The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 15 November 2026. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced, and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

The Eternal Jew

Esther 6:12-14

This past week, when I was out knocking on doors, I had an opportunity to share the Gospel with an elderly man; and during the conversation, the subject of "Israel" came up—as it often does. After all, it's hard to talk about the Lord Jesus Christ without talking about Israel, since our Saviour is a Jew. At least 64 of the 66 books of the Bible were written by Jews; and possibly *all* 66 books were written by Jews (if Luke was a Jew, as many believe he was). As for the name "Israel," it appears 2,161 times throughout the Bible. There is no getting around it: this *is* a Jewish Book, from Genesis to Revelation!

Now, I shouldn't have been surprised by this man's reaction to the word "Israel," because I've seen other people react to the word "Israel" in the same way. (I once spoke with a man who called Jews "scum," and said that Hitler should have finished the job.) Nevertheless, I was still surprised that this elderly man, who *should* understand what it's like to persecuted for one's ethnicity, had no empathy for another persecuted people. As soon as the name "Jew" came up, he began to curse; and he said that the citizens of Limerick were right to run the Jews out of town, because the Jews are blankety-blank "troublemakers."

Now, in case you've never heard of this event, I'll give you the background. Starting in the 1860's and 70's, small numbers of Jews began to move into Limerick from Eastern Europe, where they had been severely persecuted in the pogroms. By the 1880's, they were numerous enough to establish a synagogue, and a Jewish cemetery; but it wasn't long afterward that persecution began. On Easter Sunday in 1884, an angry mob threw stones at a Jewish man named Lieb Siev and his family; and his wife and son were injured, and their property damaged.[1] Violent attacks like this continued periodically—such as in 1896, when two Jewish families were beaten and stoned. Though the Jews were peaceful, hard-working peddlers, drapery dealers, and grocers, their presence was deemed a "threat" to the economy. It came to a head in 1904, when a Redemptorist priest named **John Creagh** delivered a sermon in which he accused the Jews of committing ritual satanic murder. (This is exactly the kind of ridiculous accusation that the Catholic Church hurled not only at Jews, but also at born-again Christian groups such as the Albigenses, Waldensians, and Anabaptists, throughout the Middle Ages.) Creagh said that the Jews had come to Limerick "to fasten themselves on us like leeches, and to draw our blood."[2] Well, that got the parishioners fired up; and on their way home, as they were passing down Colooney Street, they began to riot. (The Jews, who know instinctively when to hide from their enemies, locked themselves in their houses.) Thankfully, only one rabbi was injured by the stone-throwing; and the authorities intervened to protect the Jews. Nevertheless, there was a boycott against the Jewish businesses in Limerick over the next two years, which resulted in five Jewish families' leaving Limerick, and moving to Cork.[3]

Now, the Limerick Boycott is *mild* compared to the threats that Jews face every single day, all over the world; but it does give you a little idea of what it is like to be a Jew. For four thousand years, the Jews have been hated with an irrational hatred *everywhere they go* on this planet; and many madmen are, to

this very hour, trying to wipe all Jews from the face of the earth. (In Gaza, little children are taught, from earliest childhood, to kill all Jews everywhere, and are taught how to wield machetes and assault rifles against them. Hamas has been teaching these things in schools, mosques, and on kids' TV shows, for decades.) Yet, no matter how fiercely Satan moves people against the Jews, they cannot be destroyed. As the Nazis themselves said, they are "*Der Ewige Jude"*—"the eternal Jew"; and anyone who tries to destroy God's covenant people *will* be destroyed. The title of this message is ***The Eternal Jew.***

Read Esther 6:12-14.

