

**ON THE JEWS
AND
THEIR LIES**



MARTIN LUTHER

INTRODUCTION by the Translators

In preparing to read this book you are about to read some of the most sensational and thought-arresting language ever to be put in print.

The publishers of this treatise (*On the Jews and Their Lies*) by Dr. Martin Luther, the pioneer of the Protestant Reformation, do not necessarily present this work as an accurate expression of their own opinions. The chief reason for its publication is to give the reader an accurate translation of Luther's treatment of one of the most delicate and dangerous subjects for a man to discuss in public - the Jews. Many condemn Dr. Luther for this booklet, but very few have ever read it.

This translation is not presented as a sectarian work or a partisan treatise. When we set out to find the book in its original language and when we proceeded to have it translated, we were shocked and amazed at the interference encountered from a wide variety of sources. Two different translators were made the victims of intimidation, and only after a rather dramatic experience were we able to complete its translation, in spite of its brevity.

In effecting the translation of this work we became increasingly convinced that a well organised plot exists to keep this book hidden.

Luther's experience with the Jews was very disappointing. He spent many years trying to convert them. Like St Paul, he gave the Jews the first chance at the Gospel, but in later years was frustrated by their stubborn resistance, obstinate blasphemy and persistent opposition to the Gospel.

This book is published only in the interest of accuracy. If it falls into the hands of a highly competent student of 16th Century German, the publishers will appreciate any corrections which might improve the next edition of this work. The demand for this little book is so great that we expect it to go into numerous editions. We find among sincere Christian people a deep resentment over the fact that this work of one so prominent as Dr. Martin Luther has been kept so completely and so deliberately away from the eyes of millions of Protestants.

On the Jews and Their Lies

Some of Dr. Luther's language will shock the reader, but it is our intention to give to you the words of the Reformer as he wrote them, and not on the basis of our agreement, or disagreement

Regardless of any other purpose that this translation may serve, it will serve one fundamental purpose; namely to let the reader decide for himself on the basis of what the Reformer actually wrote – not just what critics who never even read the book have asserted. **Those who are offended by these words of Dr. Luther should note that they reflect his outrage over blasphemies against Christ.**

The Publishers

Note: The readers of this work are warned not to conclude that the Luther viewpoint concerning the Jews is necessarily Protestant. Numerous popes use language as strong, if not stronger, than the language used by Dr. Luther. In fact, ghettos were established by papal edict, and the segregation of Christian communities originated in edicts coming out of Rome and Constantinople. The purpose of this note is to inform the readers that the problem has never been uniquely Protestant, Orthodox or Catholic, or in any way sectarian. Men of all faiths have agreed with Luther and men of all faiths have disagreed with Luther.

Individuals who doubt that these writings originated with Dr. Martin Luther may find the original language among Martin Luther's works in the Congressional Library, Washington, D.C., in any one of several accredited Lutheran seminaries and at Luther House in Wittenberg. Numerous clergymen of many denominations are aware of the existence of this work. So far as we are able to ascertain this is the first English translation to be published in the United States.

Note: This published work by Luther was among the last of his writings. Luther died, perhaps of poisoning, in the prime of his life, having lived only to the age of 63.

On the Jews and Their Lies

by Dr. Martin Luther

Grace and Peace In The Lord

Dear Sir and Good Friend

I have received the 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 Jesus Christ, and of Mary, His mother) whereby he means to overthrow the foundation of our Faith.

To you and to him I give the following 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 I have found impossible. Nor does it do any good among the Jews, wherever they may be, and they have generally become worse. Also, because they became so hardened to God's judgements 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 of a definite time (of relief) through fervent, eternal crying and screaming to God (as they suppose). If God's judgements do not help, we might as well figure that our talking and interpreting may help much less.

