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From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Date: November 23, 2015 / ר"ח כסלו תשע"ו

Parasha: Toldos / תולדות

Title: The EU Label: Israel's Fault. Really.

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Shalom laYebudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It is the evening of the 6th day, *erev rosh lehodesh Kislev, Parashas Toldos, tav-shin-ayin-vav*, the evening of the 5th day, Thursday, 12 November 2015, webcasting from Israel with only itself to blame.

No, not as Peter Beinart believes, this enemy of the Jews of Jewish extraction who thinks the Muslims here stab us and run us over because of our mistreatment of them.

I mean, in the matter of today's top story, well, it was the EU and for that we have only ourselves to blame. The EU finally did what it started to do three years ago: label the produce and products of the Jews in Judea and Samaria as more or less spiritually polluted, for the land on which they were made was stolen from its legitimate ancient owners, the legendary Palestinians.

This label, this aggression that European anti-Jews want to see on commodities created in Judea should read, "Product from the West Bank (Israeli settlement)." If the object for sale was produced by the Muslims, is going to read is, "West Bank (product of Balestine). Or the label can say, "Product from West Bank (Palestinian product)."

And for the first time it dawns on yours truly who is ultimately to blame for this. It is those Israelis in the ruling class who use the term "West Bank," as the Jerusalem Post always does. Surely, it is the newspaper, along with the Haaretz English edition, that foreign diplomats here read and in capitals all across the world.

Imagine an Israel in which, uniformly, all Israelis refer to these hills as Judea and Samara. Imagine an Israel, a Jewish people, that has finally come home from Exile.

The Europeans use “West Bank” because Israel’s ruling class allows them to. In their naming scheme, Judea and Samaria are as dead as Londinium, the Latin name for London. No more Romans in charge there, therefore no more Londinium. Now it is just London.

New Amsterdam of the Dutch in 1624 was handed over to another people, the English, who renamed it New York. And what Israel has permitted the Europeans to do is efface/erase Judea and Samaria as the living names of these territories. And the reason the ruling class in Israel has done is that its ideal Zionist state is not a religious state. It is just like other secular states in the democratic West. Religion has nothing to do with it.

Israel’s ruling class has never waved the flag of the Jewish religion as a symbol of the Jewish people’s right to rule in Judea and Samaria, because all the famous places in them have a religious significance.

I envy the historians of the future who take note and comment on the behavior of the prime minister of Israel in 2000, Ehud Barak, the most decorated soldier in the state’s history, who looked the other way as the Arabs using dump trucks and other heavy equipment dug up and carted off the Temple Mount thousands of tons of dirt containing who knows how many artifacts attesting to the Jewish presence there over thousand of years.

Ehud Barak has publicly prided himself on being the son of atheists. He was also the prime minister that year when he let an Israeli soldier die at the Tomb of Joseph rather than rescue him and defend that most amazing tomb of a man whose biography we know, he who lived his life over 3,000 years ago and has been remembered by us ever since. There is no other nation on earth that knows the graves of its ancestors going back 3,000 years. There is no nation on earth anywhere so old.

So the top today in Israel was outrage across the board at the EU for finally finalizing this new regulation to mark off Jewish products as surely as a yellow patch in Germany last century was put upon them and a yellow patch last millennium in Araby. In the Middle Ages, the records show, Jews in Tunisia and maybe Iraq had to wear a yellow cloth on the backs of their necks to identify them in the street as infidels who refused to recognize Muhammad as the final Prophet.

The upside of this brouhaha was the Foreign Ministry that expressed its sense of insult by canceling some if not all scheduled dealings with the EU over various issues. President Rivlin also canceled a trip to Belgium in protest.

The upside was, though, the unanimity all across Israel at the blatant unfairness and I say -- miracle of miracles -- for the first time in memory - a unanimous view that behind it all was antisemitism.

The foreign ministry said there are over 200 similar land disputes on the planet, but the EU does not see them. Israel alone is the target for this special regulation.

But as I say it has its good side, because I cannot remember so many of the movers shakers, from Yuval Steinitz on the right to Yair Lapid on the left, using the same word – antisemitism -- to describe what has happened.

The prime minister said that the EU should be “ashamed of itself. We are not prepared to accept the fact that Europe is labelling the side that is being attacked by terrorism. The Israeli economy is strong and will withstand this. Those who will be hurt will be those Palestinians who work in Israeli factories.”

Others also took note of the ugly coincidence of passing this regulation in Brussels in the same days these barbarians are murdering us with knives and automobiles.

What especially interested yours truly is the new fashion in anti-Jewism in which post-Holocaust the antiJew insists he is not being antisemitic. The EU operative here, the ambassador, is Lars Faaborg Andersen from Denmark who insists the regulation is only a “technical matter.” It is not boycott, he said. It is just consumer information, or words to that effect. What is new in our generation is the denial by antiJews like him of their antiJewism. Who does he think he is kidding? “Only a technical matter.”

But as I say, at the end of the day, Israel has itself to blame. Listen to the words of the Temple Denier and liar about 50 dead in Jenin in 2002, Saeb Erekat, who said that the labelling was a “significant move toward a total boycott of Israeli settlements, which are built illegally on occupied Palestinian lands...We believe that more actions are necessary to hold Israel accountable for the crimes it continues to commit against the land and people of Balestine.”

What he is doing here and always does just about every time he opens his mouth is to assert, to claim, to proclaim that the land in question is Palestinian land and, by implication, the Jews stole it

But how does Israel answer this chronic verbal behavior on his part and that of others? Israel declares that it wants to share Balestine but the Balestinians don't want to share it, when that is not the right answer. Every declaration of ownership by the enemy must be met with a two-pronged defense and counter-strike. The claim must be dismissed, exposed as fraudulent, and the Jewish legal right to Judea and Samaria be vigorously asserted.

