

**IAMA
ZIONIST CHRISTIAN**



Brother Marko

I AM A ZIONIST CHRISTIAN

By
Brother Marko

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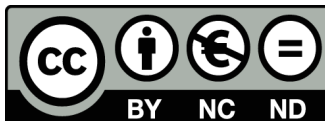
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Introduction

I have multiple objectives in writing this booklet.

Firstly I try to provide historically and biblically informed reasons for my Zionist Christianity. I explain how my faith in the Bible and my conservative evangelical Christianity makes me Zionist automatically.

Secondly, I aim to provide historically and Biblically accurate information concerning Christian anti-Semitism and Christian Zionism. I explore the origins, spread and implications of Christian anti-Semitism throughout the church history. Sadly, many Christian theologians and even many of the church fathers have been very influential anti-Semites who produced and taught anti-Semitic ideas as “God's will”. As a result of that, church history is filled with abuse, persecution and even massacre of Jews in the name of Jesus. As a Christian, I acknowledge and confess these sins Christianity committed against Jews. May God and Jews forgive us.

At the same time, I explore Zionism from a Biblical point of view and look into its recent history. It is very encouraging to see that during the recent centuries many Christian theologians, thinkers and even laymen have played important roles as Christian Zionists. It is important to note that Zionism has been in God's agenda for many centuries and God is the one who orchestrates Zionism today.

Ultimately, I desire that the readers of this booklet will understand anti-Semitism and guard themselves against it. At the same time they will develop a biblically informed understanding of Zionism and will be encouraged to become a Zionist Christian.

I pray that God will use this little booklet to bless you and transform you into an instrument of blessings for God's chosen people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Jews.

The shocking discovery

In 2001, whilst I was still a nominal Muslim in Turkey, the Holy Spirit told me to read the “Book, which Christians read in church” and “believe in the God whom Christians worship”. Having no interest in God I became scared and resisted this voice which spoke to me continuously. I thought I was cursed. However, God had fixed His eyes on me and decided to save me by grace through Jesus Christ. It was God Himself that searched for me and reached out to me with His unfailing love and amazing grace.

So I decided to read the Christians' book and consequently became a passionate believer. Soon after I became a Christian, I started reading the Bible systematically. Wow, what a great adventure it was for me to read the pages and chapters of the Bible for the first time. I would easily spend hours reading page after page and not even notice how the time passed by. It gave me great excitement and pleasure to read how God chose a man (Abraham) and raised a nation for Himself from that old man and his wife. I so enjoyed reading again and again how God called the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as his own people, never forgetting nor forsaking them. It was encouraging for me to read how, centuries ago, God kept all His promises to His special people. He created this nation from one man and his wife and carried them through deserts, seas and rivers bringing them to the land which He had promised. I was overtaken with a holy fear and reverence for God when I read how He had punished His chosen people after they had abandoned Him, and worshipped false gods.

Every day, as I read the Bible, I would meet with God and His chosen people. Some of His people were faithful men and women, such as Abraham, Moses, David, Esther, Elisha, Peter, and Paul. Others were unfaithful or disobedient. As a new Christian, I started to love God, and His chosen people. I believe that God put this growing love in my heart for Himself and His chosen people. Even in my wildest imagination, I could not imagine loving God without loving His people.

I loved the Jews and I still love them because, since the first day I met God, I saw again and again how much God loves the Jews.

Soon after I became Christian in 2001, I joined a local church. Besides myself, almost all the other believers in that church were Muslim

background Christians. For the next eight years that church became my family. We worshipped together, served God together, studied His Word together and went out to share the Gospel with others together. We even endured persecution and attacks together. Day after day, we saw and tasted the goodness, faithfulness, grace and mercy of God together. Although, culturally Muslims do not love Jews, we loved them, and we prayed for peace of Jerusalem and Israel, because we were not any more Muslims, we were now Christians. In spite of our anti-Semitic Muslim background, we were able to love Jews because God loved them, God called them as His own people and God also changed our hearts towards them. I said goodbye to this precious church after eight years, when God called me as a missionary.