I. The duplicity of ungodly friends (vv. 12-13)

It had been a terrible morning for Haman. (At least, to *him* it was terrible.) His pride had been clipped in a huge way. Right when he was expecting to get the "green light" from King Darius to hang Mordecai, the king ordered him to *exalt* Mordecai. Haman had been forced to put a royal robe on Mordecai, and a royal crown on his head, and to mount him on a royal horse, and to parade him around Shushan all morning long, and cry, ***"Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour."*** (And while he was doing all this, he had to act as though he were *enjoying* it!) To a humble person, it would have been no problem to honour a man who deserved to be honoured; but to a proud man like Haman, it was the end of the world. Furthermore, to a *pagan* like Haman, who regarded "fate," omens, and signs as vitally important, this was a terrible sign for his future. If he had to exalt his enemy today, what would happen to him tomorrow? Now, God, of course, is sovereign in the affairs of men. He is *not* controlled by the roll of dice, or by the configuration of stars, or by circumstances: rather, He is the *Creator* of the stars, and the One who causes the lot to fall the way *He* pleases. It wasn't "fate" that was against Haman: it was *God* who was against Haman! God said, in His Word, that He will bless those who bless the Jews, and curse those who curse the Jews; and Haman had cursed the Jews. Destruction was now certain for this man, because he had defied the true and living God. He slinked back home with his face covered, as though he were fleeing from an angel of death. However, if Haman were expecting to receive some comfort from his family and friends, he was sadly mistaken. Let's look again at **verse 13;** then, we will go back and read **Esther 5:12-14. (Read Esther 6:13, and Esther 5:12-14.)**

Folks, do you see the irony here? Haman's friends and counsellors, and even his wife and sons, were the very ones who had advised him to hang Mordecai, less than 24 hours earlier. Yet, when they saw that the tide had suddenly turned against Haman, *they* turned against him, too! Without so much as blinking an eye, his wife and counsellors essentially said, "Oh, wow. Sorry about that, bro. That's a bummer. But, you really shouldn't have messed with Mordecai, you know. Like we've always said, trying to destroy the Jews will get you killed." Can you imagine how Haman would have responded to this, if he had had time to say anything before the king's messengers knocked on his door? He probably would have said, "Wait. What? You sat there in that chair yesterday, looked me in the face, and told me that I

needed to hang Mordecai. And now you're sitting in that same chair, looking me in the face, and telling me that *I've* messed up? You're the one who told me to do it!"

Now, let's examine this situation for a moment. Haman's wife, sons, and wise men were well-aware of the fact that Mordecai was a Jew. Haman himself had said so just the day before. As he was telling them the story of how Mordecai had refused to bow to him, he had referred to him as ***"Mordecai the Jew."*** They had all heard the word ***"Jew"*** clearly; and they surely knew enough about the history of the Jews to realise that their God had preserved them from destruction, and had destroyed their enemies, time and time again. Why, then, were they suddenly speaking as though they had never heard that Mordecai was a Jew—and *rebuking* Haman for attempting to destroy him? Is this an inconsistency in the story? Not on your life! This is *exactly* how we would expect wicked, selfish, and cowardly people to act. There is no loyalty, truth, or faithfulness among the enemies of God. There is no honour among flatters and covetous people. Haman's friends and family had flattered him to the skies less than twenty-four hours earlier, and had pumped up his ego, and advised him to kill Mordecai the Jew; but now, they were afraid to acknowledge that they knew anything about Mordecai's being a Jew—even in the privacy of their own home! They were all afraid that the "walls had ears," and that they might be implicated in conspiring against the man who had saved the king's life; and rather than stand by their friend, they were all betraying him.

Folks, the Bible says in **Psalm 1:1,** ***"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."*** You may not think that this part of the story has any application to you, since you aren't a mass-murderer like Haman; but there is plenty of application here, even for believers. You see, when you go to people who don't know or love the Lord to receive counsel, you *will* receive bad counsel; and you *will* suffer ill consequences in your life! The Apostle Paul said, ***"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*** Furthermore, when the consequences of your friends' bad advice begin to rain down on you, these "friends" won't stick around to support you. They will abandon you, and even find reasons to *hate* you, rather than admit they wronged you. For example, the person who advises you that drinking alcohol in moderation is O.K. won't stick around to help you when the drink starts to get a grip on you, and pulls you down into a spiral of debt, family problems, and misery. They'll say, "Sorry, man. You need to get help. It's not *my* fault that you can't hold your liquor."

Folks, we are living in a society in which faithfulness and loyalty are hard to come by. Why? Because we are living in a society that rejects God. In **Micah 7,** the prophet Micah mourned over the treachery of his nation. From the kings and princes of Israel down to the common people, everyone was out for himself. Let's look at that passage.

Read Micah 7:1-6.

Folks, what we've just read isn't just a description of what it was like in *Micah's* day: it is also a prophetic description of what it will be like during the Tribulation period. Jesus specifically quoted **verse 6,** and applied it to the future Day of the LORD (the Tribulation). During the Tribulation, the *only* person that a believer will be able to trust is another true believer. (And even then, many people who *seemed* to be believers will turn out to be traitors.) It will be a time of treachery like never before in history, when the real contents of men's hearts will be exposed like teabags in hot water; and in the gross spiritual darkness, the light of Christ will shine forth from true believers as never before.

