

# The Concurrently Companion



## Episode 48: A Christian response to anti-Semitism

### Topic introduction

On October 7, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel sparking the Israel/Hamas war. Today, we focus on one specific theme emerging from that war and spreading beyond the borders of Israel and into surrounding nations, Europe, and the United States: a growing number of incidents of anti-Semitism or harassment of Jewish people.

*Key terms: anti-Semitism, Jewish/Semitic, Israel, scapegoating, Holocaust, elites, ultra/hyper nationalism, Nazism, Neo-Marxism, Hamas, Zionism/Zionists, Islamism/Islamists*

### Questions

What is anti-Semitism? How do the Bible and Christian history speak towards it?

What philosophies and religions (worldviews) undergird or promote anti-Semitism? What do they have in common?

How do we respond to it when we see it cropping up in our own communities, or even our own families? What should our response be as parents and educators?

What is a discipleship/missional response in this area? Where do we need to push back against social media becoming our children's "disciplers"? Where is my children's attention—what are their hearts turned towards?

When young men are influenced strongly by online forums, what types of behaviors do we witness? What does that look like for young women? [See past discussions on *Concurrently* for some balanced discussion in these areas: school shooters, video games, transgenderism, TikTok influencers, etc.]

How might protecting our children from the brokenness and pain of history end up compounding that very brokenness? What do we hope for and push towards in discipleship when we give our attention to the sin and the "bad news" of the world?

### Places to take the discussion with your kids and students

Consider the Big 5: **define** terms; look at the current **circumstances** around the globe; **compare** and contrast different stories told by the media; consider the **relationship** to past historical events and potential future outcomes; weigh the accuracy, veracity, validity of the **testimony** given by witnesses to the events.

Look up history of the Holocaust/Holocaust museums

What have you seen in social media? What have you experienced in your relationships regarding attitudes towards Jews (Semitic peoples)?

What does “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” mean according to several different sources/view points? What is the history of this phrase?

What is the “Arab street”? What does it mean, what countries have a relationship to that term, and how?

Explain “might makes right.” What is so concerning about godless and graceless worldviews? What inevitably happens when we cancel God? What are the outcomes?

Who was to blame for killing Jesus? Go deep here. How does that transform our thinking and our posture—our approach to all of history? Our practices of repentance, humility, restoration?

What does neighboring look like towards those who are being harmed or who are frightened about the future repeating a violent, horrific past?

### **Scriptural anchors/provision**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. — Deuteronomy 7:6

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