**Anti-Semitism**

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*And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:*

*And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.*  ([Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV))

“Anti-Semitism,” from a strict adherence to the compound structure and meaning of the word itself, can be defined simply as being *against* (antagonistic toward, opposed to) *the Semitic people*. In a grammatical and etymological sense (as pertaining to race), such a definition would include all the descendants of Shem (*e.g.*, the Arabic nations as well as the nation of Israel).

The word “anti-Semitism” though is not really used in a broad sense pertaining to the entire Semitic line. Rather, the word is invariably used in a much more restrictive sense, referring to opposition exhibited toward only one branch of the Semitic line – opposition exhibited toward the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. *Webster’s New World Dictionary* defines *anti-Semitism* as “having or showing prejudice against Jews,” “discriminating against or persecuting Jews,” “…hostility [toward Jews].” The Jewish people *alone*, among the Semitic people, have been the target of persecution after persecution during the past three and one-half millenniums; and “anti-Semitism” is an expression which has come into use pointing to these persecutions. Other Semitic nations are not in view at all.

“Anti-Semitism” is actually older than the nation of Israel itself. All anti-Semitic acts occurring over the centuries can be traced back to a common point in history. The roots of all Jewish persecution can be found in that which began to occur in Egypt, preceding the birth of Moses and the subsequent birth of the nation of Israel, at a time when a *new king* arose over Egypt, “*which knew not Joseph*” ([Exodus 1:8ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.8ff&t=NKJV)). Jewish persecution which began under this *new king* in Egypt has been continued by nation after nation for over thirty-five hundred years of human history; and the results of such hostile action taken toward the Jewish people have always been the same: Chaos (economic, political, etc.), defeat, destruction, and even annihilation have always followed in the wake of anti-Semitism. The outworking of the principles set forth in [Genesis 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.3&t=NKJV) *have always come to pass*, and they always will come to pass. A nation lifting its hand against Israel is, in actuality, lifting its hand against itself. Hostility, for example, which is carried to the extreme point of genocide (more than one nation has tried it), is the *most sure* way possible to commit national suicide. The epitaph written on the tombstones of nations throughout history which undertook anti-Semitic practices reads, “*Fallen because of their vain attitude toward and ill-treatment of the nation of Israel.*”

THE WHY OF ANTI-SEMITISM?

Why does anti-Semitism even exist in the first place? Or, why have nations not taken a lesson from history? What is it really all about when a nation (such as Russia, or Libya, or Iran) exhibits open hostility toward Israel, traveling the same self-destructive path taken by its predecessors? What really lies behind such hostile actions? Why did the Third Reich during the ‘30’s and ‘40’s single out this particular group of people for destruction? Why has Russia been fomenting anti- Semitism in the Middle East for the past three decades? Why did the late Egyptian president, Gamel Abdel Nasser, immediately preceding the Six-Day War in 1967, announce, “*Our basic aim is the destruction* [note: not ‘defeat,’ but ‘destruction’] *of Israel*”? Why did the late Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir, view the situation from her vantage point after the same fashion during the succeeding Yom Kippur War of 1973 when she said, “*We are defending our very existence* [from nations, which included even Russia]”? Why has Israel been threatened to this extent by different nations over the years, completely ignoring the lessons from either Scripture or secular history? Why, as of late, have Israeli sections of airports been targeted for bombings? Or, why have the Jewish people been especially singled out for ill-treatment on hijacked planes or ships? Why? Why…?

Answers to questions concerning the “Why” of anti-Semitism can be found in the Word of God alone. Secular history can comment upon the matter and record a persecution of the Jewish people down through the years, but such history can never reveal either the true origin of anti-Semitism or the reason for the continuance (and even acceleration today) of persecution directed toward the Jewish people. *Only the Word of God* provides this information; and apart from an understanding of what Scripture reveals concerning the matter, it is not possible to assess, and place in its proper perspective, a segment of mankind’s hatred for a people which God called into existence for special and particular purposes.

THE BEGINNING OF ANTI-SEMITISM

When God called Abraham out from Ur of the Chaldees, He promised Abraham a seed and a land. Abraham and his seed were to inherit for an everlasting possession the land “from the river of Egypt [the Nile River] unto the great river, the river Euphrates” ([Genesis 13:14-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+13.14-17&t=NKJV); [15:18-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.18-21&t=NKJV); [17:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+17.7-8&t=NKJV)). Abraham was to become the progenitor of “a great nation” which would dwell in this land, through which blessings would flow out to all the nations of the earth ([Genesis 12:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.2-3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV)).