Soon after I started interacting with Western Christians, I began to notice some of the shocking differences between them and the small, insignificant, and persecuted Turkish Church. Perhaps the most shocking discovery was that, some of the Western Christians I met were anti-Semitic. On the one hand they claimed to be Christians and faithfully attended various churches, but on the other hand, they believed things such as (1) Jews are no longer God's chosen people. (2) Israel is not the land of the Jews. (3) God has rejected the Jews. (4) Christians are the new Israel, a replacement for the old disobedient Hebrew nation. In summary, they believed in something I had never heard of before: replacement theology.

I just could not understand how someone can read the Bible daily and not see the deep and eternal relationship between God and the Jews. Can they not see how God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him in Genesis 12? Can they not see that Jesus himself, our Saviour and God is actually a Jew, born of a Jewish woman? Did not Christianity start among Jews and later on spread among gentiles as recorded in the gospels and the book of Acts? Did not Paul warn gentile Christians against anti-Semitism, reminding them that Jews are the olive tree and the gentiles are only a grafted branch (Romans 9)? Most important of all, did God Himself not declare the Hebrews, the descendants of Abraham as His chosen people (Deut 6:7-8) and warn that whoever blesses them will be blessed by God and whoever curses them will be cursed by God (Gen 12:3)?



The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci (1452 – 1519).

Additionally, it is important to note that Christianity was started amongst Jews who believed and followed Jesus. All the prophets were Hebrew. The disciples and apostles of Jesus were Jews and most importantly our Lord Jesus himself was a Jew who lived and died amongst Jews, so that both the Jews, and we ourselves (the gentiles) may be saved.

In short, we have received our Lord, our salvation and the Bible from Jews. We are the outsiders who are gracefully accepted into God's family (Eph 2:11-22), but they are the original and eternal people of God (Deut 14:2).

As American Pastor John Hagee says:

“Judaism does not need Christianity to explain its existence, while Christianity cannot explain its existence without Judaism. So what did the Jewish people give to Christianity? The Bible, the Torah, which is the most priceless treasure we have. They have given us the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They have given unto us the knowledge that 'the Lord is our God; the Lord is one,' (Deut. 6:4) invalidating pantheism and all polytheistic religions.” (Eydar 2014).

As Hagee said, we Christians cannot even explain our existence without Jews. Our God is the God of the Jews. Our heroes of faith are Jewish. Even our culture is Judeo-Christian. Thus we owe our faith, our culture and our religion to the Jews. We need to recognise these facts and honour the Jews for the blessing they have been to us.

God and Jews

Jews are God's chosen people just because God chose them and declared them as His chosen people. In other words, Jews are not God's chosen people because they are more godly, more holy or more just than other people. In fact, in some cases the opposite might be true. Jews also have a sinful nature just like other people. Nevertheless, God, out of His divine authority, decided to choose them.

It all began with Abraham and Sarah. God decided to raise a nation for Himself from this old and barren couple. He made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12. This covenant is the very reason and explanation why Jews are God's chosen people.



Image: David + Jonathan Inc

Here are God's words to Abraham in this covenant:

“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; and I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen 12:1-3, NKJV).

Later on in Genesis 17:4-8 God confirmed this covenant with Abraham and his future descendants.

It was neither Abraham, nor his wife Sarah nor any other human being that started this process. It was God himself. God decided to raise a nation for himself from aged and barren Abraham and Sarah. This covenant based relationship with the Jews was so important and precious to God that in later years He introduced Himself as

“the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Ex 4:5, ISV).

God's eternal love for, and faithfulness to the Jews are among the most undeniable facts in the Bible. As Haupt (2006:23) highlights, throughout the Bible God professes His special love for Jewish people again and again. On the other hand, human history is the witness and the proof of God's unfailing love and eternal commitment to Jews. Since the exodus from Egypt in 1446 BC, God has carried this people from nation to nation, country to country, blessing and protecting them throughout the centuries. God also punished and corrected them when they disobeyed God or worshipped false gods (Deut 8:5). God has been like a father to Jews. As a father loves, protects, and at the same time rebukes and disciplines his children, so did God with the Jews.

