



A Calendar of Jewish persecution



**A timeline of the struggle
of the Jewish people**

Many times, Christian friends ask, "Why is it so difficult for our Jewish neighbours to see the truth in Christianity?"

Ask yourself the question, "Could it be that historical experiences have caused them to question the reality of Christ in the lives of those who claim to be His followers?"

The following list is not exhaustive - but we believe is representative of the persecution of the Jews from 70 AD until now.

70 AD JERUSALEM DESTROYED

1,100,000 Jews were killed and 97,000 taken into captivity.

115 MESOPOTAMIA

EGYPT, CYRENE AND CYPRUS: Jews rebel. Jews and Romans inflicted many barbaric atrocities on each other, causing the death of several hundreds of thousands of Romans and Jews.

132 - 135

THE BAR KOCHBA REBELLION: (Bar Kochba was a false Messiah). Caused the death of 500,000 Jews; thousands were sold into slavery or taken into captivity.

135

ROMAN EMPEROR HADRIAN: commenced his persecution of the Jews. Jerusalem established as a pagan city. Erection of a Jupiter temple on the temple mountain (Moriah) and a temple to Venus on Golgotha. Jews were forbidden to practice circumcision, the reading of the Law, eating of unleavened bread at Passover or any Jewish festival. Infringement of this edict brought the death penalty.

315

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT: established 'Christianity' as the state religion throughout the Roman empire; issued many anti-Jewish laws.

379 - 395

THEODOSIUS THE GREAT: expelled Jews from any official state position or place of honour. Permitted the destruction of their synagogues if by so doing, it served a religious purpose.

613 SPAIN

Jews persecuted. All Jews who refused to be baptised had to leave the country. A few years later those who remained, were dispossessed, declared as slaves and given to pious 'Christians' of position. All children 7 years of over were taken from their parents and given to receive a 'Christian' education.

640, 721, 873

BYZANTINE EMPIRE: Jews forcibly converted to Christianity.

1096 GERMANY

Bloody persecutions of the Jews at the beginning of the First Crusade. Along the cities of the Rhine River alone, 12,000 Jews were killed. They were branded second only to the Moslems as the enemies of Christendom.

1099 JERUSALEM

Jewish community massacred by Crusaders.

1121 FLANDERS (NOW PART OF BELGIUM): Jews driven out. They were not to return, not to be tolerated until they repented of the guilt of killing Jesus Christ.

1130 LONDON

Jews had to pay compensation of one million marks for allegedly killing a sick man.

1146 SPAIN

Jews forcibly converted to Christianity.

1146 - 1147 GERMANY

Renewed persecution of Jews at the beginning of the Second Crusade. The French monk, Rudolph, called for their destruction as an introduction to this Crusade. It was only because of the intervention of Emperor Conrad who declared Nuerenberg and a small fortress places of refuge for the Jews, and that of Abbot Bernard of Clairvaux, that the result was not quite as devastating as at the time of the First Crusade.

1181 FRANCE

King Philip banished the Jews from his domain. They were permitted to sell all movable possessions, but the immovable such as land and houses reverted to the king. Seven years later he called the Jews back.

1189 ENGLAND

At the coronation of Richard the Lionheart, unexpected persecution of the Jews broke out. Most Jewish houses in London were burned and many Jews killed. All their possessions were claimed by the Crown. Richard's successor alone, relieved the Jews of more than 8 million marks.

1215 ROME: At the IV Lateran Church Council, restrictions were issued against the Jews.

1290 ENGLAND

Edward I banished the Jews – 16,000 left.

1298 FRANCONIA, BAVARIA AND AUSTRIA

Persecution of Jews. The Nobleman Kalbfleish alleged that he had received a divine order to destroy all the Jews. 140 Jewish communities were destroyed, and more than 100,000 Jews were mercilessly killed.

1306 FRANCE

King Philip the Fair banished the Jews – 100,000 left the country.

1320 FRANCE

40,000 shepherds dedicated themselves for the Shepherd Crusade to free Palestine from the Moslems. Under the influence of criminals and land speculators, they destroyed 120 Jewish communities.

1321 GUIENNE, FRANCE

Jews were accused of having incited outlaws to poison wells and fountains in the district. 5,000 were burnt at the stake.

1348 THROUGHOUT EUROPE

Jews were blamed for the plague. In Strausberg 2,000 Jews were burned. In Maintz 6,000 were killed in the most gruesome fashion, in Erfut 3,000 and in Worms 400 Jews burned themselves in their homes.

1355 TOLEDO, SPAIN

12,000 Jews were massacred by a mob.

1349 - 1360 HUNGARY

Jews expelled.

1370 BRABANT

Jews blamed for having defiled the 'Host' (wafer used in the Mass). The accused were burned alive. Again all Jews were

banned from FLANDERS, and until the year 1820, every 15 years a feast was kept to celebrate the event.

1391 SPAIN

Further persecutions. In Seville and 70 other Jewish communities, Jews were cruelly massacred and their bodies dismembered.

