

The Rising Worldwide Anti-Semitism

What are we to do?

May 2009

In a doctor's office recently I was asked what I think about present conditions in the Middle East. Without even thinking, I made a statement that surprised me. I said, "The whole world is in a pre-Nazi era."

Then I began to ponder my own outburst. Why would I have said this?

Because leaders of nations are arising who are brazenly, publicly and unashamedly calling for the destruction of Israel and the Jews. These are the "Hitlers" of our generation. Among them are Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. But Jewish hatred is rising in other nations of the world as well.

In February of this year, a time bomb was found in a synagogue in Lutsk, Ukraine. It was set to explode when the synagogue would be filled with worshippers.

In January, the security guard for a synagogue in Mariperez, Caracas, Venezuela, was attacked and tied up, while the invaders ransacked the synagogue, threw the Torah scrolls to the floor and scrawled "Damn the Jews!" epithets across the walls.

Also in January, Holland had an outburst of anti-Jewish actions. In Amsterdam, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a building housing a synagogue, and a house was torched. In Haaksbergen, windows of a synagogue were smashed. In Arnheim, a synagogue was set on fire. In The Hague, "Jews to the gas" slogans were hurled at Jews by people wearing swastikas.

In Wellington, New Zealand, Jewish graves were desecrated.

In March, Columbia University Jewish faculty member Elizabeth Midlarsky, found a Nazi swastika spray-painted on her office door, and the FBI is investigating a string of swastika incidents at George Washington University.

We are in a worldwide pre-Nazi era, as in the days leading up to World War II. The world is turning against Israel and the Jewish people, just as the prophets predicted. At some point in the future the governing authorities of every nation will turn against Jerusalem. That will be the signal of the return of Jesus to be King over Israel and Ruler of the nations in a reign of peace (See Zechariah 14).

Believers among the nations will soon be called to a decision. Will they stand with the Jewish people or will they believe the world media and turn against them? It was not the

believing church of Germany, Poland and Austria who were deceived. It was the church who had lost God's heart, including His heart for the Jewish people.

Isaiah, Daniel, Paul and Jesus all describe a coming time of great wickedness when the darkness will deepen over the entire earth, but a time when righteousness will also thrive.

"Thick darkness is over the peoples," cried Isaiah as he looked into the future, "but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you (60:2)."

There will be a time of "great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again," Jesus said, but it will be "at that time" when Jesus will be revealed from the sky (Matthew 24:21, 30).

At that time we are to be "children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which [we] shine like stars in the universe, as [we] hold out the word of truth," Paul admonished (Philippians 2:14-16). "We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us," he further cautioned (2 Corinthians 4:7).

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever," Daniel foresaw, hundreds of years before Jesus came.

Those who are wise! Those who lead many to righteousness! In the midst of great darkness! In a time of great distress! Never before equaled and never to be equaled again!

Yes, turbulent times, but also our finest hour. Stay strong! Stand on the Rock! Stand with God's people. Shine in the midst of the ever-encroaching darkness.