circumcised were given the oracles of God.
- According to Genesis 17:8, "*ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.*" This shows that circumcision was meant to be a sign of the covenant. Now that the Jews no longer keep God's covenant, their circumcision is worthless.
- The Jewish understanding of circumcision is similar to the Papist's understanding of the sacraments. Both Jews and Papists have separated faith from the outer sign.
- The Jews of today are of one spirit with the Jews who persecuted the OT Prophets. The Jews twist the words of the Prophets with their pharisaic glosses.
- At one time the Jews were the bride of God, but they are now an adulterous wife.
- A majority of the Jews imitate the rebellious Korah (Numbers 16).
- Scripture testifies to the persistent stubbornness of the Jews in ancient Israel. "*Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways*" (Psalm 95:10). "*For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death?*" (Deuteronomy 31:27). "*Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass*" (Isaiah 48:4).
- If the Jews of today were pious, God would hear their prayers (Psalm 145:19, 34:17, 50:15).



they have God's Commandment and do not keep it, but act against it without ceasing...

In like manner murderers and whores, thieves and scoundrels and all evil men could boast they are God's holy and chosen people, because they have His Word and know that they should fear and obey Him, love Him and serve Him, honor His Name, do not commit murder, do not commit adultery, etc...Since, however, they are sinning and are condemned, it is certain that they have the most holy and correct Word of God against which they are sinning. Let them boast, like the Jews, that God has sanctified them through His Law, and chosen them before all people as His peculiar nation.

Such is also the glory of the Jews when they boast in their schools, praise and thank God that He has sanctified them through His Law and made them His chosen nation, while they are well aware that they are keeping none of those things, are filled with pride, envy, usury, avarice and all meanness, and most of all those among them who act very pious and holy in their prayers. For they are so blinded that they do not only practice usury (that I should be silent about their other vices), but teach it as a right which God had commanded them through Moses, in which as in other ways also, they lie about God in a miserable manner, about which there is no time to speak now.

#### THEY MOCK THE TEN COMMANDMENTS—MAKE OF GOD A FOOL

If the Ten Commandments are not kept, what is the keeping of other commandments otherwise than jugglery and trickery, yea, a real mockery in which God is treated like a fool? Just as if a mean Devilshead among us would march along in robes of bishop or preacher, and keep all the laws and ways of such persons outwardly, but under that spiritual decoration were a real Devil, wolf, an enemy of the Church and a blasphemer who would tread under foot, curse and condemn both the Gospel and the Ten Commandments: O what a wonderful saint that would be before God.

Or if in this world a beautiful woman were to parade in a wreath (token of virginity) and follow all manners, rights and behavior of maidenly modesty and virginity, but underneath were nothing but a nasty, shameful whore transgressing the Ten Commandments, what would her fine obedience help her if outwardly she observed the rights and ways of virginity? This it would do to her, that people would despise her seven times more than a free, public whore! Thus God always chided Israel a mean whore through His prophets, because they practiced all manner of idolatry and wickedness under the show of outward commandments and sanctity. As Hosea especially laments Chapter 2:4,5: *“I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms. For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceiveth them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.”* It is nice indeed to find a maiden or woman who is pious, cleanly and decently dressed and outwardly behaving in a modest manner. But when she is a whore; the dress, decorations, wreath and trinkets would appear more honest on a sow in the mire. As Solomon says: *“A golden braid on the nose of a sow is as a beautiful, silly woman.”*<sup>7</sup>

Therefore, they might as well keep from boasting about outward obedience to the Laws of Moses without true obedience to God's Ten Commandments. Yea, it makes them sevenfold more unworthy to be the people of God than the heathen.

Let them alone! And let us remain with those who pray the miserere, the 51st Psalm, that is, who know and understand what the Law is and what is keeping or not keeping the Law.

From this, dear Christian, note what you are doing when you permit these blinded Jews to mislead you. In such an instance the proverb certainly is fulfilled: *“Where the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch.”*<sup>8</sup> More you cannot learn from them. To lack understanding of God's commandments and yet be proud and overbearing towards the heathen who are much better than they are before God, because they do not have such pride of holiness, and yet do much more of the Law than the proud saints and condemned blasphemers and liars.

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7 Proverbs 11:22.

8 Luke 6:39.

## THEIR SCHOOLS A DEVIL'S NEST

Therefore be on your guard against the Jews and know that where they have their schools there is nothing but the Devil's nest in which self-praise, vanity, lies, blasphemy, disgracing God and man, are practiced in the bitterest and most poisonous way as the Devils do themselves. Wherever you see or hear a Jew teaching, do not think otherwise than that you are hearing a poisonous basilisk who with his face poisons and kills people.<sup>9</sup> Through God's wrath they have been delivered to believe that all of their boasting, vanity, lying to God, cursing all men, are right and a great service to God, something well becoming to such noble blood of the fathers and circumcised saints (no matter how mean they otherwise might know themselves to be in gross vices) which service they think they have rendered hereby. Look out for them!

They brag and boast that they have had the land of Canaan, the city of Jerusalem and the temple from God. Although God has overthrown such boasting and vanity many times, especially through the king of Babylon who led them away and destroyed everything, like the King of Assyria had before led away and destroyed the entire Israel. Finally they were rooted up and devastated by the Romans, now almost 1400 years ago, that they might comprehend how God did not consider, nor will He regard country, city, temple, priesthood and principality, that He should consider them His own chosen people on that account; yet their iron neck (as Isaiah calls it<sup>10</sup>) is not bowed, nor has their iron forehead become red with shame. They constantly remain stiff-necked, blinded, hardened, and immovable. Still hope that God will bring them home again and give everything back to them.

## DEVIL POSSESSED

They do not see and hear that God had given everything for the purpose that they should keep

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9 The basilisk is a mythical creature with the power to kill with a look.

10 Isaiah 48:4.

His Commandments; therefore they should be His people and Church. Just as they boast of their blood and nobility, but that they should keep His Commandments, on account of which and for which purpose he had chosen them, that they do not see and regard. They boast about their circumcision, but the purpose for which they were circumcised—to keep God's Commandment—does not mean anything to them. They know how to boast of their Law, Temple, Divine Services, city, country and principality; but disregard the purpose for which they had it. The Devil has possessed these people with all his angels; that they always boast of outward things, their gifts, their accomplishments and deeds, which is to offer up the empty shells without kernels. Those He is to look upon and on their account take them (the people who offer them) for His nation, exalt and bless them above all heathen. But that they should keep His Commandments and keep Him as their God, that they will not accept. The saying of Moses applies to them: *“They do not regard Me as God, therefore I do not regard them as my people,”* as also says Hosea 1:9.

If God had not permitted the people of Jerusalem to be torn asunder and driven them from the land, but had let them keep it after as before, no one could convince them that they are not God's chosen nation. Because they would still have the temple, city and country, regardless of their wickedness, disobedience and stiff-neckedness. Although many prophets would daily cry out and a thousand Moses be standing here and exclaiming: “You are not the people of God, because you are disobedient and rebellious.” Even now they cannot give up their insane raving boast that they are the chosen people of God, after they have been dispersed and rejected for 1500 years! Still they hope to get back there because of their own merits. There is no promise for that on which they could lean for comfort, except what they smear into the Scriptures according to their own imagination...Thus the Jews at last continue in their willfulness, and knowingly want to err and not leave their Rabbis, and therefore we also must leave them to their poisonous blasphemies and lies, and disregard them.

