

## Against Antisemitism

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**Dr. Billy Wilson:** Welcome to *World Impact*. I'm Billy Wilson. And today we're in Auschwitz-Birkenau in present-day Poland, one of the most difficult places, I believe, on planet Earth.

The railroad tracks and gate behind me are where prisoners would be brought from literally around Europe, most of them Jews, to their execution here in the gas chamber and the crematorium.

Today, as we study and talk about antisemitism in our world, I'm gonna challenge you to stand against antisemitism in all of its forms. Antisemitism may have reached its peak here at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Over 1 million people lost their lives here during World War II; most of them were Jews.

Today, I'm gonna challenge you to live as Jesus would and love his people, to bless the children of Abraham so you'll be blessed, and don't curse them, lest you be cursed.

Now, as I share today, if you'd like to share what's going on in your heart and how you're praying for the Jews, or if you have questions about what I teach, why don't you go to **worldimpact.tv**. Write me a message, tell me your prayer request, and we want to reach out to you and minister to your heart.

Most importantly, I want you to stay with me today. This is gonna be a difficult program to share. The inhumanity that happened here at Auschwitz-Birkenau was surprising to the world: the simple depravity of human sin and treating the Jews and other people the way the Nazis did.

Stay with me, it's gonna be sobering, but I pray it will change your life.

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**Narrator:** Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps, stands as a haunting reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. Antisemitism was institutionalized into the rise of the Nazi regime.

The propaganda machine framed Jews for Germany's loss in the First World War, blamed them for current economic woes, and labeled them as something less than human.

This laid the groundwork for widespread public support of increasingly brutal policies against Jews. The German government enacted a series of anti-Jewish laws, restricting the rights of German Jews to earn a living, to enjoy full citizenship, or to gain education.

The propaganda war turned physical in November 1938, when the SA and Hitler Youth launched widespread riots in what has become known as the *Kristallnacht*, or *Night of Shattered Glass*.

The rioters shattered the windows of 7,500 Jewish businesses, destroyed 267 synagogues, desecrated Jewish cemeteries, and ransacked homes all throughout Germany. Rather than prosecute the rioters, more than 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, primarily Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen.

The *Final Solution* was conceived at the Wannsee Conference in January 1942, where high-ranking Nazi officials formalized their plan to annihilate the Jewish population in Europe. Genocidal policy elevated antisemitism into industrial-scale murder.

Jews from across Europe were forcibly deported, told they were being sent to settlements in the East. They were instead sent to extermination camps, with Auschwitz-Birkenau becoming the central site, custom built for this mass murder.

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**Renata Roszyk:** They started to build this part in 1941, and Birkenau was almost like a city, sometimes even 100,000 prisoners. Hundreds of wooden barracks stood here.

This gate got the name “*Death Gate*,” because in the middle of this unloading ramp, in front of Jewish transport, the doctor judged each person in front of him, usually by appearance only. Who looked young, strong, fit and able to work, could enter Auschwitz camp as a prisoner. But who, in his opinion, looked too old, too young, disabled, pregnant, was treated as useless—supposed to be killed.

That's why almost 80% of Jews from each transport, found as unfit to work, were murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz camp right after arrival, not being registered as a prisoner.

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**Narrator:** The gas chambers at Auschwitz could kill thousands of people daily. After the victims were gassed, their bodies were looted for gold teeth or jewelry, then burned in crematoria, erasing physical evidence of the massacre.

Today, tourists who visit Auschwitz have an opportunity to reflect on the millions who perished here and throughout the Holocaust. The memorial urges us to remember them and to stand against antisemitism, wherever it is found.

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**Billy:** Today, *World Impact* is at Auschwitz-Birkenau. I'm sitting now on the Birkenau side of the Auschwitz-Birkenau compound here in present-day Poland, and I'm in a barracks, a barracks where people were kept many times before being killed in the gas chambers and then incinerated in the crematoriums here at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Many people also stayed in these barracks or dormitory kind of facilities that worked in the fields for the Nazis at this killing machine that they had here during their regime.

Today is a very sobering day. In fact, sitting here in Auschwitz-Birkenau is one of the more difficult things that a person can endure. It causes you to know what humans can do when they go to their lowest, lowest depth.

Today, we're talking about standing against antisemitism. I wanna start this teaching from an unusual place. **Genesis 12:1–3**, God's promise to Abraham:

*“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, from thy father's house, unto a land that I'll show you: And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I'll make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.’”*

This promise to Abraham is that his family was being chosen to bless the entire world. God's chosen people that ultimately would bring Jesus Christ to all of us.

Despite the warning of this passage, that whoever curses you will be cursed, people throughout the ages have cursed the Jewish people. Now, over time, this has become known as antisemitism. Antisemitism would be against the Semites, and the Semites were people descended from Shem or people who spoke Semitic languages. This would have included, at one time, both Jews and Arabs. But over time, antisemitism has been associated with Jewish hatred or Jewish prejudice.

Now, this has been around for a long time and yet, in the 21st century, it is a growing problem. And so, today on this program, we wanna say clearly we stand against antisemitism and prejudice against the Jewish people in any form whatsoever.