God never gets in a hurry to fulfill His promises; nor does God ever forget that which He has promised. Even though the land of Canaan had been given to Abraham and his seed before Abraham even possessed a seed, neither he nor his seed came into immediate possession of this land. Rather, they were *sojourners* in and out of the land of Canaan, awaiting the reception of their inheritance at a future date ([Genesis 23:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+23.4&t=NKJV); [37:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+37.1&t=NKJV); [Exodus 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+6.4&t=NKJV)). Abraham dwelt as a stranger and pilgrim in both the land of Canaan and the land of Egypt for one hundred years, and the seed of Abraham dwelt as strangers and pilgrims in both of these lands for four hundred years. It was after this, after the end of the four hundred-year sojourn of the seed of Abraham, that God set about to fulfill His promise given to Abraham four hundred and thirty years prior to the termination of this time — a promise given at the time of Abraham’s call, while he was still in Ur of the Chaldees (*cf.* [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [15:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13-14&t=NKJV); [Exodus 2:23-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+2.23-25&t=NKJV); [3:6-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+3.6-8&t=NKJV); [4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV); [12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV)).

(The “four hundred years” in [Genesis 15:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13-14&t=NKJV) provides the time of the sojourn of *Abraham’s seed* [from the birth of Isaac to the Exodus from Egypt]; the “four hundred and thirty years” in [Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV) covers the same period but includes an additional thirty years preceding the four hundred years, dating to *Abraham’s call* in Ur at the age of seventy. Thus, the *full* sojourn — that of both Abraham and his seed, called collectively, “the children of Israel” — was “four hundred and thirty years.” And this period of time was marked off by God to the very day: “…*even the selfsame day it came to pass*…” [[Exodus 12:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.41&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Galatians 3:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.17-18&t=NKJV)].)

The Israelites were in Egypt two hundred and ten of the four hundred years of [Genesis 15:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13&t=NKJV) (*cf.* [Genesis 25:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25.26&t=NKJV); [47:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+47.28&t=NKJV)). Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, prior to the seven years of plenty ([Genesis 41:46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+41.46&t=NKJV)). The children of Israel (all the house of Jacob) came down into Egypt about nine or ten years later, during the time of famine ([Genesis 41:53-57](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+41.53-57&t=NKJV); [42:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+42.3&t=NKJV); [43:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+43.15&t=NKJV); [45:6-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+45.6-13&t=NKJV); [46:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+46.26-28&t=NKJV); [47:27-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+47.27-28&t=NKJV)). Thus, the death of Joseph at the age of one hundred ten ([Genesis 50:24-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+50.24-26&t=NKJV)) was about seventy years into the two hundred and ten years which the Children of Israel spent in Egypt. It was *following* Joseph’s death but *preceding* Moses’ birth (about sixty years later) that “there arose a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph” ([Exodus 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.8&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Exodus 1:15-2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.15-2.10&t=NKJV)). Moses was eighty years old at the time of the Exodus ([Acts 7:20-37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.20-37&t=NKJV)). Thus, the emergence of the new king over Egypt occurred probably as much as a century (or possibly even slightly longer) before the time God stepped in and called Moses to lead the people out.

The new king who arose over Egypt between the time of Joseph and the time of Moses was an *Assyrian* rather than an Egyptian ([Isaiah 52:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+52.4&t=NKJV)). The Assyrians had come down and conquered Egypt, taking over the government and establishing a new dynasty of a different nationality. In Stephen’s address before the religious leaders in Israel some sixteen hundred years later ([Acts 7:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.1ff&t=NKJV)), attention was called to this fact through the use of a particular Greek word. The word “another [‘*another king*…which knew not Joseph’]” ([Acts 7:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.18&t=NKJV)) is a translation of the Greek word *heteros* (the Septuagint Version of the Old Testament also uses this same word in [Exodus 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.8&t=NKJV)). This word means “a different kind”; and the reference is to *a different kind of king*, one of a different nationality, bringing into existence a different dynasty. An Egyptian dynasty previously had been in power; but the Assyrians came in, took over the government, and a new dynasty of a different nationality came into existence.

This is the reason that the governing power in Egypt looked upon the Israelites as “more and mightier than we” ([Exodus 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.9&t=NKJV)). This statement would not be true if *all Egypt* were in view. “We” in this verse has to do with the *Assyrians living in Egypt and controlling the affairs of state*.