NO USE TO QUARREL

Therefore, a Christian should be confident and not quarrel with the Jews. But if you think you must, or desire, to talk to them, do not say more than this: "Do you hear, Jew, do you know that your principality, together with the Temple and priesthood, destroyed now for 1460 years? For this year, as we Christians write after the birth of Christ 1543, it is exactly 1469 years, and is thus going on 1500 years since Vespasianus 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 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 have certainly been rejected by God and are not His people any more. He 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 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 a 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 fulfilment 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.”*** (Luke 21: 20, 22)

In short: 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 becomes ashamed, so much the better!

They hold one principle on which they depend and in which they trust so much. That is, that they are born of the highest people on earth, of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, etc. We *Goyim* (Gentiles) 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 a human manner). He must hear how they exalt themselves and praise themselves for separating from the heathen, and born of the holy fathers and having been chosen 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* (Gentiles); thirdly, that they were created as men and not as women. Such foolishness they do not have from Israel, but from the *Goyim*. For thus the historians write that the Greek Plato daily gave thanks - such blasphemy and haughtiness. For Plato also praised his gods for these three things, that he was man and not an animal, a man and not a woman, a Greek and not a non-Greek or barbarian. Such is the praying of a fool and the praise of a blasphemous barbarian; just as the Mals 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 their blood and the tribes of Israel. In the old Testament they lost many a battle on that account (No Jew understands this.) All the prophets rebuked them because of it, for it is a proud, carnal assumption without spirit or faith; but they have also murdered and persecuted others because of it

CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL

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

This was unbearable for them, that they are the children of the devil. They cannot bear it yet. For if they would have to give up this foundation (being Abraham’s children), everything that they have built upon it would have to fall. This self-praise is refuted from Scripture as unfounded presumptions. But this will I say for the strengthening of our Faith. For the Jews will not abandon this pride and this glory of their supposed superiority and blood. 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 would have to do away with their idolatry and blasphemy 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 superiority. For such boastings constantly increases God’s wrath upon them. But they refuse to repent, nor do they humble themselves, except a few Messianic individuals whom God draws especially and redeems them from terrible destruction.

THEY EXALT THEMSELVES

Their 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... They are pictured in it in a masterful manner before all heathen; for they are the very people who always practised such ungodly manner of idolatry, and false doctrine, and have had uncircumcised hearts, as Moses, and all prophets lament over them; and for that reason the Jews killed the prophets. They are wicked and

hardened people who did not suffer themselves to be converted from their evil to do good deeds, through the preaching, teaching, chiding of the prophets, as Scripture testifies everywhere. Yet they want to be respected as God's people! They are boastful, proud fools who to this day cannot do more than to praise themselves because of their special status. They 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 misinterpretations. And all the anxious sighing, longing and hope in their hearts is directed to the time when they would like to deal with us Christians as they dealt with the gentiles in times past.... O how they love that part of the book of Esther, which so nicely agrees with their bloodthirsty, revengeful and murderous desires and hopes! The sun never did shine on a more bloodthirsty and revengeful people as they who imagine themselves to be the people of God who desire to and think they must murder and crush us gentiles. 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 first demonstrated against Christ and 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.]

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 not be so severely condemned. They are condemned because 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, honour His Name, do not commit murder, do not commit adultery, etc... However, they are sinning and are condemned. Let them boast like the Jews, that God has sanctified them through His Law, and chosen them before all people as His special holy nation.

Such is also the glory of the Jews when they boast in their schools and Synagogues, praising themselves, while they are well aware that they are keeping none of God's Law. They are filled with pride, envy, usury, avarice and all meanness, even those among them who act very pious and holy in their public prayers. For they are so blinded that they not only practise usury (that I should be silent about their other vices), but teach it as a right which God had commanded Moses, in which as in other ways also, they lie about God in a miserable manner.