## DISHONEST WITH SCRIPTURE

I have also had this experience...Three learned Jews came to me in the hope of finding a new Jew in me, because here in Wittenberg we began to read Hebrew. They also pretended that things would soon improve because we Christians were reading their books.<sup>11</sup> When I disputed with them, they acted according to their kind; gave me their interpretations. When I compelled them to remain with the text, they fell from the text and said they had to believe their Rabbis, as we had to believe the Bishops and Doctors, etc...Then I had mercy on them, gave them a recommendation for safe-conduct to the guides, that they should permit them to pass for the sake of Christ. Later I was informed that they called Christ a “Tola,” i. e., a hanged malefactor.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I do not care to have anything to do with any Jew. St. Paul says they are given over to wrath. The more you try to help them the harder and more wicked they become. Let them alone! [Here follow many proofs from the Bible which are accompanied by detailed theological, scientific, and therefore in general not understood, citations, which cannot be restated here because of their volume, although they are powerful and correspond with Luther's German essence and often strike the nail on the head in a preciously forward manner. From the wealth of striking Scripture passages, only the following are here cited: Haggai 2:6,7: “*Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: yet, once, it is a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land. And I will shake all nations! and the desire of all nations shall come.*”<sup>13</sup> — (“All nations” is equal to “heathen”). Under the “Desire of Nations” the ancient people designated the “Messiah.”]<sup>14</sup>

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11 The Jews of today persist in the ridiculous lie that the OT belongs to them, and not to us Christians. As Jesus says to the Jews, “had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (John 5:46-47)

12 According to the Talmud: “On (Sabbath eve and) the eve of Passover Jesus the Nazarene was hanged. And a herald went forth before him 40 days (heralding): Jesus the Nazarene is going forth to be stoned because he practiced sorcery and instigated and seduced Israel (to idolatry).” Schäfer, Peter. *Jesus in the Talmud*. Princeton University Press, 2007. Page 64.

13 Haggai 2:7 continues “*and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.*” The house referred to is the second temple. Thus, according to Haggai, the desire of the nations (the Messiah) will come in a little while, and the second temple will be filled with glory. Because the second temple has already been destroyed, it is impossible that the Messiah has not yet come.

14 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:  
-God established an everlasting covenant with David. “*Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations*” (Psalm 89:4). “*Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever*” (2 Samuel 7:16). Christians can point to the preservation of the

The Jews deny that He came when the temple was still standing and claim that He shall still come, as they now have been waiting 1468 years after the destruction of that same temple—and cannot be called a “little while,” because they do not yet know the end of such a “long while.”

#### GOLD AND SILVER THEIR MESSIAH

He will never come, for He has missed the “little while” and has gotten into the great, long while, which will never come to anything. For the prophet speaks of a “little while,” not of a great, long while!

But here they squirm out of it in this way: Since they cannot deny the “little while,” they take the expression: “Desire of Nations,” in Hebrew “chemdath,” by itself, and crucify it. Say it should not designate “Messiah,” but should denote all gold and silver of the heathen. Because the word “chemdath,” according to the grammar, really means “*Desire and love for,*” as that which the heathen desire and love. And now the text shall read thus: “*After a little while the desire of all heathen shall come.*” What is that? What do the heathen desire? Gold, silver, and jewels. You may be inclined to ask why the Jews insert such interpretations here. I will say: Their breath stinks for the gold and silver of the heathen, since no people under the sun always have been, still are, and always will remain more avaricious than they (the Jews) as can be noticed in their cursed usury. They also find comfort with this: “When Messiah comes, *He* shall take all the gold and silver in the world and distribute it among them (the Jews).” Thus wherever they can direct Scripture to their insatiable avarice they wickedly do so. You would think that

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house of David down to the time of Herod, at which point Christ becomes the eternally reigning heir of David. The Jews can point to no heir of David that reigns to this day.

-The end of the earthly reign of Judah coincides with the coming of the Messiah, as foretold in Genesis 49:10.

-According to Jeremiah, both the Davidic throne and the Levitical sacrifices are promised to be perpetual.

“*For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually*” (Jeremiah 33:17-18).

God and His prophets did not know of anything else to prophecy than how the fathomless avarice of the Jews could be satisfied with the silver and gold of the heathen.

Since childhood they have devoured such poisonous hatred against the Goyim from their parents and Rabbis, and still devour such without ceasing, that according to Psalm 109 it has gone over into their flesh and blood, bone and marrow, and has become their life and being. And as little as they can alter flesh and blood, bone and marrow, so little can they change such pride and envy. They just have to stay that way and be ruined, if God does not perform a special miracle.

#### A BITTER, POISONOUS ENEMY

Therefore know, my dear Christian, that next to the Devil you have no more bitter, more poisonous, more vehement an enemy than a real Jew who earnestly desires to be a Jew. There may be some among them who believe what the cow or the goose believes. But all of them are surrounded with their blood and circumcision. In history, therefore, they are often accused of poisoning wells, stealing children and mutilating them; as in Trent, Weiszensee, etc.<sup>15</sup> Of course, they deny this. Be it so or not, however, I know full well that the full, ready will is not lacking with them if they could only transform it into deeds, in secret or openly.<sup>16</sup> Know this for a certainty and act accordingly!

Should they at times do something good, however, know full well that it is not done out of love for you, nor for your good. In order to have space to live among us they must of necessity do something. But their heart is and remains as I have said. Do you not want to believe me? Then read Lyra, Burgensis<sup>17</sup> and others, honorable and truthful men. If they had not written

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15 Simon of Trent and Conrad of Weiszensee were two of several Christians widely thought to have been murdered by the Jews as part of their religious rituals. Jews reject these charges as “blood libel”, although there are over 100 reported instances throughout European history.

16 This murderous desire of the Jews was tragically put into action in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the rise of Jewish Marxism.

17 Nicholas of Lyra (1270-1349) and Paul of Burgos (1351-1435) were both Jewish converts to Christianity who wrote anti-Jewish texts.



it, Scripture reveals that the two seeds of the serpent and of the woman are at enmity, and there is no concord between God and the Devil. This is also found in gross form in their writings and prayerbooks.

A person who does not know the Devil, might wonder why they are so at enmity with the Christians above all others; for which they have no reason, since we only do good to them. They live among us in our homes, under our protection, use land and highways, market and streets. Princes and government sit by, snore and have their mouths open, let the Jews take from their purse and chest, steal and rob whatever they will. That is, they permit themselves and their subjects to be abused and sucked dry and reduced to beggars with their own money, through the usury of the Jews. For the Jews, as foreigners, certainly should have nothing; and what they have certainly must be ours. They do not work, do not earn anything from us, neither do we donate or give it to them. Yet they have our money and goods and are lords in our land where they are in exile.

If a thief steals ten gulden he must hang; if he robs people on the highway, his head is gone. But a Jew, when he steals ten tons of gold through his usury, is dearer than God Himself.