It is in Exodus, chapter one, during the reign of “the Assyrian” in Egypt, that anti-Semitism first appears. And this is the point in Scripture where one must begin in order to properly understand why the Jewish people have been targeted for persecution after persecution throughout a period which has spanned millenniums.

The growth, prosperity, and potential power of the Israelites in Egypt had become such that it caused the Assyrians controlling the affairs of state to look upon them as a possible threat to their continuance in power (should they one day side with the enemies of the Assyrians). To prevent such from occurring, the Assyrians first attempted to stem the growth and, in this manner, check the potential power of the Hebrew people through a rigorous form of enslavement. After a time, when it became evident that this was not the answer (for “the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew”), they then resorted to a plan whereby all the Hebrew male children would be slain at birth. It was during these days that Moses was born and subsequently hidden by his parents, eventually, through the providence of God, being reared under the very protection of Pharaoh in the palace itself ([Exodus 1:7-2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.7-2.10&t=NKJV)).

Once this persecution began in Egypt, there is no indication in the Word of God to anything other than that it continued without interruption (in a very stringent manner) right up to the time of the Exodus. It existed during years preceding Moses’ birth, at the time of his birth, during the forty years while he was growing up in the palace, and during the forty additional years which he spent in Midian. In fact, the persecution became so intense during the latter years, that the cry of the Israelites “came up unto God by reason of the bondage.” And “God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them” ([Exodus 2:11-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+2.11-25&t=NKJV)).

This is the place in the Book of Exodus where attention is directed back to Moses ([Exodus 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+3.1ff&t=NKJV)); God, at this time, called Moses to not only deliver His people from Egyptian bondage through leading them out of Egypt but also to lead them into the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The four hundred and thirty-year sojourn of the Children of Israel was about to end; and once this period of time ended, the Israelites were to go forth under Moses to possess the land of Canaan and therein realize the purpose for their very existence.

THE END OF ANTI-SEMITISM

That which occurred in the Book of Exodus, both preceding and during Moses’ day, constitutes a type of that which is about to occur. Under the Assyrian Pharaoh in Egypt, anti-Semitism began, reached its apex, and was then terminated insofar as the power of *Egypt* was concerned. This points in the antitype to that time when, under another Assyrian, the present existing anti-Semitism will take on a similar dimension, reach a similar apex, and then be terminated insofar as the power of — not just Egypt — but *all the nations* are concerned. Thus, in this respect, the story of anti-Semitism as it exists from beginning to end, is revealed in Old Testament history.

The Assyrian controlling affairs of state in Egypt is a type of the Assyrian (the Antichrist [[Isaiah 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+10.5&t=NKJV); [14:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.25&t=NKJV); [Micah 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Micah+5.5&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Daniel 8:8-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.8-14&t=NKJV)]) who will control affairs of state throughout the world during the coming Great Tribulation (“Egypt” is always a type of the *world* in Scripture). And the persecution of the Jewish people in Egypt during the reign of the former points to a persecution which the Jewish people will undergo during the reign of the latter. The *ten plagues* brought upon the kingdom of the Assyrian in Egypt (note: “ten,” showing *ordinal completion*) point to *all God’s judgments* brought upon the kingdom of the Assyrian — past (in the type), and future (in the antitype).

God’s judgments falling upon the future kingdom of the Assyrian — the antitype of the ten plagues brought upon the kingdom of the Assyrian in Egypt — are denoted in Scripture by *seven seals, seven trumpets*, and *seven vials* ([Revelation 6:1-16:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6.1-16.17&t=NKJV)). “Seven” is a number showing *the completeness of that which is in view*, and “three” (three groups of sevens) is the number of *Divine perfection*. Thus, judgment wrought upon the kingdom of this world during the coming Tribulation will be marked by Divine perfection within that which is *complete*.

The deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, following God’s complete judgment upon the kingdom of the Assyrian, was with a view to their being established in the land of Canaan under the old covenant and realizing the very purpose for their existence. This points, in the antitype, to a future deliverance of the Israelites under the One Who is greater than Moses, following God’s complete judgment upon the kingdom of the coming Assyrian; and this deliverance, as in the type, will be with a view to the Israelites being established in the land under — not the old covenant — but the new covenant and realizing the very purpose for their existence. In this respect, the Book of Exodus is not only a *historical* account but also a *prophetic* account.