God made it very clear many times that the Jews are His people and whoever fights against them actually fights against God and will face the wrath of God (Zec 2:8-9). At the same time whoever shows kindness and love to the Jews will receive kindness and blessings of God.

English clergyman and theologian Thomas Newton (1704 – 1782), who was the Bishop of Bristol from 1761 to 1782 made the following statement concerning God's faithfulness to Jews:



“The preservation of the Jews is really one of the most signal and illustrious acts of divine Providence... and what but a supernatural power could have preserved them in such a manner as none other nation upon earth hath been preserved. Nor is the providence of God less remarkable in the destruction of their enemies, than in their preservation...”

We see that the great empires, which in their turn subdued and oppressed the people of God, are all come to ruin... And if such hath been the fatal end of the enemies and oppressors of the Jews, let it serve as a warning to all those, who at any time or upon any occasion are for raising a clamor and persecution against them.” (Judaism online (n.d.)).

Woe to those who position themselves against Jews. Woe to those who intend to harm or mistreat Jews. They will find themselves fighting against God. Those who mistreat, abuse and fight against Jews will come to ruin as did previous anti-Semitic nations. At the same time, God will continue to preserve, protect and sustain His people as He has been doing for over 4 000 years.

Blessed are those who love and treat Jews with kindness. Blessed are those who are gentle, kind, supportive and accommodating towards Jews. Blessed are those who bless Jews and pray for the peace and prosperity of Jews and Israel. They will rejoice as God continues to preserve and bless His chosen people.

Jews and Their Land

Whether we like it or not God chose and declared the Israelites/Jews to be His people. At the same time, God has warned the entire human race that whoever blesses the Israelites/Jews will be blessed and whoever curses, mistreats or harms them will be cursed by God. In other words, those who dare to harm Jews will find themselves fighting against God and will receive their punishment from God Himself.

History bears witness to the fact that God has done that which He said. The nations, empires, peoples or even individual persons that have mistreated or harmed Jews are all tragically destroyed by God. From Haman, to Hitler, from Babylon to Rome all of them are gone. At the same time, God has miraculously preserved His chosen people even though they have lived a life of exile, scattered around the world for nearly 1900 years.

Whether it makes sense to us or not, God gave the land of Canaan to the Israelites/Jews forever as an everlasting possession (Gen 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:8). In fact the land God promised to Israelites is so much bigger than the current country of Israel.



When the Jews were disobedient, God sent them into exile, but when they repented God brought them back to their everlasting homeland. God, Israelites and the promised land are three inseparable components of Abrahamic covenant. More importantly, this covenant was not the idea nor the product of Abraham and his descendants. It was God's idea and God's doing.

In summary,

- 1) God chose and declared the Israelites as His chosen people out of His own will and initiative.
- 2) God gave the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession to Israelites out of His own will and initiative.
- 3) God demanded that the entire human race be kind towards Jews, bless them and be charitable towards them.
- 4) God warned the whole of humanity that those who do not treat Jews kindly and bless them, but rather mistreat and curse them will be cursed by God Himself.
- 5) Over the last 4000 years, God did exactly this. He blessed those who were kind towards Jews, but punished and even tragically destroyed those who were hostile and harmful to them.

Now, whether you like it or not, whether it makes sense to you or not, this is the truth. This is the will and ordination of God. Whether you think Jews are righteous or unrighteous, whether you think God is being just or unjust, has no relevance and no significance to the matter.

Christian Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is acts or attitudes of discrimination, rejection, hatred and mistreatment of Jewish people or individuals just because they are Jewish. In other words, it is a type of racism towards Jews. Perhaps, someone who has never read the Bible, and never met the God of the Bible, might somehow find absurd reasons to justify anti-Semitism. However, those who read the Bible systematically can clearly see how God created this nation as His chosen people and how God loves and watches over them. Thus it is almost unthinkable that any Christian should be anti-Semitic or should intentionally cause any harm to God's chosen people.

Unfortunately, in spite of God's words and warnings in the Bible, Christian history is filled with extreme examples of anti-Semitism committed by Christians.

