

AS AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE TOPICS
ANTIJUDAISM / ANTISEMITISM / SHOAH/HOLOCAUST
AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN TEACHING OF CONTEMPT
FOR JUDAISM AND JEWS
THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE RECOMMENDED
by
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Flannery, Edward. H.,

1985 (1965) *The Anguish of the Jews: Twenty-three Centuries of Antisemitism.*

Revised and Updated. A Stimulus Book. New York/Mahwah, 1985 (Preface by John M. Oesterreicher. Quest Books. New York and London: Collier and MacMillan, 1965).

- I heard Father Flannery right after the publication of his book in Madison, Wisconsin, where I served as a Campus Pastor for the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America (National Lutheran Council). I read his book. I turned pale. I begun to read literature on the topic. I have never been the same. I am sorry that Flannery left out of the revised edition the first paragraph of his "Introduction" in the first edition. This important paragraph reads as follows:

"This book received its first impetus from a personal experience.

One evening several years ago, I walked north on Park Avenue in New York City in the company of a young Jewish couple. Behind us shone the huge illuminated cross the Grand Central Building displays each year at Christmas time. Glancing over her shoulder, the young lady--ordinarily well disposed toward Christians--declared: 'That cross makes me shudder. It is like an evil presence.'"

This disturbing comment evoked many questions in me, not least of which was: How did the cross, the supreme symbol of universal love, become a sign of fear, of evil for this young Jewess? It soon became clear that her fearful reaction to it was the fruit of a knowledge which she, but not I, had--a knowledge of the immense suffering undergone by her people at the hands of Christians for many centuries. It was my first introduction to the problem of anti-Semitism. Later discussions of the incident with both Christian and Jewish friends led me to a further discovery. Jews generally are acutely aware of the history of anti-Semitism, simply because it comprises so large a portion of Jewish history. Christians, on the contrary, even highly educated ones, are all but totally ignorant of it--except for contemporary developments. They are ignorant of it for the simple reason that anti-Semitism does not appear in their history books. Histories of the Middle Ages--even of the Crusades--can be found in which the word 'Jew' does not appear, and there are Catholic dictionaries and encyclopedias in which the term 'anti-Semitism' is not listed. There seems to be only one conclusion: The pages Jews have memorized have been torn from our histories of the Christian era. In a sense, this book is a contribution toward the reinsertion of those pages." (1965, p. xi)

Nicholls, William,

1993

Christian Antisemitism: A History of Hate. Northvale, New Jersey/London: Jason Aronson, 1993.

- I finished reading this book during the last week of May of 1993. It summarizes for me four decades of reading and study in the area of the Tanach/Hebrew Scriptures/"Old" Testament, the apostolic writings/ "New" Testament and of Judaism and Christianity. If you would like to continue a life as an honest Christian I recommend that you read this book as soon as possible. But, do not read this book (or any of the others) if you are not prepared to make significant changes in your religious life (or face the danger of living a Christian life as a hypocrite).

DEFINITIONS:

ANTIJUDAISM = non-christian and then mainly Christian *religious* hatred of Jews. This kind of hatred reaches back before Christian times to the second century B.C.E.

ANTISEMITISM = racial hatred of Jews, but also used for *religious* hatred. This kind of hatred is a more recent development, but it has its roots in religious hatred.

SHOAH/HOLOCAUST = the attempted "Endlösung," "Final Solution, i.e., the destruction of about six million Jews (including over one million children) during World War II by the National Socialist German Workers Party on the basis of legal national policy.

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