1. The Death of the Firstborn

The death of the firstborn was the *last* of the ten plagues brought upon the kingdom of the Assyrian in Egypt ([Exodus 11:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11.1ff&t=NKJV)). This, of course, has its parallel in the *last* of the judgments which will be brought upon the worldwide kingdom of the Assyrian yet future. The terminal judgment upon the future kingdom of the Assyrian will issue forth from the *seven* “vials of the wrath of God.” All seven of these vials — the last of a triad of judgments — depict different facets of one judgment directed specifically at the kingdom of the Assyrian. In that day, after the first six vials have been poured out, the seventh angel will pour his “vial into the air”; there will then come “a great voice out of the temple of heaven, *from the throne*, saying, ‘*IT IS DONE*’” ([Revelation 16:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.17&t=NKJV)).

What is done? It can only be *one thing*. As in the type, so in the antitype: The *firstborn* in Egypt died in the type, and the *firstborn* throughout the entire world must *die* in the antitype.

To understand what is meant by the death of the firstborn within the framework of the tenth plague which came upon the kingdom of Egypt and the seven vials of wrath which will be poured out upon the kingdom of this world, one must recognize that two things are in view in both instances — individual and national verities. When God introduced the subject in [Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV), both were in view; and, in actuality, the complete scope of the death of the firstborn would later be shown to include Israel as well as Egypt. On an individual basis, the death of the firstborn included “*all* the firstborn in the land of Egypt” (*Israelite* and *Egyptian* alike [This is the reason for the provision of the paschal lamb. The firstborn could die vicariously; [Exodus 11:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11.5&t=NKJV); [12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV)]); but only Egypt would experience a *national* death of the firstborn. And the same thing must hold true in the antitype.

When God told Moses to announce to Pharaoh, “Israel is my son, even my firstborn” ([Exodus 4:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22&t=NKJV)), *nations* were in view. And the announced firstborn status of Israel alluded to the *birthright*. Israel was the nation in possession of the rights of primogeniture, not Egypt. Israel was the nation which God recognized as the one possessing the *right to rule*. Such an announcement to the Pharaoh of Egypt would be inconceivable. The Lowly nation of slaves, in subjection to the most powerful nation of that day, was the nation which God recognized as *His firstborn*.

Moses was further told to say unto Pharaoh,

*“Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn”* ([Exodus 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.23&t=NKJV)).

The service which God required of His son involved Israel’s establishment in the land of Canaan at the head of all the Gentile nations. In this position, the nations were not only to be ruled by Israel but they were to be *blessed through Israel* (the priestly function of the birthright). Then, God’s threat to slay Pharaoh’s firstborn referred specifically to the death of a son within his household. This threat though must be looked upon in a broader sense than just a reference to Pharaoh’s flesh and blood firstborn son. It must be looked upon as also carrying *national* implications, for that was the subject at hand. The complete scope of God’s threat to Pharaoh must include a *nation* as well — *the nation of Egypt*.

Satan and his angels presently rule the earth from the heavens through the Gentile nations ([Daniel 10:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13-14&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.20&t=NKJV)). Egypt, as the ruling nation of that day, was the one to whom Satan had bequeathed the rights belonging to the firstborn. (Note that Satan is the great counterfeiter; and it is evident from the account in Exodus, when understood in the light of his position among the nations, that his work in this realm carries over into the “rights of primogeniture” on a *national* scale.) As Satan had delivered these rights to the Assyrian ruling over Egypt during Moses’ day, he will deliver these same rights to the Assyrian ruling over the entire world during that future day preceding Christ’s return. And, as there was a national death of the firstborn then (as well as individual), there will be a national death of the firstborn yet future (as well as individual). Just as Egypt was put down in view of Israel occupying her proper place with respect to the nations in the past, the kingdom of this world will be put down in view of Israel occupying her proper place with respect to the nations yet future. The position of “firstborn” *must be occupied by the one possessing this right.*

The future announcement concerning the death of the firstborn, in this respect, actually first appears in [Revelation 11:15 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV):

*“The seventh angel sounded [the angel possessing the seventh trumpet judgment]; and there followed great voices in heaven, and they said, ‘The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign forever and ever’."*

As the seventh seal contains the seven trumpets ([Revelation 8:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.1-2&t=NKJV)), the seventh trumpet must contain the seven vials. That is, *all seven* of the trumpet judgments lie within the scope of the seventh seal (note the “silence in heaven” wrought through the opening of this seal, revealing the trumpet judgments [[Revelation 8:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.1&t=NKJV)]), and *all seven* of the vial judgments lie within the scope of the seventh trumpet. The seventh trumpet, taking into account that which will occur when the seven vials are poured out, *calls attention to the fact* that the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord; and the pouring out of the seven vials *reveal how this is accomplished*.

