The Christian Factor In Anti-Semitism

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Proclamation: Isaiah 66:2

Recommended reading:
The Anguish of the Jews, by Edward H. Flannery

I. Roots Of Anti-Semitism (Actually Anti-Jewishness)
   A. The main, enduring impetus of anti-Semitism came from the Christian church/theology:
      1. St. Gregory (331–396 AD)
      3. St. Chrysostom (338–447 AD) – terrible statements against the Jews
   B. Three doctrines that are roots of anti-Semitism (all dating from second half of 4th century AD):
      1. The church is the true Israel (Augustine, et al)
      2. The Jews a perpetual witness of God’s curse (Augustine, et al)
      3. The Jews are guilty of Deicide – i.e., murdering God (Chrysostom, et al)
   C. Other significant dates
      1. Early church: up to 4th century
         a. Produced: contempt, calumny, animosity, segregation, forced baptisms, appropriation of children, unjust trials, pogroms, exiles, systematic persecution, theft and rapine, hatred (open or concealed), social degradation
         b. Forced baptisms and expropriation of children: Jewish children forcefully baptized, than taken from parents because it was illegal for Jews to raise Christian children
      2. 1096: First Crusade (from crux, “cross”)
         a. Crusaders massacre Jews in Europe
         b. In Jerusalem burn down a synagogue with all its Jews inside
      3. Accusations added later (12th century onwards)
         a. Ritual murder of Christians
         b. Desecration of “Host” (communion emblem)
         c. Poisoning of wells
      4. 1347–1350: The Black Death
         a. Blamed on the Jews
         b. Resultant “Image of the Jew”
      5. 1542++: Martin Luther
         Vulgar, virulent attacks on the Jews—even in his last sermon
      6. 1648–1658: Poland
         700 Jewish communities destroyed
      7. 18th Century: Voltaire
         Rationalist anti-Semitism
      8. End of 19th Century: Russia
         Pogroms begin
9. 1905++: “The Protocols of Zion”
   Spurious Jewish plot to dominate the world through finance, etc.
10. 1918–1920: Russia
    a. Civil war between Red and White armies
    b. Jews victimized by both sides
    a. The holocaust—six million Jews perish
    b. Anti-Semitism becomes racial—the Jews a cursed race
12. After 1948, 1967
    “Anti-Semitism” becomes “anti-Zionism”

II. How Shall We Respond?
A. Acknowledge the historical facts
B. Acknowledge the doctrinal root: deicide
C. Recognize the source: Satan
D. Repent of indifference
E. Confess our sins (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13)
   1. Against the “apple of God’s eye” (Zech. 2:8)
   2. We have sinned (Neh. 1:6; Dan. 9)
F. Ask God for mercy

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