1394 FRANCE

Jews banished again.

1420 TOULOUSE, FRANCE

Jewish community annihilated.

1421 AUSTRIA

Jews expelled.

1453 POLAND

The King was persuaded by the Franciscan monk, Capistano, to withdraw all rights of citizenship from the Jews.

1478 SPAIN

The Inquisition was directed against the Jews.

1492 SPAIN

Jews banished – 300,000 refused to be 'baptised' into the Church of Rome – left Spain penniless. Many migrated to the Moslem country, Turkey, where they found tolerance and a welcome.

1495 LITHUANIA

Jews expelled.

1497 SICILY AND SARDINIA

Jews expelled.

1497 PORTUGAL

Jews banished. King Manuel, generally friendly to them, under pressure from Spain, instigated forced baptism to keep

them. 20,000 Jews desired to leave the country. Many were ultimately declared slaves.

1502 RHODES

All Jews forcibly converted, expelled or taken into slavery.

1516 VENICE

First Ghetto established.

1540 NAPLES

Jews banished, then 10 years later, from Genoa and Venice.

1593 VATICAN STATE

Jews banished by Pope Clement VIII.

1648 - 1656 POLAND

100,000 Jews massacred in the Chmielnicki massacres.

1727 RUSSIA

Jews expelled.

1747 RUSSIA

Jews expelled.

1794 RUSSIA

Jews restricted. Jewish men were forced to serve 25 years in the Russian military. Many hundreds of thousands of Jews left Russia.

1838 MESHED, PERSIA

Entire Jewish community forcibly converted to Islam.

1846 - 1878 VATICAN STATE

All former restrictions against the Jews were forcibly re-enforced by Pope Pius IX.

1871 - 1921 RUSSIA

Anti-Jewish programs.

1882 - 1890 RUSSIA

750,000 Jews were forced to re-settle in the Pale.

1891 MOSCOW AND ST. PETERSBURG

Jews expelled.

1903 RUSSIA: Renewed restrictions for Jews.

Frequent pogroms (massacres): general impoverishment of Russian Jewry.

1917 TO THE PRESENT DAY- SOVIET UNION

Jews denied the right of national identity.

1933 HITLER – GERMANY

Commencement of persecution of Jews. Inception of the systematic destruction of 6,000,000 Jews throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

1939 - 45 THE HOLOCAUST

Murder of six million Jews by German Nazis and their European collaborators.

1941 BAGHDAD

Jewish community attacked by mobs - 200 dead.

1946

Nikita Khrushchev, then the first secretary of Communist party of Ukraine, closes many synagogues (the number declines from 450 to 60) and prevents Jewish refugees from returning to their homes.

1946

KIELCE, POLAND: 37 Jews were massacred and 80 wounded.

MAY 14, 1948

The day that the new State of Israel was declared, the armies of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq invaded.

1956

Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, and blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba. Israel responded on October 29. by invading the Sinai Peninsula with British and French support.

1948 - 1949

More than 250,000 Jews are made refugees from the countries that surround Israel. Most were absorbed into Israel.

1952 August 12–13

Thirteen most prominent Soviet Yiddish writers, poets, actors and other intellectuals were executed.

1967 THE 6 DAY WAR

Egypt mobilized Sinai units, crossing UN lines and massed on Israel's southern border. On June 5, the Israeli Air Force destroyed most of the Egyptian Air Force in a surprise attack, then turned east to destroy the Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi air forces.

1960's - 1989

Due to the 1968 Polish political crisis thousands of Jews were forced by the communist authorities to leave Poland.

1970's

Were marked by a large number of major, international terrorist attacks, including the Lod Airport massacre, the Munich Olympics Massacre in 1972, and the Entebbe Hostage Taking in 1976, with over 100 Jewish hostages of different nationalities kidnapped and held in Uganda. Also state-sponsored persecution in the Soviet Union prompted tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

1973 October 6

Syria and Egypt staged a surprise attack on Israel on Yom Kippur. The Israeli military were caught off guard and unprepared, and took about three days to fully mobilize. This led other Arab states to send troops to reinforce the Egyptians and Syrians.

1979 - 1980's

Iranian Jews were persecuted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2000

Firebombing of a New York synagogue.
2002: Massive European wave of attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions between March and May, with largest number of attacks occurring in France.

2004

April United Talmud Torah school library was firebombed in Montreal, Canada.

2005

A group of 15 members of the State Duma of Russia demands that Judaism and Jewish organizations be banned from the country. In June, 500 prominent Russians demand that the state prosecutor investigate ancient Jewish texts as "anti-Russian" and ban Judaism.

2014 UK

Following a recent spate of anti-Semitic incidents across Britain, a sign was found posted on the window of a Jewish charity shop in Southgate, North London, reading "death to the Jews".

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Provide Biblical teaching events

Produce, publish and distribute Christian material

Provide support and relieve need, hardship and distress in Israel and elsewhere

The work has now continued for over 50 years.