#### IN SECRET THEY CURSE US

And as a distinguishing mark, they strengthen their faith and bitter hatred against us by saying among themselves: "Keep on, see how God is with us and does not forsake His people in exile. We do not work, we enjoy good, lazy days; the cursed Goyim must work for us, we get their money; thereby we are their masters, they, however, our servants. Keep on, dear Children of Israel, it will be better still! Our Messiah will come if we thus continue and appropriate to ourselves, by usury, the 'chemdath' of the heathen!"

Well, all this we accept from them while we are protecting them: yet they curse us, as said before. But of this later.

[After lengthy exegetical, historical dissertations there follows a highly interesting paragraph from which it may be seen that Luther was acquainted with the Talmud and Schulchan-Aruch already at his time, which explains his changed attitude over against the Jew question.]<sup>18</sup>

Do not their Talmud and Rabbis write that it is no sin to kill if a Jew kills a heathen, but it is sin if he kills a brother in Israel!<sup>19</sup> It is no sin if he does not keep his oath to a heathen. Therefore, to steal and rob (as they do with their usury) from a heathen, is a divine service. For they hold that they cannot be too hard on us nor sin against us, because they are the noble blood and circumcised saints; we however, cursed Goyim. And they are the masters of the world and we are their servants, yea, their cattle!<sup>20</sup> In short, as the Rabbis have taught them, so also their

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18 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-According to the Prophets, God will reject the faithless Jews in favor of another people. Of the gentiles God says, *“I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God”* (Hosea 2:23), while to the faithless Jews God says, *“Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God”* (Hosea 1:9).

-Likewise in Deuteronomy it is written, *“They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation”* (Deuteronomy 32:21).

-The spread of the Gospel around the world has shaken every nation, fulfilling Haggai 2:7, as well as Psalm 19:3-4, *“There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”*

-Antiochus despoiled the Temple. Thus, the wealth of the gentiles did not flow into the house of the Jews, but quite the opposite. The wealth of the Jews was distributed to the gentiles.

-From Antiochus onward, the Temple was repeatedly desecrated. This desecration included not only the pagan worship commanded by gentile conquerors, but the idolatry and faithlessness of the Jews (for example, bringing money changers into the Temple). Thus the “glory” of Haggai 2:7 must refer to Christ, who was presented in the Temple, not to any external practices or wealth.

19 Even today there are rabbis who openly teach this:

*“The prohibition ‘Thou Shalt Not Murder’” applies only “to a Jew who kills a Jew,” write Rabbis Yitzhak Shapira and Yosef Elitzur of the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar. Non-Jews are “uncompassionate by nature” and attacks on them “curb their evil inclination,” while babies and children of Israel’s enemies may be killed since “it is clear that they will grow to harm us.”*

Source: Estrin, Daniel. *Rabbinic Text or Call to Terror*. The Jewish Daily Forward. June 20, 2010. <http://forward.com/articles/123925/rabbinic-text-or-call-to-terror/> (accessed 1/23/2014)

20 For those who doubt that the Jews really believe such things, the following is a direct quote from the Talmud: *“Our Rabbis have taught: He who pours the oil of anointing over cattle or vessels is not guilty; if over heathens or the dead, he is not guilty. The law relating to cattle and vessels is right, for it is written: Upon the flesh of man [adam] shall it not be poured; and cattle and vessels are not man. Also with regard to the dead, [it is plausible] that he is exempt, since after death one is called corpse and not man. But why is one exempt in the case of heathens; are they not in the category of adam? — No, it is written: And ye my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are adam[man]: Ye are called adam but heathens are not called ‘adam.’”*

Evangelists tell us (Matthew 15:6, “*And honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the Commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*”) that they have abolished the Fifth Commandment about honoring father and mother; and Matthew 23:13 (“*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye “neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”*”) practiced more shameful doctrines, not to mention what Christ says, Matthew 5 :28: “*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*” How they cunningly preached and expounded the Ten Commandments! And into the temple they had placed money changers, merchants and all manner of avaricious trade, that our Lord Christ said they had made of God's house a den of thieves. Now figure it out for yourself what a fine honor that was, how the house was full of glory that God had to call his own house a den of thieves! Because so many souls were murdered through avaricious, false doctrine; that is, through two-fold idolatry. To this day the Jews cling to such doctrines and do as their fathers did; pervert the Word of God, are avaricious, practice usury, steal, commit murder (wherever they can do so) and on and on teach their children to do such.

#### TALMUD WORSE THAN HEATHEN PHILOSOPHY

The heathen philosophers and poets write much more honorably; not only about God's government and future life, but also about temporal virtues. They write that man is by nature obligated to serve others, also to keep his word to enemies, and be true and helpful to them especially in need, as taught by Cicero and his like. Yea, I maintain that in three fables of Aesop there is more wisdom to be found than in all the books of the Talmudists and Rabbis and more than ever could come into the hearts of the Jews.

Should someone think I am saying too much—I am not saying too much, but much too

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K'rithoth 6b

The Soncino Bablyonian Talmud. <http://www.halakhah.com/rst/kodoshim/47%20-%20Krisos.pdf> (accessed 1/24/15)

little! For I see in writings how they curse us Goyim and wish us all evil in their schools and prayers. They rob us of our money through usury, and wherever they are able, they play us all manner of mean tricks; (what is worst of all) they mean to have right and well in this, that is, they think they have rendered God a service in this and teach that such should be done. No heathen has done such things and none would do so except the Devil himself and those whom he possesses, like he possesses the Jews.

Burgensis, who was a very learned Rabbi among them and by the grace of God became a Christian (which seldom occurs), is much moved that in their schools they so horribly curse us Christians (as Lyra also writes) and from that draws the conclusion that they must not be the people of God. For if they were the people of God, they would act like the captive Jews did in Babylon, to whom Jeremiah (29:7) writes thus: *“Pray for the King of the city where you are captive; for their peace is also your peace.”* But our bastards and false Jews think they must curse us, hate and do us all manner of harm wherever they can do so; for which they have no reason whatsoever. Therefore they certainly are not God's people. More about this later.

## THEY PROFANE THE NAME OF JESUS

[Very interesting are the dissertations about the sophisticated manner of the Jews in hiding their hatred against Jesus under sham names. Here it says:]<sup>21</sup>

21 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-According to Daniel 9:24, *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”* The seventy weeks are interpreted by all as weeks of years, not weeks of days, bringing the total time prophesied to 490 years ( 7 x 70 = 490). The Jews interpreted it this way as well, which is why they looked so fervently for a Messiah around the time of Jesus. After rejecting Jesus, the Jews settled on Bar Kokhba as their Messiah. Bar Kokhba was defeated, and the Temple was destroyed. Thus the Jews have lost their chance to proclaim their Messiah.

-The Jews interpret Daniel 9:24 to mean that after seventy weeks of years the Jews will be sent into exile by the Romans, which will then cause them to repent from their sins. This interpretation is obviously incorrect, because the Jews of the exile have not brought in *“everlasting righteousness”*, nor have they been able *“to anoint the most Holy”*.

-The Jews claim that the Messiah of Daniel 9:25 should be identified as Cyrus, which does not match the Biblical time line. They also claimed that the Messiah of Daniel 9:26 should be identified as Agrippa.