THEY MOCK THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, MAKE OF GOD A FOOL

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

Or, if in this world a beautiful woman would parade in a wreath (token of virginity) and follow all manners, rights and behaviour of maidenly

modesty and virginity, but underneath were nothing but a nasty, shameful whore transgressing the Ten Commandments, what would that 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 an openly public whore! Thus God always condemned Israel as a mean whore through His prophets, because they practised all manner of idolatry and wickedness under the show of outward religion and sanctity. As Hosea Chapter 2:4,5 especially laments: ***“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 a 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.”*

Therefore, they might as well keep from boasting about outward obedience to the traditions 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: ***“Where the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch.”*** More you cannot learn from them. To lack understanding of God’s Commandments and yet be proud and overbearing towards the gentiles who are much better than they are before God, because they do not have such pride of false holiness, and yet do much more of the Law than the proud Jews and condemned blasphemers and liars.

THEIR SCHOOLS ARE 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 practised 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 Basiliskus (Medieval legend.) who with his face poisons and kills people. 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 chosen people of the fathers and circumcised (no matter how mean they otherwise might know themselves to be in gross vices) which service they think they have rendered hereby. Watch 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 into exile 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 1400 years ago, that they might comprehend how God did not exempt, nor will he spare 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) is not bowed, nor has their iron forehead become red with shame. They constantly remained stiff-necked, blinded, hardened, and immovable. Still we hope that God will bring them back in repentance again and give everything back to them.

DEVIL POSSESSED

They do not see and hear that God had given them everything for the purpose that they should keep His Commandments; therefore they should be His people. Just as they boast of their chosenness, but that they should keep His Commandments, for which purpose He had chosen them. But they do not see and regard this. They boast about

their circumcision, but the purpose for which they were circumcised - to keep God's Commandments - does not seem to mean anything to them. They know how to boast of the Law, Temple, city, country and principality; but disregard the purpose for which they had it. The devil has possessed these people with all his demons; that they always boast of outward things, their gifts, their accomplishments and deeds, which is to offer up empty shells without the 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 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 almost 1500 years! Still they hope to get back there because of their own merits despite the decree from God. Even if they were to return to the land and Jerusalem itself - unless it is in repentance and Faith in Christ - it would be meaningless.

There is no promise for that on which they could lean for comfort, except what they smear into the Scriptures according to their own imaginations... Thus the Jews continue in their wilfulness, 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 servant to the Jews in me, because here in Wittenberg we began to study 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 of Theology, 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*”, ie. a hanged malefactor. Therefore, I do not care to have anything to do with any such Jew who maligns Christ.

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 and scientific citations, which for lack of space cannot be restated here, although they are powerful and correspond with Luther’s essence and often strike the nail on the head. From the wealth of 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.***” - (“All nations” is equal to “gentiles”). By “Desire of Nations” the ancient people meant the “Messiah”]

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 call it a “little while,” because they do not yet know the end of such a “long while”.

GOLD AND SILVER IS THEIR MESSIAH

He will never come in the way they expect for He has missed the “little while” and has gotten into the great long while. 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 ‘Hemdath,’ by itself, and crucify it. Saying it should not designate ‘Messiah,’ but should denote all the gold and silver of the heathen! Because the word ‘Hemdath,’ 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 nations shall come.” What is that? What do the nations desire? Gold, silver, and jewels. You may ask why the Jews insert such interpretations here? I will say: Their breath stinks for the gold and silver of the nation, since no people under the sun always have been, still are, and always will remain, more avaricious than 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 the Jews.” Thus wherever they can distort Scripture to their insatiable avarice (desire for money) they wickedly do so. You would think that God and His prophets did not know of anything else to prophesy than how the fathomless avarice of the Jews could be satisfied with the silver and gold of the nations!

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 will 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

On the Jews and Their Lies

who earnestly desires to be a Jew. There may be some among them who believe what the cow or the goose believes. But most of them are obsessed 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. 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. If they obtain power, believers will suffer under their hands. 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 it is. Do you not want to believe me? Then read Lyra, Burgen and others, honourable and truthful men. If they had not written it, Scripture reveals that the seeds of the serpent and of the woman are at enmity, and there is no concord between God and the devil. Blasphemy and hostility to Christ is also found in gross form in their writings and prayer books.