In the United States, this problem continues to grow. Although Jews represent only about 2.5% of the population, almost 60% of all religious-based hate crimes are committed against them. And in the months immediately following the October 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel, antisemitic incidents grew by over 400% in the US.

But not only is it a growing problem in the United States, it's a growing problem around the world. In Europe, Latin America, and even Asia and Africa, antisemitism seems to be at a continuing peak in our day.

Now, this negative attitude about the Jewish people is nothing new. It's been going on throughout history and we see it throughout the Bible. For instance, Pharaoh comes against the Israelites and tries to oppress them, ultimately saying that all the male babies born to Hebrew mothers were to

be thrown in the Nile River. We know it's during this time that Moses was preserved and saved by being put in a bulrush.

And then there's other occasions in scripture like the Canaanites trying to destroy God's people over and over again, or Haman in Persia creating a scheme whereby all of the Jewish people that were living in Persian lands would be killed on a particular day.

And then even Herod in the New Testament, when Jesus is born, kills all of the males 2 years old and under, trying to get to the Christ child and trying to destroy this witness from the family that would bless the world.

Antisemitism has been around for a long time. Sad to say, much antisemitism, especially in the last 300 or 400 years, has come from the Christian population. This is sad for me. It grieves my heart to say it. But Martin Luther is one of the reasons that antisemitism took root, especially here in Europe, and became a growing problem, ultimately culminating in Nazi Germany.

In his early ministry, Luther was favorable to the Jews. He wanted to win them to Jesus Christ. And so, he wrote a lot about how he could bring them to a knowledge of the gospel of Jesus and to justification by faith.

But toward the end of his life, Luther's heart turned against the Jewish people. He wrote several pamphlets and even a booklet called *On the Jews and Their Lies*. In that book, he encouraged people to burn down Jewish synagogues, to take away Jewish writings and their holy books, and to take away their money, their gold and their silver.

It was a terrible, terrible journal and a terrible statement from Martin Luther. Ultimately, Hitler would use Luther's statements in Germany to justify his action against the Jews.

And of course, antisemitism reached its peak at the beginning of World War II, when Hitler decided on what was called the *Final Solution*, the killing of the Jewish people and the eradicating of them from the Earth.

At the beginning of World War II, there were about 17 million Jews in the world. And during World War II, during the Holocaust, 6 million Jews were killed. Even here in Poland, 3 million Jews lost their life. Auschwitz-Birkenau was a place where over 1 million people were killed in the gas chambers and then incinerated in the crematorium.

It was a horrific place of human tragedy and death. You feel it on these grounds, even now, years and years later.

Poland was one of the great places for Jewish culture immediately before World War II. In fact, there were 3.5 million Jews in Poland. It was the epicenter of Jewish culture in Europe. And after the war, there were less than 500,000 Jews in Poland. It's estimated that 3 million of them lost their life in the Holocaust.

Today, there are only about 20,000 to somewhere around 100,000 Jews in the entire nation of Poland. It's a surprising, terrible statistic.

Now, following World War II and the revelations that came out from the Holocaust, the hearts of the world were moved as they saw pictures from here at Auschwitz and Birkenau and all of the other camps across Nazi-occupied Poland where Jews were killed. And right after that, some believe that because of that, people were open to the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

But even now—even now—antisemitism continues to grow. There are Arab nations and, of course, radical Islamic jihadists who have declared that they will eradicate the Jewish people from the world and stop Israel from being a nation.

I want to say on this program today that at *World Impact*, we stand against all forms of antisemitism. All prejudice against the Jew in any way, we stand against it, we declare it is wrong, and we declare God's curse against it, as he promised to Abraham.

Now, in the rest of this program, as I begin to teach, when we come back in a moment, I'm gonna talk about two ways that I see Christians treating Jews that I don't think are quite appropriate—two extremes of how Christians are responding to Jews. And we're gonna talk a little bit about how you can respond to the Jewish people in an appropriate way.

We are against antisemitism. We're at Auschwitz-Birkenau to say to you that Jewish hatred is always and forever will be wrong. Stay with me. I'll be back in just a moment to continue this teaching.

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**Billy:** Today, *World Impact* is standing against antisemitism. We're in Auschwitz-Birkenau to declare that prejudice against the Jewish people in any form is wrong.

Now, over the years, Christians have tried to respond to Jews in a variety of ways. I wanna talk about two extremes that I see of Christians responding to the Jewish people that I think are wrong. And I wanna try to help enlighten you about these for just a moment.

First of all, I've seen one of the difficulties that Christians have is trying to reject God's promises for the Jewish people. Now, this has been called replacement theology or supersessionism. It is the belief that the church has taken the place of God's chosen people and that the promises given to Abraham are no longer in effect for the Jewish people.

Now, it is true that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law. He brought in a new day at the cross, a New Covenant, a New Testament. Yet it is also true that many of the physical promises to Abraham's physical family are still in effect. The promise that they would have a land where they

could live forever—or live until Jesus returns—is still in effect, and we see it happening, of course, with the nation of Israel.