Beginning with the church fathers in the first and second centuries, Christian theologians developed anti-Semitic doctrines, completely separated Christianity from its Jewish roots and made it a Hellenistic, Western religion. At the same time, they relentlessly attacked Jews who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah (Williams (n.d.)). The church fathers published many volumes of literature to prove that they (Hellenistic Christians) were the true chosen people of God and that the Jews were no longer God's chosen people, but cursed and rejected by God, and therefore to be rejected by Christians also.

Justin Martyr (100 – 165 AD), an early Christian apologist, claimed that "God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid and that the Gentiles had replaced the Jews" (Reagan (n.d.)).

Tertullian of Carthage (155-230 AD) accused the Jews with the crime of killing Christ and he argued that Jews are now rejected by God (Reagan (n.d.)).

Eusebius (263 -339 AD) said, "Jews are always cursed by God, and thus doomed to perpetual punishment." (Ashira (n.d.)).

John Chrysostom (349 – 407 AD) archbishop of Constantinople, was perhaps the most anti-Semitic church father. Below are some of the anti-Semitic teachings and statements of Chrysostom, according to William (n.d.).

"The Jews sacrifice their children to Satan....they are worse than wild beasts. The synagogue is a brothel, a den of scoundrels, the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults, a criminal assembly of Jews, a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ, a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, a gulf and abyss of perdition."

"The Jews have fallen into a condition lower than the vilest animal. Debauchery and drunkenness have brought them to the level of the lusty goat and the pig. They know only one thing: to satisfy their stomachs, to get drunk, to kill, and beat each other up like stage villains and coachmen."

"The synagogue is a curse, obstinate in her error, she refuses to see or hear, she has deliberately perverted her judgment; she has extinguished with herself the light of the Holy Spirit."

"I hate the Jews because they violate the Law. I hate the synagogue because it has the Law and the prophets. It is the duty of all Christians to hate the Jews."

Unfortunately the church fathers' anti-Semitic views and hatred for Jews have influenced Christian generations since then. Although this hatred for Jews is contrary to the Bible and God's heart, Christians have believed it because of the teachings of Jew-hating church fathers.

Reformer Martin Luther (1483 – 1546 AD) is possibly the most outstanding and passionate anti-Semitic Christian theologian of all time.

His infamous book "The Jews and Their Lies" is a powerful poison, deceitfully turning Christians into Jew killers. As a direct result of Luther's strong Anti-Semitic writings and teachings, Hitler and his nation were able to carry out the atrocities of the holocaust.



The following list of resources provides shocking evidence that the real culprit, the real master mind of the holocaust might not be Hitler but the Christian theologian Martin Luther who taught Christians to hate and kill Jews by his writings and sermons.

1)“*Martin Luther, Hitler's Spiritual Ancestor*” by Peter F. Wiener. Accessible from:
http://www.tentmaker.org/books/MartinLuther-Hitlers_Spiritual_Ancestor.html

2)“Luther and Hitler” by Daphne M.Olsen. Accessible from:
<http://scholarship.rollins.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=mls>

3)“A Merciful Severity: How Martin Luther influenced Adolf Hitler's persecution of the Jews” by Michael Moen. Accessible from: <http://skipmoen.com/2012/12/17/a-merciful-severity-how-martin-luther-influenced-adolf-hitlers-persecution-of-the-jews/>

Probably Luther was poisoned by the anti-Semitic writings of church fathers. He then, in turn, poisoned the following generations of Christians by his hatred for Jews and his anti-Semitic teachings.

Very sadly, today, some Christians are still anti-Semitic as they have been influenced by anti-Semitic doctrines which have been passed down through generations. Christian anti-Semitism has no boundaries as it stretches from Roman Catholicism to Charismatic Christianity, from Reformers to Baptists, from Pentecostals to Evangelicals. To make it even worse, today, post-modern Christianity is also influenced by pro-Palestinianism, and the Islamic agenda of isolating and destroying Israel. Thus, one of the most worrying realities of 21st century Christianity is that anti-Semitism is still a problem among some Christians.