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 our land and highways, markets and streets. Princes and government sit by, snore and have their mugs (mouth) open, letting the Jews take from their purse and chest, steal and rob from us whatever they will. That is, they permit themselves and their subjects to be sucked dry and reduced to beggars with their own money, through the usury of the Jewish bankers.

For the Jews, as foreigners, certainly should have nothing; and what they have, certainly should 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 our goods and are lords in our land, where they are in exile under the judgement of God!

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 said to be 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, are 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 'Hemdath' (Hebrew: desire, possessions) of the Gentiles!"

Well, all this we accept from them while we are protecting them. Yet they still curse us!

[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 this time, which explains his changed attitude over against the Jew question.]

Do not their Talmud and rabbis write that it is no sin if a Jew kills a Gentile, but it is sin if he kills a brother in Israel! It is no sin if he does not keep his oath to a Gentile. Therefore, to steal and rob (as they do with their usury) from a Gentile, is a divine service. For they hold that they cannot be too hard on us nor sin against us, because they are the chosen and circumcised; we however, are cursed *Goyim*. And they are the masters of the world and we are their servants, yea, their cattle! In short, as the Rabbis have taught them, so also the Evangelists tell us (Matthew 15:6, "**And honour 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 effectively abolished the Fifth Commandment about honouring 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***”) and practised 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.”***

A DEN OF THIEVES

How they cunningly preach and expound 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 have made of God’s House a den of thieves. Now figure it out for yourself what a fine honour that was; how the House that was once full of glory that God had to call His 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, are avaricious, practise 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 honourably; not only about God’s government and future life, but also about temporal virtues. They write that man is by nature obliged 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 has ever come into the hearts of the Jews.

Should someone think I am saying too much - I am not saying too much, but much too little! For I see in writings how they curse the *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 think this to be 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 has seldom occurred), 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 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 justification 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:]

Accordingly they treat His (Jesus’) Name. Jesus in Hebrew means “Healer” or “Helper.” The ancient Saxons used a name: “Helprich” or “Hilprich,” which sounds like the Name Jesus which we now 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 cipher letters, as if I were to take the letters CLU as ciphers and make the word CLU out of them, that is 155 (CLU Roman ciphers: C= 100, L=50, V =5 = 155. V and U originally are the same). Thus they call Him 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, Margaritham . What devil’s work they practise 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 wilkom,” that is: “devil, come!” or:

“There comes a devil.” Since we do not understand the Hebrew, they secretly practise 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 Jews 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 wilfulness, 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). Sabastianus Muenster also points out in his Biblia, that there is a poisonous Rabbi who does not call the dear mother “Maria,” but “Haria,” a heap of mud. And who knows what more they have among themselves of which we know nothing!

[Luther now shows in elaborate, scientific discussion about the Messiah and Bar - Koehab, his thorough knowledge of the Jewish character, the writings and hopes of Judah and finally arrives at their so-called “captivity” among the Christians.]

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 Christians, which is the clear truth. 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 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.

Why, they hold us Christians in captivity in our own country; they let us work in the sweat of our brows, while they appropriate money and goods, sitting behind the stove, are lazy, gluttons and guzzlers, living well and easy on goods for which we have worked. They keep us and our goods in captivity through their cursed usury, mock us and spit on us, because we must labour 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 labour! And to thank us and reward us, they curse our Lord!

ENSLAVED 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 with blasphemes that curse God!

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 extort. Still they complain that we restrict them. Yes, we have and restrict, as I would like to limit my rheumatism, furuncles 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 and all they would like to have with them!

WHY DO THEY HATE CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE?