Now, thank God, we who are saved in this church age won't be here during the seven years of the Tribulation, because we will be raptured out of here just before it begins. However, unless the Lord return very soon, you may be sure that times of real persecution will be coming to us. Christian, will *you* remain faithful to the Lord, and to fellow believers, in times of persecution? Worldly friends will forsake you, just as Haman's friends forsook him; but people who trust in the Lord, as Mordecai and Esther did, will remain faithful to God, and to each other. **Proverbs 29:25** says, "***"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."*** In yourself, you are weak and wavering; and you will fail miserably, *if* you fear man instead of God.

Read Mark 14:26-31, 66-72.

Fear of man caused Peter, who had just promised Jesus that he would never deny Him, to look Jesus' enemies in the eyes only a short time later, and with curses in his mouth, say, "I know not the man"! Brethren, if Peter was capable of being duplicitous, so are we! We don't *have* to be two-tongued and double-minded, though. Christian, if you want to be a *faithful* friend who gives sound advice to others (even when it hurts), and who will never deny the Lord, or your brothers and sisters in Christ, then abide in Christ's Word daily, and be instant in prayer. (Remember that Peter was *not* instant in prayer in that hour in Gethsemane!) Make friends of those who love the Lord; and trust His Word!

II. The divine protection of the Jews (v. 13)

(Read Esther 6:13 again.) What was going through the minds of Zeresh and the counsellors when they said these things about the Jews? How had they suddenly come to realise that the Jews are a protected people, and that anyone who tries to destroy them will fall? Perhaps, being strong believers in omens, luck, and fatalism, they looked at the bizarre circumstances that had unfolded in the last 24 hours, and concluded that Zurvan, the god of time and fate,

had ruled in favour of the Jews, and that Tiarika Savar, the shadowy god of death and misfortune, was now pursuing after Haman. Their Zoroastrian superstitions surely would have had a bearing on what they said.

However, I believe it was more than just superstition that was coming out of their mouths. I believe that deep down inside, they knew that the Jews are *not* like other nations. Now, they certainly hadn't become "Jew lovers" overnight. We know that they still hated the Jews, because nearly a year later, Haman's ten sons *died* in their attempt to slay the Jews on the 13th of Adar. (They must have figured that the 13th of Adar was still a "lucky" date.) Yet, even though they hated the Jews, they also *feared* them. They obviously had some knowledge of Jewish history. *Any* informed Persian would have known that the Jews had been taken captive to Babylon a century earlier, and that their Temple had been destroyed. They would have known about the famous Jew named **Daniel**, who had faithfully served several of Babylon's kings over many decades, and who not only survived the Persian overthrow of Babylon, but was appointed as the chief president under Darius the Mede. They would have known about how their own Persian king, Cyrus, had given permission for the Jews to return to their land after 70 years of captivity. They would have known that the Samaritans had persuaded King Cambyses to stop the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, but that Darius later stepped in and commanded the Samaritans not only to let the Jews build, but to *help* them rebuild their Temple. This knowledge alone would have been enough for them to realise that Israel's God is *not* like the "gods" of other nations. What other nation had ever been destroyed by a foreign enemy, uprooted from their land, and scattered far and wide, but then *restored* to their land nearly a century later? Such a thing had never happened—*except* to Israel. In their contact with the Jews, the Persian people also would have heard about how the children of Israel had once crossed the Red Sea on dry land, and of how Pharaoh and his armies had drowned in the Red Sea while trying to pursue them. They would have heard about how the Jews had conquered the land of Canaan; of how King Solomon had once reigned over all the lands from Egypt to the Euphrates River; of how kings from all over the world had come to see the splendour of Solomon's kingdom; and of how 185,000 Assyrian soldiers had been slain by God in one night, when they tried to conquer Jerusalem. These events were known far and wide throughout the Middle Eastern world. Haman surely must have known that no nation that ever tried to destroy the Jews had succeeded. Yet somehow, he thought it would turn out differently when *he* tried it. (Just like all sinners who play around with sin, Haman thought that *he* would be the one exception—the one who wouldn't suffer the consequences.) But, he was deadly wrong; and countless others have followed in his footsteps, to their own peril.

Folks, we need to get it into our hearts and minds that *God is not done with Israel.* Why is it so important for us to belabour this fact? **Because Israel is extremely dear to *God.*** They are still the apple of His eye. Contrary to what Reformed theologians tell us, the church is *not* the "new Israel"; and God has *not* cast off national Israel forever.