-The Jews claim that Jesus performed his miracles by infernal sorcery.

Accordingly they treat His (Jesus') Name. For Jhesus in Hebrew means “Healer” or “Helper.” The ancient Saxons used a name: “Helprich” or “Hilprich,” which sounds like the name Jhesus which we now would call “Helprich,” that is, who may or should be able to help. Distortingly, however, the Jews call Him “Jesu,” which in Hebrew is neither name nor word, but simply three letters or ciphers, or cipherletters, as if I were to take the letters CLU as ciphers and make the word CLU out of them, that is 155.<sup>22</sup> Thus they call Jesu, that is 316. Such a figure is said to bring about another word which means Nebel Borik. About this you may read more in Anton Margaritha.<sup>23</sup> What Devil's work they practice with such numbers and words.

They treat us Christians in like manner. When we come to them and they receive us they pervert the word: God welcome you (German—seid Gott willkommen) and say: “Shed wil kom,” that is: “Devil, come!” or: “There comes a Devil.” Since we do not understand the Hebrew, they secretly practice their hatred against us, that we think they are friendly to us while they curse us with the fire of hell and all misfortune.

#### THEY CALL THE VIRGIN MARY A WHORE

Thus they call Him (Jesus) the child of a whore and His mother, Mary, a whore, whom she had in adultery with a smith. Reluctantly I must speak so coarse in opposing the Devil. Now they well know that they speak such lies in plain hatred and willfulness, solely to poison their poor youth and simple Jews against the Person of our Lord, to prevent them from accepting His doctrine (which they cannot deny). Sebastian Münster, also points out in his Bible,<sup>24</sup> that there is said to be a poisonous Rabbi who does not call the dear mother “Maria,” but “Haria,” a heap of

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-The Jews make absurd claims about their own magical abilities.

22 CLU, Roman ciphers: C—100, L—50, V—5—155. V and U originally are the same.

23 Anton Margaritha was another Jewish convert to Christianity who published in 1530 the anti-Jewish book *Der gantz Jüdisch Glaub* (*The Whole Jewish Belief*).

24 Sebastian Münster (1488-1552) was a Christian scholar who produced an edition of the Hebrew Bible together with a Latin translation.

mud.<sup>25</sup> And who knows what more they have among themselves of which we know nothing!

[Luther now shows in elaborate, scientific discussions about the Messiah and Bar Kokhba, his thorough knowledge of the Jewish character, the writings and hopes of Judah and finally arrives at the so-called “captivity” among the Christians.]<sup>26</sup>

Now behold what a nice, thick, fat lie it is when they complain about being captives among us. Jerusalem was destroyed more than 1400 years ago and during that time we Christians have been tortured and persecuted by the Jews in all the world. For nearly 300 years (as stated above) we might well complain that during that time they captured and killed the Christians, which is the clear truth.<sup>27</sup> On top of that, we do not know to this day which Devil brought them into our country. We did not fetch them from Jerusalem!

On top of all that, no one is holding them now. Land and highways are open to them; they may move to their country whenever they care to do so! We would like to add a present in order to get rid of them. They are a heavy burden to us in our country, like a plague, pestilence, and nothing but misfortune.<sup>28</sup>

Do you call that being held captive when a person cannot stand one in his own house?

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25 Bertram translation: “a dung heap” (page 261).

26 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-The spiritual blindness of the Jews fulfills numerous threatenings of the Bible: “*The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart*” (Deuteronomy 28:28), “*lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings*” (Jeremiah 4:4), “*Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable*” (Luke 3:17).

-The Jews still insist that they were right in putting Jesus to death and they deny that Jerusalem was destroyed on account of this act.

-The Jews call Christians “Edom” as an insult. But if the Jews followed Moses, they would know that Edom should be considered as a brother (Deuteronomy 21:7).

-The Jews violate the commandment “thou shalt not kill” by their murderous plots against both Christ and all of his followers.

27 The Jews persecuted the early Christians living in Palestine and attempted to turn the Romans against the followers of Jesus. See *Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume I. The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Classics Ethereal Library. Page 544. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.pdf> (accessed 11/16/14)

28 Even in modern times, the Jews complain of the deep-seated “anti-Semitism” of historically Christian nations, and yet they still choose to live amongst us and enjoy our prosperity.

Why, they hold us Christians in captivity in our own country; they let us work in the sweat of our noses, while they appropriate money and goods, sitting behind the stove, are lazy, gluttons and guzzlers, live well and easy on goods for which we have worked, keep us and our goods in captivity through their cursed usury, mock us and spit on us, because we must labor and permit them to be noblemen at our expense; thus they are our lords and masters, we their servants with our own property, sweat and labor! And to thank us and reward us, they curse our Lord!

### ENSLAVE US WITH OUR OWN WEALTH

Should the Devil not laugh and dance, when in this manner he can have his paradise among us Christians, that through the Jews, his saints, he devours what is ours and to thank us fills our mouths and noses, blasphemes and curses God and man!

They could not have enjoyed such good days in Jerusalem under David and Solomon in their own possessions as they now have in our property, which they daily steal and rob. Still they complain that we are holding them captive! Yes, we have and hold them captive, as I would like to keep my rheumatism, boils and all other diseases and misfortune, who must wait as a poor servant, with money and property and everything I have! I wish they were in Jerusalem with the Jews and whomsoever they would like to have with them!

Since it is certain that we do not hold them captive, how do we deserve that such great and noble saints are so angry with us? We do not call their wives whores as they call Maria, the Mother of Jesus; we do not call them bastards, as they call our Lord Christ. We do not curse them, but wish them all manner of bodily and spiritual good, permit them to lodge with us. We don't steal and mutilate their children; do not poison their water; do not thirst after their blood. With what do we deserve such terrible wrath and envy and hatred of such holy children of God?

It is not otherwise than we have quoted from Moses, that God has struck them with insane blindness and a raving heart, thus it is our fault that we do not avenge the innocent blood



which they shed on our Lord, and the Christians, for three hundred years after the destruction of Jerusalem, and from that time on children (which still shines from their eyes and skin). That we do not slay them, but for all their murder, cursing, blaspheming, and disgracing, permit them to dwell among us without charge, protect their schools, houses, body and goods, by which we make them lazy and secure and help them confidently to squeeze from us our money and goods, and in addition to mock us and spit on us, hoping finally to overcome us and slay all of us for such great sin and take away all of our goods, as they daily pray for.

Now tell me, do they not have great cause to hate us cursed Goyim, to curse us and seek our final, thorough and eternal ruin?

Now what are we going to do with these rejected, condemned, Jewish people?

We should not suffer it after they are among us and we know about such lying, blaspheming and cursing among them, lest we become partakers of their lies, cursing, and blaspheming. We cannot extinguish the unquenchable fire of God's wrath (as the prophets say), nor convert the Jews. We must practice great mercy with prayer and godliness that we might rescue a few from the flame and violent heat.