Since it is certain that we do not hold them captive, how do we deserve that such are so angry with us? We do not call their wives whores as they call Mary, 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 do not steal and mutilate their children; do not poison their water. We do not thirst after their blood. With what do we deserve such terrible wrath, envy and hatred of such people?

It is as 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 have shed of our Lord, and the Christians, for hundreds of years after the destruction of Jerusalem. That we do not slay them, but for all their murder, cursing, blaspheming, and disgracing, permit them to still 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 have any real cause to hate us *curse Goyim*, to curse us and seek our final, thorough and eternal ruin?

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THEIR HATE AND PERVERSITY?

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

We should not suffer them to be among us while we know about such lying, blaspheming and cursing, 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 all the Jews. We must practise great mercy with prayer and godliness that we might rescue some 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. 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 saints. For what we so far have tolerated in ignorance (I myself did not know it), may God forgive us.

Now that we know it, however, and 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. Moses writes in

Deuteronomy that where a city practised 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.]

Secondly, that you also refuse to let them own houses among us. For they practise 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. Without ceasing they howl bloody murder and complain about us.

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

Fourthly, that you prohibit their Rabbis to teach. 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, which 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 wilfulness 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 Kochab. [Star Bar-Kochba, "Star Son," false Messiah, was leader of the last rebellion of the Jews against the Romans 132 to 135 A.D.]

He practises 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. Usury was prohibited by Moses. Where they are not lords in their own country but over strange lands, they 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 and extorted 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 flo (measure of money) according to his person, that he may begin to support his poor wife and child 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 BETRAY MOSES

Whenever they boast that Moses had permitted them to practise usury against strangers, (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.*") Otherwise they have not one verse in their favour - they are to be given the following answer: There are two kinds of 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 people, not Moses' people. 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?**" They cried out: "**We have no king but Caesar.**" Such obedience to Caesar, God had not commanded them, they did this of their own accord. Thereupon when Caesar demanded obedience, they resisted and rebelled against him, and 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 remaining dregs of the Jews, of whom Moses knows nothing. They also know nothing of Moses, for they do not keep one passage in God's Law. They must first come back into the land of Canaan and become Moses' people and keep his Commandments and subdue heathens and strangers. There they can practise usury as much as strangers will stand for.

Since, however, they are disobedient to Moses in a strange land under the ruler, they should keep the ruler's law and not practise usury against their superiors until they become obedient to Moses. For he was not sent to the Egyptians, 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.

Insofar as the priesthood, ceremonies, principality, which were mostly built by Moses, have fallen, now almost 1500 years ago, it is certain that his law, which was in existence before that time, also has fallen and come to an end, therefore the Kaiser's Jews should be treated according to the Kaiser's law and not be treated like Moses' Jews of whom for 1400 years none have existed. For they have no right in a strange land, where they might practise usury.

Finally: young, strong Jews should be given flail, axe, spade, spindle, and earn their bread in the sweat of their brow as imposed upon Adam's children, Gen. 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 chosen people, devour our bread in laziness behind the stove and then boast that they are masters over the Christians; but their laziness should be resisted and put to labour.

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; then expelled them from their country. For, 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 where 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, that is: subjects must give money and suffer themselves to be fleeced for the Jews so they can remain in the land free to lie, slander, curse and steal.

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 practise all manner of wickedness? On top of all that they 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 flo, and in return steal a thousand, the 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 Haman, kings, 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.

BOUGHT WITH OUR OWN MONEY

The traitor Judas would be valued a much greater saint than we. Yea, if every Jew could annually give 100,000 flo; yet we should not permit them to have power to blaspheme, curse, spit upon one single Christian and practise 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 demons and cause them to laugh through their noses like a sow grinning, but deserving real wrath before God.

ADVICE TO RULERS

To sum up, dear princes and lords who have Jews under yourselves: 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, immorality, perversity, abuse and 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 practise 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 to extort.

Let us remember that we are daily fighting against the Muslim Turk and that therefore are much in need of getting rid of our own sins.