Judgment at this point centers itself upon the worldwide kingdom of the Beast (as to *territory* covered by the kingdom, *subjects* of the kingdom, and *rulers* in the kingdom). That which is wrought through the pouring out of these vials, which includes the judgment upon Babylon ([Revelation 17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17&t=NKJV); [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18&t=NKJV)), is thus anticipated by the angel with the seventh trumpet in [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV). This, in turn, anticipates the *Alleluias in heaven* ([Revelation 19:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.1-6&t=NKJV)), the *marriage supper of the Lamb* ([Revelation 19:7-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.7-10&t=NKJV)), and the *return of Christ to take the kingdom* ([Revelation 19:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.11ff&t=NKJV)).

Following Israel’s departure from Egypt under Moses, the Assyrian Pharaoh and his armed forces were overthrown in the Red Sea ([Exodus 14:13ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+14.13ff&t=NKJV)). The firstborn (individuals) throughout all the kingdom in Egypt died when the Lord passed through the land of Egypt on the night of the Passover. Now, Egypt itself, the nation exercising the firstborn status under Satan experiences death at the hands of the Lord through a destruction of the Assyrian and his armed forces in the Red Sea. *Israel, though, lived still*. A substitute (the paschal lamb [[Exodus 12:3ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.3ff&t=NKJV)]) had been provided as a vicarious sacrifice for the firstborn (individuals) in the camp; and the nation itself, as God’s firstborn, stood triumphant on the eastern banks of the Red Sea, ready to go forth and realize the rights belonging to the firstborn.

*As it was, so shall it be*: The future Assyrian and his armed forces will be overthrown ([Revelation 19:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.17-21&t=NKJV)); and, as in the type, there will be both a *personal* and a *national* death of the firstborn in connection with this overthrow. The Antichrist and those comprising his kingdom (unsaved individuals) will *personally* experience the death of the firstborn; and the destruction of the worldwide kingdom of the Assyrian — that future kingdom exercising a firstborn status under Satan — will constitute the *national* death of the firstborn. *Israel, though, will live still*. A Substitute (the Passover Lamb [[I Corinthians 5:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+5.7&t=NKJV)]) has been provided as a vicarious sacrifice for the firstborn (individuals) within the camp. Through Israel’s acceptance of the Passover Lamb in that day, a *nation* will be “born at once” ([Isaiah 66:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+66.8&t=NKJV)); and this nation, following the overthrow of the kingdom of this world, will stand triumphant (as did the nation on the eastern banks of the Red Sea in history), ready to go forth and realize the rights belonging to the firstborn.

2. An End of All The Nations

God has stated that He would one day make “a full end of all the nations” where the Children of Israel have been driven ([Jeremiah 46:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+46.28&t=NKJV)). This is not only exemplified through teachings drawn from the type under consideration but also from an event which occurred during the second month following the Exodus. After the Israelites entered into Rephidim, the Amalekites moved against the nation. And because of this, God stated concerning the Amalekites,

*“I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven”* ([Exodus 17:14b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.14b&t=NKJV)).

The Amalekites were the *first* of the Gentile nations to war against Israel following the birth of the Israeli nation and their departure from Egypt ([Numbers 24:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+24.20&t=NKJV)). And God’s pronounced judgment upon this nation, in keeping with the principles set forth in [Genesis 12:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.2-3&t=NKJV), establishes a “first mention” principle, which is in keeping with [Jeremiah 46:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+46.28&t=NKJV).

(The “law of first mention” in Biblical interpretation states that *the first time a subject is mentioned in Scripture, that subject remains unchanged throughout Scripture*.)

The Amalekite nation was to be “utterly” *put out of remembrance from under heaven*; and the same basic thing is said of the Gentile powers existing during the Tribulation (the last of the Gentile powers to war against Israel). In [Isaiah 26:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+26.13-14&t=NKJV), God has stated concerning “other Lords [rulers of the Gentile nations during that time]” that He has “visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.” *That which befell the first will also befall the last*.