Now, the promises of Abraham's physical seed cannot be written off just because Gentiles have believed in Jesus Christ and been grafted in to the spiritual promises of Abraham. Christians are not given the territory of the Holy Land, but the physical descendants of Abraham are.

We Gentiles, however, can experience God's righteousness by grace through faith, as Abraham did. Listen to what Paul says in **Romans 11:1, 11–12**:

*“I ask then, did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their inclusion bring!”*

The first extreme that I see is trying to write away the promises of God for the Jewish people and say they are not in effect anymore. This replacement theology is simply incorrect and not a full understanding of scripture. Many of the physical promises given to Abraham's seed are still in effect, and we need to honor them as we bless and minister to the Jewish people.

In other words, God still has a plan for the Jewish people and he's going to work it out, ultimately saving them in the end.

The second hazard, I think, and mistake I see, is as we respond to what has happened to the Jews over the years, many Christians go to the other side. Some have replacement theology and write the Jewish people off, and other Christians try to become Jews themselves. They begin to recognize feast days and the rituals of the law. I think this is also a mistake.

First of all, let me say that the shadows that are given to us in the Old Testament are not the real thing. Jesus is the real thing. Now, the Bible is clear in the New Testament that Gentiles did not have to become Jews in order to be saved.

The great controversy, of course, through the book of Acts was as Gentiles were finding Jesus, did they need to be circumcised or become Jews in order to be saved? And the answer was simply no. In fact, Paul was adamant about this throughout the New Testament—that Christians should not put themselves back under the law or the rituals of the law in order to be Christian.

In **Galatians 4:9–10**, Paul says it this way: *“But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You're observing special days and months and seasons and years!”*

And then **Colossians 2:16–17**: *“Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Jesus Christ.”*

The feast days, the seasons, even Shabbat or Sabbath itself, are shadows of what reality will come in Jesus Christ. Jesus brought the reality when he came to the world.

**Hebrews 10:1** says: *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”*

Not only are Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior not required to be circumcised, they are not required to keep the feast days of the law or live under the ordinances in the law. Again, even Shabbat, even Sabbath—though it teaches us a great lesson about physical rest—really, Jesus is our rest. And for the Christian, every day is holy unto the Lord, and not just Saturday.

Now, in **Galatians 3:8–9**, Paul says: *“Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”*

But he continues, **Galatians 3:10–14**: *“For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse. That is, it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, ‘The person who does these things will live by them.’ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

So what is the conclusion of the matter of this teaching today from here in Auschwitz-Birkenau?

First of all, we stand against antisemitism.

Second, we stand against replacement theology that says the promises of God to the physical people, the Jewish people, are no longer in effect.

And third, we stand for the blessing of Abraham on all of those who have believed in Jesus Christ through faith.

Today, you can be blessed, you don't have to be cursed, because God has given us his Son Jesus.

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**Renata:** I'm working as a guide, years. It's very important to me, but it's not easy to be an Auschwitz guide, because, first of all, you need to have education, university education, and you need to know languages.

But please remember, I'm not the only one. We have plenty of guides. All of them are very well-educated people. And true is that, without passion, without feeling this job as important, you are not able to do this job. Because even if you have knowledge, you are never used to it—especially used to what happened here.

But if you have knowledge about something, it means that it's not for yourself. It's to share it. Visitors in Auschwitz, they are different people from all over the world. And what is very important to me is hope, that even if one word will stay with them for a longer time, if they will be able to think about the place they just saw, maybe they will be able to change something in their own environment, among their neighbors. Maybe such things cannot happen again.

That's my hope.

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**Billy:** Today on *World Impact*, we've been talking about antisemitism and the fact that it's been around for thousands of years, finding its apex in many ways here in Nazi-occupied Poland many years ago.

We're here today at Auschwitz-Birkenau, saying to you, to everyone that hears us, we are against antisemitism in all of its forms. We're in a world now in the 21st century where it seems to be on the rise again.

But I remind you, those who bless the children of Abraham will be blessed, and those who curse them will be cursed. So today, as we've shared on this program, if God's touched your heart or you have questions about what we've talked about today, I want you to write me at **worldimpact.tv**. Go to the website right now, give me a message. Tell me what your prayer requests are or even what your questions are.

We wanna minister to you. We wanna help you bless the Jewish people. We want you to help you rise up and be blessed as you bless those whom God has blessed.

Now, it is true that Jesus Christ has come as the Savior of the world, including the Savior of the Jewish people, and only in him can we be saved eternally. But in our day, God still wants us to bless the Jewish people in every single way possible.

So today, stand with us at *World Impact* against antisemitism and bless the Jews with all of your heart.

I wanna say today, thank you for joining us here on *World Impact*. We've been in Poland, modern-day Poland, in the memorial to Auschwitz-Birkenau. We've been today in this barracks. It's sobering. Reminds us of how evil man can ultimately be.



Today, I wanna remind you, let your heart be filled with love for everyone and especially for God's people, the Jews. Thank you for joining us. I'm Billy Wilson. This is *World Impact* and we're sharing Jesus with the world.

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**Male announcer:** This has been *World Impact* with Dr. Billy Wilson, President of Oral Roberts University. Watch more episodes of *World Impact* at **worldimpact.tv**.

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