We need 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

PASTORS MUST WARN THEIR PEOPLE

And you my dear sirs and friends, who are pastors and preachers: I hereby wish to have dutifully reminded you 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 their lies and avoid them.

DO NOT HARM THEM

Not that we should ever 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 over 1500 years. In this respect you may let the government deal with them. Whether or not the government does anything about it, every individual should take care of himself and his conscience.

THEY DESIRE THE DEATH OF 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. The Jews have prayed and cursed before God that I, my wife and children, and all Christians should be stabbed and perish in the most miserable manner. The Jews would like to do so themselves if they could, that they might come into possession of our goods

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

WE DO NOT COMPEL THEM TO BELIEVE

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 neighbourly 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, for which they curse, belittle 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 1500 years have been, and still are, our plague, pestilence and misfortune.

ADVICE TO PREACHERS

Especially you who are preachers: where there are Jews, diligently insist that your princes and regents remember the duties of their office as they owe it to God, and compel the Jews to work, forbid them to practise usury and stop their blaspheming, vices and cursing. For if they punish thieves, robbers, murderers, slanderers and other vices among us Christians, why should the devil's children among the Jews be free to do such things against us?

Do we not suffer more from them than the Wais 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 mistreated by the Jews. They are our guests; we are the hosts. Thus they rob and deprive us, recline on our neck, the lazy and idle bellies. They are gluttons in eating and drinking, they have easy days in our homes and as a reward curse our Lord Christ, Churches, 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

On the Jews and Their Lies

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 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 our country, and be told that they move back to their own land and possessions in Jerusalem and there lie, curse, blaspheme, spit, murder, steal, rob, practise 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 the 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 practise such abominations, for 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, 11 Kings, 20. In like manner they may now want to be lenient with the Jews, these blood-thirsty enemies of our Faith and freedom, to earn heaven therewith. But for the Jews to hold us in captivity, to plague, torture and inflict all misery on us poor Christians with all such devilish cruelties, that we should suffer this is considered good and Christian indeed, especially where there is money which they have stolen from us.

JESUS CALLED THE JEWS CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL

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 vipers and children of the devil.”*** As His forerunner, John the Baptist also says. Now such rulers and such merciful saints who wish the Jews well, will be the last to let us alone. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who, of course, knows all hearts better than such merciful saints: says that these Jews are a generation of vipers and children of the devil (Matthew 23 and John 8).

SERVING THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST

Whoever has a desire to lodge, nurse, and honour 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 demons to blaspheme our dear Lord and the precious Blood with which He bought us. In that way he will be a perfect Christian, filled with deeds of mercy, for which Christ will reward him on Judgement Day - with the Jews - and eternal hell fire!

If that be rudely spoken it is in answer to the rude cursing of the Jews!

THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST REJECT GOD THE FATHER

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 honour the Son as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth 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 that they openly blaspheme God the Father when they blaspheme and curse our Lord Jesus.

If God would say to us now or on the Day of Judgement: Do you hear, you who 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:]

REJECT THEIR LIES

Accordingly, we should not joke about this matter, but very sincerely find counsel against it and save our souls from the Jews and their lies against Christ; that is, from eternal death. This counsel is in the first place: that we refuse them the right to have synagogues, 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 for a time we had tolerated in ignorance.

DESTROY BLASPHEMOUS BOOKS

Secondly: That all their blasphemous books be taken away; prayer books, Talmuds, and not one page of it be left. Let us consider those who will become converted. For Jews 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.

DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO BLASPHEME GOD

Thirdly: That among us and in our possessions they be forbidden openly to pray and to teach. 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 in their heart and mouth they call God Father Nebel Borik, the same as they call His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For as they call and dishonour the Son, so the Father is likewise called and dishonoured, 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.