We are not permitted to take revenge. Revenge is around their neck a thousand times greater than we could wish them. I will give you my true counsel:

**First**, that we avoid their synagogues and schools and warn people against them.<sup>29</sup> And such should be done to the glory of God and Christendom, that God may see that we are Christians and have not knowingly tolerated such lying, cursing and blaspheming of His Son and His Christians. For what we so far have tolerated in ignorance (I myself did not know it), God will forgive us. Now that we know it, however, and in spite should before our very noses tolerate such a building for the Jew in which they blaspheme, curse, spit upon and disgrace Christ and

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<sup>29</sup> Bertram translation: "First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them" (page 268).

us, that would be simply too much, as if we did it ourselves and much worse, as you well know. Moses writes in Deuteronomy (13:12-18) that where a city practiced idolatry, it should be entirely destroyed with fire and leave nothing. If he were living today he would be the first to put fire to the Jew schools and houses. [Followed by proofs from Scripture.]<sup>30</sup>

**Secondly**, that you also refuse to let them own houses among us.<sup>31</sup> For they practice the same thing in their houses as they do in their schools. Instead, you might place them under a roof, or stable, like the Gypsies, to let them know that they are not lords in our country as they boast, but in exile as captives; like without ceasing they howl bloody murder and complain about us before God.

**Thirdly**, that you take away from them all of their prayer books and Talmuds wherein such lying, cursing, and blaspheming is taught.

**Fourthly**, that you prohibit their Rabbis to teach.<sup>32</sup> For they have forfeited the right to such an office, because they keep the poor Jews captive with the passage of Moses 7:11,12, who there commands them to obey their teachers under threat of losing body and soul. Moses clearly adds, *“What they teach you according to the law of the Lord.”* This the profligates pass over, and use the obedience of the poor people for their own willfulness against the law of the Lord, and pour out for them such poison and blasphemy.

**Fifthly**, that protection for Jews on highways be revoked. For they have no right to be in the land, because they are not lords, nor officials. They should stay at home. I am told that at this time a wealthy Jew is riding with twelve horses in our country. He wants to become a Kokhba.

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30 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following arguments:

-God commanded that no one add to or subtract from his law (Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32). The rabbis break this commandment with their Talmud and human traditions. These rabbinic traditions have made the word of God unknown amongst the Jews, just as the Papists did amongst us Christians.

-According to 1 Samuel 15:23, *“rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”* The rebellion and stubbornness of the Jews constitutes idolatry.

-In the lands that have been given to us Christians, we should not permit idolatrous worship.

31 Bertram translation: “I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed”(page 269).

32 Bertram translation: “I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life or limb”(page 269).

He practices his usury on princes and lords, land and people. High officials close an eye to it. If you princes and masters do not forbid land and highways to such usurers, I would like to assemble a cavalry against you, because you will learn from this book what the Jews are and how they are to be treated and their activities not to be protected. For you should not and cannot protect them unless you want to be partners of their abominations. What good would be the result, you may well consider and perish.

**Sixthly**, that their usury be prohibited, which was prohibited by Moses, where they are not lords in their own country over strange lands, and take away all the currency and silver and gold and put it away for safe-keeping. For this reason, everything they have they have stolen from us (as said above) and robbed through their usury, since they have no other income. Such money should be used as follows: whenever a Jew is truly converted, he be given one, two, or three hundred florins according to his person, that he may begin to support his poor wife and child and/or support the aged and infirm. For such property which was obtained dishonestly is cursed where it is not turned to good use with God's blessing.

#### THEY EVEN BETRAYED MOSES

Whenever they boast that Moses had permitted them to practice usury<sup>33</sup> against strangers—otherwise they have not one letter in their favor—they are to be given the following answer: There are two kinds of Jews or Israel. The first are those whom Moses led out of Egypt into the land of Canaan, as God had commanded him; to them he gave His law, which they were to keep in that land, not beyond; and that only until Messiah should come . . . The other are Caesar's Jews, not Moses' Jews. They had their origin at the time of the governor Pilate in the land of Judah. For when he asked them before his tribunal: “What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?” They cried: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” He said: “Shall I crucify your king?”

<sup>33</sup> Deuteronomy 23:20, “*Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it.*”

They cried out: “We have no king but Caesar.” Such obedience to Caesar, God had not commanded them, they did this on their own accord. Thereupon when Caesar demanded obedience, they resisted and rebelled against him, did not want to be Caesar's now. Then he came and visited his subjects, took them away from Jerusalem and dispersed them throughout his entire domain where they had to be obedient.

Of such are the present remaining dregs of the Jews, of whom Moses knows nothing; they also know nothing of him, for they do not keep one passage in Moses. They must first come back into the land of Canaan and become Moses' Jews, keep his commandment, subdue heathen and strangers under themselves. There they may practice usury as much as the strangers will stand for.

Since, however, they are disobedient to Moses in a strange land under Caesar, they should keep Caesar's law and not practice usury against their superiors until they become obedient to Moses. For the land which they should possess is on the other side of Canaan, or the nation of Israel. For he was not sent to the Egyptians, Babylonians, or any other nation, with his law, but solely and alone to that nation which he brought out of the land of Egypt into the land of Canaan, as he himself often states in Deuteronomy: They should keep such commandments in the land which they should possess on the other side of the river Jordan.

Since the priesthood, ceremonies, and principality, which were mostly built by Moses, have fallen, now almost 1400 years ago, it is certain that his law, which was in existence before that time, also has fallen and come to an end. Therefore Caesar's Jews should be treated according to the Caesar's law and not be treated like Moses' Jews of whom for 1400 years none have existed. For they have no land of their own, much less strange land, where they might practice usury according to Moses.

**Finally:** That young, strong Jews be given flail, ax, spade, spindle, and let them earn their bread in the sweat of their noses as imposed upon Adam's children, Genesis 3 :19—“ *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for*

*dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*” For it will not do that they should let us cursed Goyim work in the sweat of our brow, while they, the holy people, devour our bread in laziness behind the stove and then boast that they are masters over the Christians; but their laziness should be driven from their back.

Should we be concerned, however, that they might do bodily harm to us, to wife and children, servants, cattle, etc., when they serve us or should be compelled to work, because it is to be surmised that such noble lords of the world and poisonous, bitter worms, who are not accustomed to work, would be very remiss to humble themselves under the cursed Goyim; let us apply the ordinary wisdom of other nations like France, Spain, Bohemia, et al., who made them give an account of what they had taken from them by usury and divided it evenly; but expelled them from their country. For, as heard before, God's wrath is so great over them that through soft mercy they only become more wicked, through hard treatment, however, only a little better. Therefore, away with them!

## CHARITABLE WITH OUR WEALTH

I hear it said that the Jews give large sums of money and thereby are helpful to the government. Yes, from what do they give it? Not of their own, but from the property of the rulers and subjects, whom they deprive of their possessions through usury! And thus the rulers take from the subjects what the Jews have taken,<sup>34</sup> that is: subjects must give money and suffer themselves to be fleeced for the Jews so they can remain in the land freely to lie, slander, curse and steal.