Christian Zionism

I particularly like the definition and explanation offered by Cheryl Hauer (2015):

“Zionism could be defined as the belief that the Jewish people have a political, historical and/or moral right to self-determination and a peaceful existence within the borders of their ancient homeland, today known as Israel. At times a social, political and nationalistic movement, it is deeply rooted in Judaism, and calls for the return of the exiles from the nations as foretold by the prophets millennia ago. It is the expression of a deep yearning in the Jewish heart as passionately stated in Psalm 137: “By the rivers of Babylon there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion” (v.1).

Christian Zionism is the belief that such yearning is God-inspired and the Zionistic aspirations of the Jewish people are firmly rooted in the Scriptures, both the Tanakh (Gen.–Mal.) and the Writings of the Apostles (N.T.). It sees the establishment and growth of the modern State as fulfilment of Bible prophecy but recognizes that the government is made up of duly elected men, capable of making mistakes as is any governing body. Therefore, it does not encourage slavish loyalty to the State. However, it does embrace and encourage support for Israel’s right to exist in its ancient homeland as a Jewish state with self-determination and the right to safety and security for all its citizens.”

Christian Zionism is then, not a strange synthesis of Judaism and Christianity as some have accused it of being. Nor does Christian Zionism preach that Jews do not need Jesus for salvation as some other critics have claimed. At the same time, Christian Zionism does not condone or attempt to justify all the decisions and actions of Jewish people and Israeli politicians.

On the contrary Christian Zionism is not motivated by Israeli politics, culture and religious practice. It is based on God’s covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Thus firstly, and most importantly, Christian Zionism is a Biblical conviction which is motivated by what

God said and did. It aims to make us Christians see Jewish people as God sees them, and bless them as God commands us to. Christian Zionism then is a simple and humble Christian attempt to obey God, based on what He said and did in the Scriptures. Additionally, Christian Zionism is supported by the fact that we (gentiles) received the salvation, the Bible and the knowledge of God from the Jews and therefore we have a moral and biblical obligation to bless them and stand with them. Thus, Christian Zionists desire to see Jews settling in their historical homeland, which was given to them by God, and living with self-determination in peace, freedom and prosperity.

Theodor (Binyamin Ze'ev) Herzl (May 2, 1860 - July 3, 1904) and Reverend William Henry Hechler (10 January 1845 – 31 January 1931) can be considered as the fathers of modern day Jewish Zionism, Jewish State and Christian Zionism (Hedding 2010).



Theodor Herzl

Modern day political Zionism and the state of Israel became a reality, largely because of the works of Austrian Jew Theodor Herzl and the Anglican minister, Reverend William Hechler, who devoted 30 years of his life to the Zionist goal and the establishment of a Jewish state in the historical homeland of Jews (Hedding 2010).

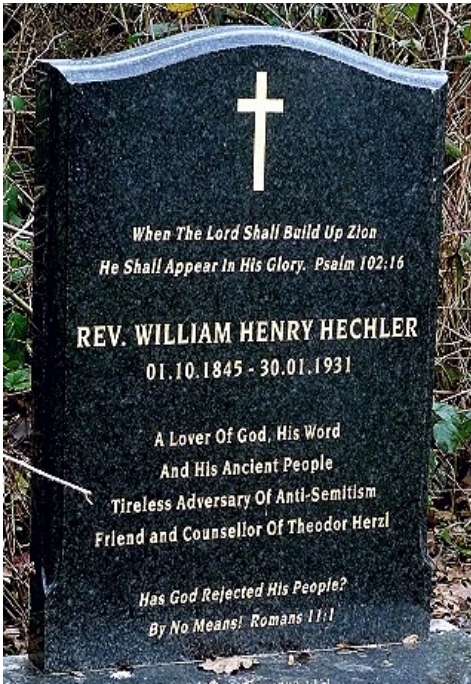


William Hechler and his family

We can safely consider Reverend William Hechler as the father of modern day Christian Zionism. President of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, Jerry Klinger (2010) quotes the following statement in his article about the crucial role Reverend Hechler played as a Christian Zionist:

“Political Zionism, and the modern state of Israel, was largely born from the fierce will of Theodor Herzl. Were it not for a Christian, Herzl would have remained an eccentric, obscure Austrian writer, long forgotten by now.