FORBID ALL BLASPHEMY

Fourthly: That they be forbidden to mention the Name of God before our ears, for we cannot suffer that with a clear conscience. When with their blasphemous mouth and heart they 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 hears 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 honour of God and the salvation of us all (also of the Jews).

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE

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 honour 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 obliged 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 Kochab 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.

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: Keep your false messiah or give him to anyone who will have him. Me, however, it is better to be a living sow than an eternally dying human being. Yes, as Christ says: ***“It were better for that man if he had never been born!”***

JESUS CHRIST IS THE TRUE MESSIAH

If, however, I had a Messiah who could help 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 Him 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 our 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 lust for wealth and die with them.

BEWARE OF THEIR BLASPHEMY AND USURY

In my opinion it will have to come to this: if we are to stay clean of

the Jews blaspheming and not become part 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 long proofs from Scripture against the accusation of the Jews against the Christian doctrine.]

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.

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

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

AN AFFLICTION TO MANKIND

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

Maybe mild-hearted and gentle Christians will believe I am too rigorous and too 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 more adept at mockery than I and possess a god who is master of 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 practise all kinds of dishonesty and injury. (Extract from the pamphlet "Von Schem Hamphoras und vom Geschlecht Christi." 1548.)

THE JEWISH DANGER

Those Jews professing to be surgeons and 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 succour 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 deliver 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 **"Warning against the Jews"**

"...Besides, you 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 after day... for that reason you, Lords 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 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 honour and belongings...For that reason I cannot have patience nor carry on more conversation 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)

[The divergencies between the Counts of Mansfeld which were the cause of his journey. Held at Eisleben, a few days before his death, February 1546.

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

”If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition, every portion of the Truth of God’s Word, except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace – if he flinches at that point.”



“I am much afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them on the hearts of the youth.

I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount.

Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.”



”Unless I am convinced by Scripture, or by clear reasoning, that I am in error - for popes and councils have often erred and contradicted themselves - I cannot recant, for I am subject to the Scriptures I have quoted; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. It is unsafe and dangerous to do anything against one’s conscience. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. So help me God. Amen.”



JEWISH SLANDER AGAINST JESUS CHRIST in THE BIBLE

“Therefore some of the Pharisees said, ‘This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath...” John 9:16.

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!...” Matthew 11:19

“...they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind.”
Mark 3:21

“The people answered and said, ‘You have a demon.” John 7:20

“And many of them said, ‘He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?” John 10:20

“Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, ‘He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses?...” Matthew 26:65

“And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him.”
Luke 23:10

“...but the Jews cried out, saying, ‘If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.” John 19:12

“Pilate said to them, ‘What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified!’ Then the governor said, ‘Why, what evil has He done?’ But they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” Matthew 27:22-23

“And they all cried out at once, saying, ‘Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas.” Luke 23:18

“But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.” Luke 23:23

“And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children.” Matthew 27:25

“But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. Pilate answered and said to them again, ‘What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?’ So they cried out again, ‘Crucify Him!’ Then Pilate said to them, ‘Why, what evil has He done?’ But they cried out all the more, ‘Crucify Him!’ So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.” Mark 15:11-15

JESUS ON THE JEWS

*“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in Heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. ‘But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.** ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.** ‘Woe to you, **blind guides**, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the Temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the Temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gold or the Temple that sanctifies the gold? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the Temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by Heaven, swears by the Throne of God and by Him who sits on it. ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and **have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice and mercy and faith.** These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of*

the cup and dish, but inside they are **full of extortion and self-indulgence**. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are **full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness**. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside **you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness**. 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the Prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the Prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are **sons of those who murdered the Prophets**. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. **Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?** Therefore, indeed, I send you Prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. **'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the Prophets and stones those who are sent to her!** How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate." Matthew 23:2-38

"He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: **This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**" Mark 7:6-7

"Then He charged them, saying, **'Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.'**" Mark 8:15

"He answered him and said, **'O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.'**" Mark 9:19