Now, here at Redemption Baptist Church, we *always* keep the Gospel message in first place. We keep the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture, and of who God is, and who Jesus is, and what sin is, and what salvation is, in their place of top priority. We also heavily emphasise Spirit-empowered Christian living, and the nature of the local church, and separation from the world. We preach against the sins that are destroying our nation, such as drinking and drugs, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, pornography, and the murder of unborn babies; and we call people to repentance and faith in Christ. However, we cannot be silent about Israel! They are the people that God chose from out of all the nations of earth, to be a peculiar treasure to Him. The fact that they have returned to their land after 2,000 years of wandering and persecution shows that God has *not* abandoned them. Throughout the Old Testament, God repeatedly told them that He would regather them to their land in the last days. In **Ezekiel 36,** the LORD said to Israel, ***"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God."***

Now, just to be clear, Israel has *not* yet reached the point that the LORD was speaking of in **Ezekiel 36.** Far from it. Israel has been in the process of being regathered *physically* to the land over the last 150 years or so; but as a nation, their hearts are far from God, and they are still spiritually dead. As a nation, they are still in rebellion against God, and in need of repentance, cleansing, and a new heart. The whole reason they have been scattered for the last 2,000 years is that they have been in continual rebellion against God. Any devout Jew who takes the Torah even halfway seriously must admit that *their sin* is the reason why they have been scattered and persecuted. All the way back in the days of Moses, God plainly foretold that He would one day scatter them to the uttermost corners of the earth because of their rebellion—and (tragically) that *virtually no one would want them*. Even during WWII, the Allied nations, despite their professed concern for the Jews in Hitler's Germany, wouldn't take them into their own nations. In 1938, leaders from 32 nations gathered in Evian, France, to discuss their sympathy for the plight of the Jews; but it was only empty talk. The only nation that took in any Jews was Britain; but they allowed in only a paltry 25,000 Jews, over a period of 5 years.[4] Britain and America met again in Bermuda in 1943 to discuss the Jews; and once again, they showed hypocritical sympathy, but did absolutely nothing.[5] Hitler even tauntingly offered to send the Jews in *luxury ships* to the Allied nations, if they would only "convert their sympathy into practical aid," and take them in; but no one would.[6] By the end of the war, when Germany was seriously strapped for cash, Hitler desperately offered the Allied nations to give them 500,000 Hungarian Jews for only $2.00 per person; but *still* no one would take them in.[7] This reminds me of what God said to the children of Israel—that they would be sold to their enemies for ***"bondmen and bondwomen"***: but no one would buy them.

Read Deuteronomy 28:63-68.

Well, there you have it. God Himself said that no one would want the Jews. This means that it is O.K. to hate and oppress them, right? After all, they murdered the Son of God. Tragically, this is what most people in professing "Christendom" have historically believed; and this thinking is making a massive resurgence in recent years. Let's just set the record straight, folks: anyone who believes that it is O.K. to hate Jews is devoid of spiritual understanding, because *he is not a true child of God.* It wasn't just the Jews who crucified the Lord; it was the *Jews and Gentiles together.* The Apostles laid the blame for Jesus' murder on ***"Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel."*** The fact is, *all* of us have crucified Christ in our hearts; and only those who personally repent of their sin and believe on Christ can escape God's wrath. Every true believer in Christ understands that it was *his own* sin that nailed Christ to the cross. How can I, as a sinner saved by grace, hate the Jews, when I know full well that I am just as much a Hell-deserving sinner as they are? How can I hate those for whom Christ died? To be sure, God has *permitted* the Jews to suffer nationally at the hands of the Gentiles, to chasten them, and move them to repentance; but this does not mean that God *approves* of persecuting the Jews. In **Jeremiah 25,** the LORD said that King Nebuchadnezzar was His servant, whom He would use to chastise the children of Judah for their sin; yet, in the same breath, God said that after Israel had been in captivity for 70 years, He would *punish* Babylon for what they had done to His people. To hate and oppress the Jewish people is to fight against *God*; and it *always* ends in severe judgment!

Read Zechariah 1:14-16 / 12:1-3.