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<sup>34</sup> Contemporary politicians are just as dependent on Jewish financial support. According to The Times of Israel, in the 2012 presidential election:

“The biggest donor to Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign, and the two biggest donors to Barack Obama’s reelection bid, are all Jewish...By far the largest declared donor overall is casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, who is worth an estimated \$25 billion. He has donated \$34.2 million so far to aid Romney and organizations supporting the Republican challenger this election, the AP figures show. President Obama’s top two donors are Jeffrey Katzenberg and Irwin Jacobs.” Ben Zion, Ilan. *Jewish donors prominent in presidential campaign contributions*. The Times of Israel. October 20, 2012.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-donors-prominent-in-presidential-campaign-contributions/> (accessed 1/24/15)

Should not the despairing Jews have a good laugh over the way we suffer ourselves to be fooled and be led around by the nose to give our money in order that they may stay in the land to practice all manner of wickedness? On top of all that they even become rich on our sweat and blood, but we become poor and are sucked dry by them? If that is right, that a servant, yea, a guest, or a captive may annually give to his host ten florins, and in return steal a thousand, the servant and guest will soon be rich, and the master and host in a short time a beggar. Even if the Jews could give the government such sums from their own, which is not possible, and thereby purchase from us protection openly to lie about, slander, spit upon, and curse our Lord Christ in their schools; and wish on us all manner of misfortune, that all of us be stabbed and perish with our Haman, Caesar, Princes, Lords, wife and children, that certainly would mean for Christ our Lord, the entire Christendom together with our principality, our wives, and children, to be sold miserably cheap.

The traitor Judas would be valued a much greater saint than we. Yea, if every Jew could annually give 100,000 florins; yet we should not permit them to have power to blaspheme, curse, spit upon one single Christian and practice their usury on him. That would be selling ourselves much too cheap. How much more unbearable is it that we should permit the entire Christendom and all of us to be bought with our own money, be slandered and cursed by the Jews who on top of all that be made rich, and our lords, who would laugh us to scorn and be tickled by their audacity!

What a joyful affair that would be for the Devil and his angels and cause them to laugh through their noses like a sow grinning at her little pigs, but deserving real wrath before God.

## ADVICE TO RULERS

To sum up, dear princes and lords<sup>35</sup> who have Jews under themselves: if my advice is not acceptable, you may find a better one, that all of us be relieved of the unbearable, devilish burden of the Jews and not become partakers before God of all the lies, slander, spitting, cursing of the raving Jews against the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, His mother, all Christians, all rulers and ourselves, as they freely and deliberately practice it. That you do not let them have protection or safe-conduct, nor fellowship. Neither permit your money and goods, and the money and goods of your subjects, to serve the Jews through their usury. We still have plenty of our own sins and daily add much to them through our ingratitude and despising God's grace and work; that it is not necessary to add to them these mean foreign vices of the Jews and also give them our money and goods. Let us remember that we are daily fighting against the Turk and therefore are much in need of getting rid of our own sins and of spiritual growth and improvement. With this I want to have my conscience cleared and excused as one who has truly exposed the danger and warned against it.

And you, my dear sirs and friends, who are pastors and preachers: I hereby wish to have dutifully reminded of your office, that you also warn your parishioners against their eternal ruin, as you well know how to do; namely, that they be on their guard against the Jews and avoid them. Not that they should curse them and inflict personal harm! For they have cursed and insulted themselves too much by cursing the Man Jesus of Nazareth, Mary's son, as unfortunately they have been doing for 1400 years. In this respect you may let the government deal with them as I have said. Whether or not the government does any thing about it, every individual should take care of himself and his conscience, by keeping before himself such a definition or picture of a Jew!

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35 It was typical of Luther to advise rulers in this way. Luther encouraged political leaders to take an active role in combating the corruptions of Rome, in accordance with the command of Paul (Romans 13) that all Christians, including Popes, be subject to the civil authority in earthly matters. Here Luther encourages political leaders to combat the similarly corrupt and oppressive practices of Jewry. See Luther's work *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* (available here: [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/luther/first\\_prin.v.i.html](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/luther/first_prin.v.i.html)).

## DESIRE THE DEATH OF THE CHRISTIANS

Whenever you see or think about a Jew, say to yourself as follows: Behold, the mouth which I see there has every Saturday cursed, execrated, and spit upon my dear Lord, Jesus Christ who has redeemed me with His precious blood; and also prayed and cursed before God that I, my wife and children, and all Christians should be stabbed and perish in the most miserable manner—would like to do so himself if he could that he might come into possession of our goods.

Perhaps he has this very day often spit on the ground over the Name of Jhesu (according to their custom) and that the spittle is still clinging to his mouth and beard where there is still room for it.<sup>36</sup> Should I eat, drink with, or speak to such a Devilish mouth? I might devour many Devils, as for a certainty I would become partaker of all the Devils who live in that Jew, and would spit upon the precious blood of Christ, God keep me from doing that!

If they do not believe as we do, we cannot help it and cannot compel anyone to accept the faith. We, however, should avoid strengthening them in their deliberate lying, blaspheming, cursing and disgracing, also do not become partakers of their devilish raving and ranting by according them protection, meat and drink, lodging and other neighborly kindness. Especially because they proudly and haughtily boast, wherever we are friendly to them or serve them, that God has made them to be lords and us to be servants. As when a Christian on the Sabbath lights their fire and cooks for them whatever they desire<sup>37</sup>, for which they curse, bespit and slander us as if they were doing something good, and yet eat up our goods which they have stolen from us. Such a despairing, evil, poisonous thing it is with these Jews who these 1400 years have been

36 It is common today for Orthodox Jews to spit on Christian clergy who live or travel in the Holy Land. See Hasson, Nir. *Senior Catholic cleric: 'If Jews want respect, they must respect others'*. Haaretz. September 7, 2012.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/senior-catholic-cleric-if-jews-want-respect-they-must-respect-others-1.463320> (accessed 12/06/14)

37 A reference to a “Shabbat Goy”, or a gentile hired by Jews to work on the Sabbath. According to the 1905 Jewish Encyclopedia, a Shabbat Goy is:

“The Gentile employed in a Jewish household on the Sabbath-day to perform services which are religiously forbidden to Jews on that day. The Shabbat goy’s duty is to extinguish the lighted candles or lamps on Friday night, and make a fire in the oven or stove on Sabbath mornings during the cold weather.”

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13467-shabbat-goy> (accessed 1/25/15)



and still are our plague, pestilence and all misfortune.

#### ADVICE TO PREACHERS

Especially you who are preachers: where there are Jews, diligently insist that your masters and regents remember the duties of their office as they owe it to God, and compel the Jews to work, forbid them to practice usury and stay their blaspheming and cursing. For if they punish thieves, robbers, murderers, slanderers and other vices among us Christians, why should the Devil's children among the Jew be free to do such things against us? Do we not suffer more from them than the Wals (Italians) from the Spaniards? They take from their host; kitchen, cellar, chest, money bag, and in addition curse them and threaten them with death. In like manner we are treated by the Jews, our guests; we are the hosts. Thus they rob and deprive us, recline on our neck, the lazy and idle bellies, are gluttons in eating and drinking, have easy days in our homes and as a reward curse our Lord Christ, Church, princes and all of us without ceasing to threaten us and to wish us death and all misfortune. Just think, how do we poor Christians get that way that we enrich such idle people, such blaspheming enemies of God and receive nothing in return but their cursing, slandering and all misfortune that they can do and wish against us? In this respect we are blind dogs, such as the Jews are in their unbelief; that we suffer such tyranny from such merciless knaves, do not see and feel such, to let them be our lords, yea, our raving tyrants. We are, however, their captives and subjects; and still they lament that we are holding them as captives, mock us on top of all that as if we had to accept it from them! If the rulers, however, refuse to compel them nor restrain their devilish wantonness, that they be driven from the country, as said, and be told that they move to their own land and possessions in Jerusalem and there lie, curse, blaspheme, spit, murder, steal, rob, practice usury, mock, and engage in all such slanderous abominations as they do among us: and leave us our land, principality, body, goods, much more, our Lord Jesus, faith and church undisturbed and unbesmirched with such devilish tyrannies and wickedness. Of course, they could pretend that this would not help them. For no one has the right to grant liberty to practice such abominations, and all liberties are thereby lost.