"For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being

On the Jews and Their Lies

betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” Mark 9:31

*“...When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves... In response Jesus said to it, ‘**Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.**’ And His disciples heard it.”* Mark 11:13-14

*“Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, ‘Rabbi, look! **The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.**’”* Mark 11:20-21

*“Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘**The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone.** This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?’”* Mark 12:9-11

*“And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for **they knew He had spoken the parable against them...**”* Mark 12:12

*“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘**Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?**’”* Mark 12:24

*“Then He said to them in His teaching ‘Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, **who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.**”* Mark 12:38-40

“But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.” Mark 13:9

“Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’” Luke 13:7

“You judge according to the flesh...” John 8:15

*"...'**You know neither Me nor My Father.** If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.'" John 8:19*

*"You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that **you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He,** you will die in your sins." John 8:23-24*

*"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but **you seek to kill Me, because My Word has no place in you.**" John 8:37*

*"They answered and said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.' Then they said to Him, 'We were not born of fornication; we have one Father - God.' Jesus said to them, '**If God were your Father, you would love Me,** for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My Word. **You are of your father the devil,** and the desires of your father you want to do. He was **a murderer from the beginning,** and does not stand in the truth, because **there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? **He who is of God hears God's Words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.**" John 8:39-47*

"You dishonour Me..." John 8:49

"Yet you have not known Him..." John 8:55

"...a liar like you..." John 8:55

*"...I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are **a synagogue of satan.**" Revelation 2:9*

*"Indeed I will make **those of the synagogue of satan, who say they are Jews** and are not, but lie - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere..." Revelation 3:9-10*

JEWISH HATRED FOR CHRISTIANS in THE BOOK OF ACTS

“But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, ‘It was necessary that the Word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.’” Acts 13:45-46

“But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.” Acts 13:50

“But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.” Acts 14:2

“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.” Acts 14:19

“But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.” Acts 17:5

“But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the Word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.”
Acts 17:13

*“Therefore **bear fruit worthy of repentance**, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”* Luke 3:8

*“**Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of One, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ.**”* Galatians 3:16

QUOTES FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER

"IF I PROFESS WITH THE LOUDEST VOICE AND CLEAREST EXPOSITION, EVERY PORTION OF THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, EXCEPT PRECISELY THAT POINT WHICH THE WORLD AND THE DEVIL ARE AT THAT MOMENT ATTACKING, THEN I AM NOT CONFESSING CHRIST, HOWEVER BOLDLY I MAY BE PROFESSING HIM. WHERE THE BATTLE RAGES, THERE THE LOYALTY OF THE SOLDIER IS PROVED; AND TO BE STEADY ON ALL THE BATTLE FRONT BESIDES IS MERE FLIGHT AND DISGRACE – IF HE FLINCHES AT THAT POINT."

"I AM MUCH AFRAID THAT SCHOOLS WILL PROVE TO BE WIDE GATES TO HELL UNLESS THEY DILIGENTLY LABOUR IN EXPLAINING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, ENGRAVING THEM ON THE HEARTS OF THE YOUTH. I ADVISE NO ONE TO PLACE HIS CHILD WHERE THE SCRIPTURES DO NOT REIGN PARAMOUNT. EVERY INSTITUTION IN WHICH MEN ARE NOT CONSTANTLY OCCUPIED WITH THE WORD OF GOD MUST BECOME

"UNLESS I AM CONVINCED BY SCRIPTURE, OR BY CLEAR REASONING, THAT I AM IN ERROR - FOR POPES AND COUNCILS HAVE OFTEN ERRED AND CONTRADICTED THEMSELVES - I CANNOT RECAT, FOR I AM SUBJECT TO THE SCRIPTURES I HAVE QUOTED; MY CONSCIENCE IS CAPTIVE TO THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST ONE'S CONSCIENCE. HERE I STAND, I CANNOT DO OTHERWISE. SO HELP ME GOD. AMEN."