Brethren, Israel is a privileged people; but *because* they have that special covenant relationship with God that no other nation has, God chastises them more severely for their rebellion. Right now, Israel, *as a nation,* is making a "covenant with death"; and "in hell are they in agreement," just as Isaiah said in **Isaiah 28**. Right now, the overwhelming majority of Jewish people are rejecting their precious Foundation Stone, the Lord Jesus Christ. However, it won't remain this way forever. Someday, they *will* all believe on Jesus, as a nation. In the meantime, we who know Christ should not have the slightest bit of haughtiness toward them (even if they act haughtily toward us). Instead, we should *pray* for them, that God will hasten the day when their hearts will be turned to the Lord. They are beloved by God with a peculiar love, for the sake of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and we should love them, too.

Read Romans 11:7-29.

III. The dispatch of God's judgment (v. 14)

(Read Esther 6:14 again.) In **chapters 1 through 5**, it seemed that God was nowhere to be seen. If it weren't for that one extraordinary work of Providence (Esther's being made queen), it would seem that God had forgotten His people. But then, there came that next brilliant move of Providence, when the king extended the golden sceptre to Esther, and allowed her to invite him and Haman to the banquet. That *shouldn't* have happened; but it did. Esther *should* have been executed; but she wasn't. God was protecting her, and preparing the king's heart to hear her petition. After that banquet, God began to move at lightning speed. Ahasuerus's sleepless night; his decision to have the chronicles read to him; the uncovering of the record of Mordecai's good deed; Haman's arrival in the king's court at the very moment when the king was deliberating on how to honour Mordecai; and then *Haman's own decision* of how to honour Mordecai, were all orchestrated by God. And now, *immediately after* Haman's family had told him that he was doomed, the chamberlains knocked on his door to escort him to the banquet. Haman didn't even have time to respond to what his wife and counsellors had just told him! He was whisked off to the queen's banquet with those words, ***"Thou shalt surely fall before him,"*** ringing in his ears. This whole scene can be summed up with that word ***"hasted."*** All of a sudden, everything was happening *speedily.*

Read Luke 18:1-8.

Folks, we cannot rush God; nor can we tell Him what to do, or how to do it. His ways are higher than His ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts. You may be sure of one thing, though: when it is *His* time to deliver you, He will move speedily. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah; and like a lion, He crouches down, and waits patiently, until it is time to pounce on His enemies, and devour them! In **Psalm 31:2,** David beseeched the Lord to ***"Deliver me speedily."*** Again, in **Psalm 143:7** David said to the LORD, ***"Hear me speedily."*** In **Psalm 102:2** he said, ***"Answer me speedily."*** So sure was David that God *would* answer his prayers, and his people's prayers, that in **Psalm 79:8** he said, ***"Let thy tender mercies speedily prevent*** [go before] ***us."*** David realised that God's mercies are on the way *before we even ask.* God *goes before* us, preparing to answer our prayer before we even ask. That is exactly what happened in Mordecai's case. For six years God had been silently moving to answer the desperate prayers that *He knew* His people would be praying to Him six years later. God was way ahead of them; and when they finally cried out to Him, He answered ***"speedily."*** It appears that it was no more than a *week* between the time when the decree to destroy the Jews went out, and the time when Haman got that ominous knock on his door. God answered the Jews' request speedily; and when it is *His* perfect time, He will answer *your* requests speedily, too—*if* you will pray fervently, and consistently. The answer may seem long in coming; and you may not immediately recognise or understand His answer when it comes: but you may be sure that God knows what is best for you, and that He will *always* work things together for good to those who love Him.

Conclusion: As we close this morning, I would ask, "Do you know the Lord?" Are you saved? Maybe you're embittered by the fact that God didn't answer a desperate prayer that you once prayed; and because of His seeming silence, you're not sure you believe that He's even there. If so, you may be sure that God has been there all along, and has been orchestrating events in your life to bring you to this very place, on this very morning, to hear this message. You may never understand why God didn't answer that prayer the way *you* wanted Him to answer it: but what you *can* be sure of is that if you will call on the name of the Lord to be saved, He will answer you *immediately.* The Lord Jesus will never turn away anyone who truly calls upon Him for salvation. If you are saved already, maybe you need to be reminded to pray with the kind of persistence that the widow in Jesus' parable had. We are not Israel; but we *are* the "children" of Abraham, by faith. Just as God will always defend the Jewish people, so He will always defend those who are His people by faith in the Son of God. Trust Him implicitly, Christian; and keep on asking, seeking, and knocking!

[1] "The Limerick Boycott," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_boycott

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day!* (Bend, Oregon: The Berean Call, 2006), p. 41.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid, p. 42.

[7] Ibid,