After you pastors and preachers have diligently and dutifully issued such warning, and neither master nor subjects will do anything about it, then let us (as Christ says) shake the dust from our shoes and say: we are innocent of your blood. For I can see and have often had the experience how lenient and merciful the reversed world is; where it should be stern, and again is stern where it should be lenient and merciful. The Prince of this world rules like King Ahab (I Kings:20). In like manner they may now want to be lenient with the Jews, these blood-thirsty enemies of our Christian and human name, to earn heaven therewith. But for the Jews to hold in captivity, plague, torture and inflict all misery on us poor Christians with all such devilish cruelties described above,—that we should suffer and is considered a good, Christian indeed, especially where there is money which they have stolen from us.

What are we poor preachers to do meanwhile? First, we want to believe that our Lord Jesus is truthful when He says of such Jews who do not accept Him, but crucified Him : “*You are vipers and children of the Devil.*”<sup>38</sup> As His forerunner, John the Baptist also says.<sup>39</sup> Now such rulers and such merciful saints who wish the Jews well, will be the last to let us alone to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, who, of course, knows all hearts better than such merciful saints; that these Jews must be a generation of vipers and children of the Devil; that is, who grant us just as much good as their father, the Devil. What good that fellow has done to us, we Christians should have understood long and well from experience besides the statements of Scripture.

Whoever has a desire to lodge, nurse, and honor such poisonous serpents and young Devils; that is, the worst enemies of Christ our Lord and of us all; and permit himself to be abused, plundered, robbed, spit upon, cursed and suffer all evil, let the Jews be commended to him. If this be not sufficient, let him also be put into his mug or crawl and worship such a sanctuary, and afterward boast that he had been merciful, had strengthened the Devil and his young Devils to blaspheme our dear Lord and the precious blood with which He has bought us.

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38 Matthew 12:34, John 8:44.

39 Matthew 3:7.

In that way he will be a perfect Christian, filled with deeds of mercy, for which Christ will reward him on Judgment Day with the Jews and eternal hell fire! If that be rudely spoken it is said to the rude cursing of the Jews! Of which others write much, which also the Jews well understand that it is called cursing, as they who thereby knowingly want to curse and blaspheme.

Let us also speak of this in a subtle, and as Christians, in a spiritual way. Thus says our Lord Jesus Christ: “*Whosoever receiveth Me, receiveth Him that sent Me.*”—Matthew 10:40 ; “*He that despiseth you, despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me, despiseth Him that sent Me.*”—Luke 10:16; “*He that hateth Me, hateth also my Father.*”—John 15:23; “*That all men should honor the Son as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father who hath sent Him.*”—John 5:23.

#### THEY BLASPHEME THE NEW TESTAMENT

Will you say: Yes, the Jews do not believe and do not know this, because they do not accept the New Testament? I answer: May the Jews know or believe this or that; we Christians know that they openly blaspheme God the Father when they blaspheme and curse this Jesus.

If God would say to us now or on the Day of Judgment: Do you hear, you are a Christian and know that the Jews openly blasphemed and cursed Me and My Son, and you gave them a place to do so, also protected and guarded them so they could do so unhindered and unpunished in your country, city or house! Tell me: What shall We answer?

[Now follow long dissertations, supported by passages from Scripture about the Messianic office of Jesus, which are not given here because of their scientific, theological nature. Finally Luther sums up his presentations as follows:]<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup> In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-According to Psalm 2:12 “*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*”

Accordingly, we should not joke about this matter, but very sincerely find counsel against it and save our souls from the Jews; that is, from eternal death. As stated before, this counsel is in the first place: that we refuse them the right to have synagogues,<sup>41</sup> so the world may know that we do not permit a house to remain in which the Jews have for so long a time blasphemed our dear Creator and Father, together with His Son, which so far we had tolerated in ignorance.

**Secondly:** That all of their books be taken away; prayer books, Talmuds, and not one page of it be left; and keep them for those who will become converted. For they use all of that only to blaspheme the Son of God; that is, God Himself, the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, and will never use it any other way.

**Thirdly:** That among us and in our possessions they be forbidden openly to praise and thank God, to pray and to teach.<sup>42</sup> Let them do that in their own country or wherever we Christians do not hear or know about it. The reason for this: their praise, thanks, prayers, and teachings are nothing but blasphemy, cursing, idolatry; since their heart and mouth call God the Father Nebel Borik, the same as they call His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For as they call and honor the Son, so the Father is likewise called and honored. It will not help them to employ many beautiful words and gloriously use the Name of God. For it is written: *“Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.”* Just as it did not help their forefathers to use the Name of God and still call Him Baal in the time of the kings of Israel.

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-John the Baptist fulfilled Isaiah 40:3 *“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”*

-The Jews of the first century were well aware of the miracles performed by Jesus: *“Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles”* (John 11:47).

-When Jesus was upon the cross the Jews admitted that he had saved men *“He saved others; himself he cannot save”* (Matthew 27:42).

-As foretold in Zechariah 9, Jesus came to Jerusalem *“lowly, and riding upon an ass”*, bringing peace, ruling over the world without without armies and war.

-The Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would be despised by men (Isaiah 53). In their impudence the Jews apply the passages concerning the suffering servant to themselves in exile.

41 Bertram translation: *“...that their synagogues be burned down, and that all who are able toss in sulphur and pitch, it would be good if someone could also throw in some hellfire”* (page 285).

42 Bertram translation: *“...that they be forbidden on pain of death to praise God, to give thanks, to pray, and to teach publicly among us and in our country”* (page 286).

**Fourthly:** That they be forbidden to mention the Name of God before our ears, for we cannot suffer that with a clear conscience. When their blasphemous mouth and heart call the Son of God Nebel Borik, they are also calling the Father by the same name; as we Christians cannot understand it otherwise. We must believe that as the Son is named or believed to be, even so the Father is named and believed to be. Therefore the mouth of the Jews should not be considered worthy to mention the Name of God before our ears; but whosoever hear it mentioned by the Jews should report it to the rulers, etc. And let no one be merciful and kind in this respect; for it concerns the honor of God and the salvation of us all (also of the Jews).

And should they or anyone else propose that they did not mean it so wickedly, neither knew that with such blasphemy and cursing, they were blaspheming and cursing God the Father; for they most highly and beautifully praise and honor God, although they slander Jesus and us Christians. That has been answered above as you heard. If the Jews do not want to know it or consider it good, we Christians must know it. So the Jews are not excused because of their ignorance, since God has caused this to be preached for almost 1500 years so that they are obligated to know this and God also requires it of them.