It is Rev. Hechler, and the Zionist debt to him, that is forgotten.”



Although Hechler stands out as a tall tower among Christian Zionists, he was neither the first nor the last of them. Before William Hechler, various Christian theologians and thinkers such as Thomas Brightman (1562 - 1607) and Thomas Newton (1704 - 1782) advocated for the return of Jews into their homeland and the establishment of a Jewish state (Hedding 2010).

After William Hechler, many more Christian Zionists emerged and assisted the Jews in order that they may settle in their historical homeland.

Today there are many Christian Zionist organizations that stand with Israel, send volunteer workers to assist the Jewish people in their homeland, send donations for them, and pray for peace of Jerusalem and Israel. Some of these Christian Zionist organizations are:

Bridges for Peace: www.brigesforpeace.com

Christians for Israel: www.christiansforisrael.org

Christians United for Israel: <http://www.cufi.org>

Operation Tarshish: <http://www.tarshish.org.il/>

The Friends of Israel: <http://www.foi.org>

Christian Friends of Israel: <http://cfijerusalem.org>

Cyrus Foundation: <http://www.cyrusfoundation.org>

International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem: <http://int.icej.org>

Eagle Wings: <http://www.eagleswings.to>

Wilbur Ministries: <http://www.wilburministries.com>

I praise the Lord for these organizations and the millions of Christians that support them across the globe. I praise the Lord for their love for God and for God's people. I praise the Lord that theirs is not only love in words, but love in action, and love in sacrificial giving. May the Lord bless us with humility and willingness to do even more to bless His people.

I am a Christian Zionist, a friend of Israel

I am a Zionist because I am a Christian. Being a Christian makes me a Zionist.

When I was a Muslim, I was anti-Semitic by nature, by culture and by default. But when I accepted Jesus, I accepted a Jew as my saviour and my God.

My God is the God of Jews. We received the holy Scriptures from Jews. The prophets and patriarchs of our faith were Jews. Most importantly our Saviour Jesus was a Jew. Therefore, I am indebted to Jews. I am compelled to bless them and be kind to them.

Thus I am a Zionist Christian.

Zionism is not an invention of men. Neither is it the political movement of a bunch of Jews. It is God's plan for bringing His people back into their everlasting homeland from whence He had scattered them about 1900 years ago.

Zionism was prophesied by many of God's prophets such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Zephaniah. Zionism has been on God's agenda for a long time and now He is making it happen in front of our eyes.

I am a Zionist Christian because my God (the God of the Bible, and of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) is the architect, the mastermind and the orchestrator of Zionism.

I am a friend of Israel, because my God is the preserver, protector and the ultimate ruler of Israel.

We are living in one of the most exciting periods of human history. Right in front of our eyes, God is busy fulfilling His promises to the Jews by bringing them back to their promised land. I am very pleased to observe how God faithfully keeps and fulfils His promises to His people. At the same time I am excited, and encouraged to be involved in what God is busy doing: assisting, supporting and blessing the Jews in their efforts to settle in their homeland and live in prosperity.

What about you?

Will you allow anti-Semitism to deceive and stop you from appreciating and supporting one of the greatest miracles of God which is happening

right in front of our eyes?

Will you allow the enemies of Israel to deceive you with all kinds anti-Semitic lies, false accusations and discriminatory campaigns such as the replacement theology, the BDS campaign and the lie of Israeli apartheid?

Why should you be deceived by the lies of the enemies of God's people instead of believing in what God said, and joining in with what God is doing?

Whether you support Israel or not, God will continue to bless, protect and prosper this nation. He said it and He will do it.

God has loved, protected, preserved and sustained Jews for over 4000 years and He still has many wonderful plans for Jews.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.” (Jer 29:11-14).

However, as for you, who knows, maybe God has put you on earth at a time such as this so that you may be God's instrument in supporting, blessing and defending Israel and the Jewish people.

Remember God's warning to Queen Esther:

For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

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