Insofar as the “first of the nations” was concerned, the Israelites became the appointed executioners of the Amalekites ([Deuteronomy 25:17-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+25.17-19&t=NKJV)); but because of repeated failures to carry out the Lord’s command completely, the Amalekites remained in existence as the bitter enemies of the Israelites for over seven hundred years beyond the Exodus (*cf.* [I Samuel 15:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+15.2-3&t=NKJV), [7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+15.7-9&t=NKJV); [II Samuel 1:6-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Samuel+1.6-10&t=NKJV)). The sentence pronounced upon the Amalekites in [Exodus 17:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.14&t=NKJV) was not carried out in its completeness until the days of Hezekiah ([I Chronicles 4:39-43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Chronicles+4.39-43&t=NKJV)); and from that point in history, the Amalekites ceased to exist. Although the Amalekites figured prominently in Old Testament history, dating all the way back to the days of Abraham ([Genesis 14:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.7&t=NKJV)), archaeologists have failed to unearth a trace of this nation’s existence. The Amalekites were literally blotted out of existence.

In a similar fashion, God is going to “make a full end of all the nations” where the Israelites have been driven. The textual setting of this passage in [Jeremiah 46:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+46.28&t=NKJV) is during and following the coming Great Tribulation. The nations are those within the kingdom of Antichrist, a worldwide kingdom, which will include all nations. Anti-Semitism in that day — evident from the matter at hand in [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV) and from that which is revealed concerning the kingdom of Antichrist ([Matthew 24:15-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.15-22&t=NKJV); [Luke 21:20-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+21.20-24&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:1-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.1-17&t=NKJV)) — will break out on a worldwide scale and will be of such magnitude that the Israelites (as the Israelites in Egypt) will be forced to cry out to God for deliverance (*cf.* [Hosea 5:15-6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hosea+5.15-6.2&t=NKJV)). At this time, as in the past, God will *hear* their cry, *remember* His covenant, and *send* a Deliverer — the One greater than Moses. Then that which befell the kingdom of the Assyrian in Egypt will befall the worldwide kingdom of the Assyrian yet future; and that which befell the first of the nations to come against Israel will befall the last of the nations to come against Israel.

Though God will make a “full end of all the nations,” numerous Gentiles will enter into the millennium. These Gentiles, though, will be those saved out of the anti-Semitic nations of the end-time. They will be saved as a direct result of the ministry of the l44,000 Jews who will proclaim the “gospel of the kingdom” to the ends of the earth during the Great Tribulation ([Matthew 24:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.14&t=NKJV); [25:34-40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.34-40&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.17&t=NKJV)). These will be the Gentiles forming the nucleus for the nations which will exist during the millennium, over which Israel will rule and to whom blessings through Israel will flow.

THE REASON FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

The position presently held by the Gentile nations, the position which Satan holds relative to these nations, and the position which Israel was called into existence to hold must all be taken into account to show the reason for both the beginning and continuance of anti- Semitism. There is a definite reason and a definite unchanged systematic plan underlying anti-Semitism; and this reason and plan have remained unchanged since the days of the Assyrian Pharaoh in Egypt.

The Gentile nations presently hold the sceptre; and Satan, along with his angels, presently rules from the existing kingdom of the heavens through the Gentile nations upon the earth. However, Israel is the nation possessing the right to hold the sceptre. Israel is God’s firstborn son, the nation in possession of the rights of primogeniture; and God’s firstborn is *destined* to one day hold the sceptre.

Satan knows this; he has known this for millenniums. And ever since that time when the Assyrians came down and conquered Egypt (undoubtedly under the direction of Satan [the Israelites were there, in Egypt]), Satan has sought to destroy Israel through the Gentile nations. He knows that the day God establishes Israel in her rightful place, his power over the nations will be at an end. He knows that his complete kingdom, as anti-Semitic nations down through the years, will fall; and the abyss ([Revelation 20:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.1-3&t=NKJV)), a vain last attempt at power ([Revelation 20:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-9&t=NKJV)), and the lake of fire ([Revelation 20:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.10&t=NKJV)) will be all that await such a fall by the one who “made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms” ([Isaiah 14:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.16&t=NKJV)).

The reason for anti-Semitism — *it’s very obvious*: Satan, who rules the earth through and controls the Gentile nations, is doing all within his power to destroy the *one nation* which is a threat to continued Gentile power, and thus his continued rule. Satan has moved and continues to move Gentile powers against Israel simply because *Israel is God’s firstborn son*, the *one nation possessing the rights of primogeniture*; and he will continue in this unchanging manner until his hostile actions against Israel, which will reach an apex under the Antichrist during the Tribulation, are terminated by Christ Himself at the time of His return.

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee”* ([Psalm 122:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+122.6&t=NKJV)).