For whosoever hears God 's Word for 1500 years and always says: I do not want to know it! The ignorance of such a one will earn him a mean excuse, that is, a sevenfold debt.

#### THEIR MESSIAH IS FALSE

Lastly will I say this for myself: If God would not want to give me a Messiah who is different from the one the Jews desire and hope for, I would much rather be a sow than a human being! And I will give you some good reasons for this: The Jews desire no more from their Messiah than that He should be a Kokhba and a worldly king, who would slay the Christians, divide the world among the Jews and make them rich lords, and finally die like other kings and his children after him likewise.

Of what good would the Jewish Messiah be to me, if he could not help me, poor human being, against my spiritual loss, and could not make my life one tenth part as good as that of a sow? I would say: Dear Lord God, keep your Messiah or give Him to anyone who will have Him. Me, however, change to a sow, for it is better to be a living sow than an eternally dying human being. Yea, as Christ says: *“It were better for that man if he had never been born!”*

If, however, I had a Messiah who could help me in spiritual need; that I would not have to fear death, would always and eternally be certain of life, could mock at the Devil and hell and would not have to shiver before the wrath of God, then my heart would skip for joy and be drunken with happiness. Then I would light a fire of love for God and never cease to thank and praise Him. If then He would not give me silver and gold and other riches, still the whole world would be a paradise to me even if I should have to live in a prison.

Such a Messiah we Christians have, and for it we thank God the Father with full, overwhelming joy of our hearts! Such a Messiah the Jews do not desire, and of what good would He be to them? They must have one from an earthly Utopia who would satisfy their stinking belly and die with them like a cow or a dog.

#### BEWARE OF THEIR BLASPHEMY AND USURY

In my opinion it will have to come to this: if we are to stay clean of the Jew's blaspheming and not become partakers of it, we must separate, and they must leave our country. Thus they could no more cry and lie to God that we are holding them captive; and we could no more complain that they plague us with their blaspheming and usury. This is the nearest and best advice that makes it safe for both parties.

[Here follow longer proofs from Scripture against the accusation of the Jews against the

Christian doctrine.]<sup>43</sup>

So much writing, good Sir and dear Friend, you have compelled me to do about your booklet in which a Jew exhibits his cunning arguments against an absent Christian. Thank God, he would not do so to me at the present time. I hope that in this booklet a Christian who does not desire to become Jewish will find sufficient arguments to guard against the blind, poisonous Jews, and will also become an enemy of the wickedness, lies, and cursing of the Jews, and come to the knowledge that their belief is not only false, but that they are also possessed of all the Devils.

Christ, our dear Lord, graciously convert them and keep us in the knowledge of Him, which is eternal life, most certainly. AMEN.

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43 In this omitted section, Luther makes the following points:

-According to Isaiah the faithless Jews will be replaced by another people, *“Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name”* (Isaiah 65:14-15).

-The Jews hope for a Messiah that will bring them earthly conquests, while the Christians have a Messiah who promises eternal life. *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25), *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death”* (John 8:51).

-According to Isaiah, the Messiah shall bring peace, not worldly conquest, *“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”* (Isaiah 2:4), and he shall grow his kingdom by spreading knowledge, *“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”* (Isaiah 11:9), *“by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many”* (Isaiah 53:11).

-This peaceful conquest came to pass with the spread of Christianity and the destruction of idolatry in the Roman empire.

-The faithful Jews and gentile converts both became Christians, while the apostate Jews became the Church's greatest enemies.

-Luther repeats his previous arguments about the Shiloh of Genesis 49, about the promise made to David, and about the seventy weeks of Daniel 9.

-Christ was the perfect sacrifice who brought about the end of the temple sacrifice, which was predicted in the Psalms, *“Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required”* (Psalm 40:6).

-Christ's New Covenant of grace is foretold in the prophets, *“the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity”* (Isaiah 33:24), *“I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”* (Jeremiah 31:34).

-Luther repeats his previous argument about the “chemdath” of the gentiles mentioned in Haggai 2.

*Following are paragraphs taken from various sermons and writings of Dr. Luther. After each paragraph the original source of the quotation is indicated.*

Note: Quotations from Luther's works marked "W" originate from the Weimar Edition, those marked "E" from the Erlangen Edition.

### *An Appraisal of Mankind*

Jews are young devils condemned to Hell. (E. 32, p.276)

Maybe mild-hearted and gentle Christians will believe I am too rigorous and drastic against the poor, afflicted Jews, believing that I ridicule them and treat them with much sarcasm. By my word, I am far too weak to be able to ridicule such a satanic breed. I would fain do so, but they are far greater adepts at mockery than I and possess a God who is master in this art; it is the Evil One himself. (E. 32, p. 286)

Even with no further evidence than the Old Testament, I would maintain, and no person on earth could alter my opinion, that the Jews, as they are today, are veritably a mixture of all the depraved and malevolent knaves of the whole world over, who have then been dispersed in all countries, similarly to the Tartars, Gypsies and such folk, to afflict the different nations with their usury, to spy upon others and to betray, to poison wells, to deceive and to kidnap children—in short, to practice all kinds of dishonesty and injury. (Extract from the Pamphlet "Von Schem Hamphoras und vom Geschlecht Christi." 1543.)

### *The Jewish Danger*

Those Jews professing to be surgeons or doctors deprive the Christians who make use of their medicaments, of health and prosperity, for such Jewish doctors believe they find especial favour with their God if they torment and furtively kill Christians. And we, fools that we are, even turn for succor to our enemies and their evil ways in the times when our lives are in danger, which is indeed sorely trying God's patience. (E. 62, p. 367)



*Luther's Legacy*

As soon as my principal business has been accomplished, I shall have to devote myself to the expulsion of the Jews. Count Albrecht is hostile towards them and he has already abandoned them, but as yet they are being molested by none. With the help of God I shall, in the sermons I hold from the pulpit, assist Count Albrecht and shall also abandon them.

(Extract from one of Luther's letters to his wife, shortly before his death.)

Luther's last Sermon (Held at Eisleben, a few days before his death, February 1546):

“Warning Against the Jews”

. . . Besides, you also have many Jews living in the country, who do much harm ... You should know that the Jews blaspheme and violate the name of our Saviour day for day ... for that reason you, Milords and men of authority, should not tolerate but expel them. They are our public enemies and incessantly blaspheme our Lord Jesus Christ, they call our Blessed Virgin Mary a harlot and her Holy Son a bastard and to us they give the epithet of changelings and abortions. If they could kill us all, they would gladly do so; in fact, many of them murder Christians, especially those professing to be surgeons and doctors. They know how to deal with medicaments in the manner of the Italians—the Borgias and Medicis—who gave people poison which brought about their death in one hour or in a month.

Therefore deal with them harshly as they do nothing but excruciatingly blaspheme our Lord Jesus Christ, trying to rob us of our lives, our health, our honor and belongings...For that reason I cannot have patience nor carry on an intercourse with these deliberate blasphemers and violators of our Beloved Saviour.

As a good patriot I wanted to give you this warning for the very last time to deter you from participating in alien sins. You must know I only desire the best for you all, rulers and subjects. (E. 62, p. 189)