On the contrary, as noted at the outset, every day that the Jerusalem Post writes of the “West Bank” and “Palestinians” instead of Judea and Samaria and Arabs and/or Muslims -- anything but “Palestinians” – it causes immense harm to the country.

Here's what the EU issued yesterday along with the new labelling regulation. Its formal position since 2012 is “The European Union, in line with international law, does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied by Israel since 1967...and does not consider them to be part of Israel's territory, irrespective of their legal status under domestic Israeli law.”

There are three statements here. The last, that the EU does not recognize Israeli law in Judea and Samaria, they are entitled to. In the middle, they state that they do not

recognize them to be Israel's territory; and in truth neither does Israel. But as to its first assertion, that international law does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territories, this is just a lie that Israel never rebuts because it would mean waving the banner of Jewish rights to Judea and Samaria while every Israeli government has lived inside the bubble fantasy that it can sell back *some* of the land taken and in exchange the Arabs will finally make peace.

We are the legal rulers according to international law since 1967 and until the situation changes Israel will remain the legal ruler.

Israelis hold onto their fantasy because the alternative is too frightening for them to contemplate. This is not a war over territory. It is a religious war, but the ruling class here is just too non-religious to deal with it.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Speaking before of Netanyahu rightfully saying to the EU "Shame on you" for this double standard of treatment, true to form he did not claim and never claims Judea and Samaria as of right.

He also caused a ruckus here by addressing the Jewish Federations in their General Assembly by saying that the government and Jewish Agency will for the first time invest in the development of Reform and Conservative congregations in Israel.

This, not surprisingly, raised hackles in Israel among Haredi coalition members who threatened to bring down the government, or words to that effect, though it's hard to know what Netanyahu is thinking. I cannot believe he has become an enthusiast of Reform Judaism. He is too smart for that. He knows the facts, the demographic facts that these non-Orthodox movements are drying up and dying off.

I suspect that because he knows this, he speaks this way in hopes of holding onto the support of these people as long as possible. After all, the bulk of American Jewish support for Israel has always been among the non-Orthodox, but now they are disappearing at warp speed.

He may also feel that words are cheap and he need not follow through on what he said for months to come.

Nonetheless, Minister of Health Yaakov Litzman of United Torah Judaism said the prime minister's remarks in favor of the Reform insult us and clearly go against the coalition agreement. He said, "The Reform and Conservative movements tear apart the Jewish people and they must not be helped to hurt the Torah of Israel. We will do everything we can so that this commitment is not met."

Fellow party member MK Moshe Gafni said Reform Jews "stick a knife in the Torah of Israel. What Netanyahu said is very serious and requires clarifications when he returns."

Yes, unfortunately Reform Judaism does stick a knife into the Torah of Israel for teaching the very same theory called the Higher Criticism or the Documentary Hypothesis

that I myself studied, according to which the Torah is not the handiwork of Moses but was written by many hands over the generations and patched together centuries later.

And in teaching this theory to its rabbis, the Reform teach this antisemitic theory developed by the first antisemites in history, 19th century German academics, philologists and post-Christian theorists of religion rather than believers in religion. In this behavior, Reform joined the precursors of 20th century Nazi theorists who went to war against Jews and their religion in favor of resurrecting the pre-Christian pagan pantheon in Germany that inspired the operas of Richard Wagner that Hitler loved so much.

And this next claim I can also attest to myself: what goes on in Reform temples is the reason why 80% of the children later go on to marry non-Jews and leave the Jewish people.

The Reform speak of “the rabbi who barmitzvahed my son” when there is no such transitive verb “to barmitzvah.” There is no rabbinic or clerical activity involved. “Bar mitzvah” means “son of the commandment,” meaning old enough to be responsible to carry them out. Boyhood is over – and that is a natural, biological process -- and now you must perform the mitzvot. And no ceremony or ritual or clerical participation is needed. All one need do is come of age. Nothing need be done to become a “bar mitzvah.”

Versus the average Reform boy or girl who thinks there is some kind of ritual after which one is free to perform no mitzvot at all. It is an activity that is inherently very confused. And preparing for it is nothing but a pain in the *tuchis* for the children because it is so empty of content and meaning. It turns Jewish religious activity into some kind of Confucian ancestor worship. You do it because “your father did it and grandfather and great-grandfather. It was boring to all of us but you gotta do it!”

It is, in the final analysis, what was called in Shakespeare’s day, a dumb-show, a pantomime in which to the outside observer it seems there is a boy or girl reading from Torah but in truth it is all phonetic and transliterated and as for the content of the words, they might be written in Turkish. It is all gibberish to the boy or girl.

After which ridiculous ceremony, a massive, very expensive party is attended and if affordable, with go-go girls.

I said the last webcast that it is amazing in a way that Reform Jews, who in their secular life can be intelligent, even above average, but when it comes to the religion, they are imbeciles. Many used to be (if no longer concerned) that their offspring would marry a non-Jew, but never understood why that is. They can’t put two and two together and connect the emptiness of the Jewish religion as a Reform child experiences and misunderstands it, and the later lack of any desire to marry a Jew to perpetuate this emptiness.

Still, Bibi wants to hold onto those with at least some tenuous connection to the Jewish people as a way of maintaining influence in the American electorate.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

And that of course was part of sound track to *Schindler's List*, the famous verse from Psalm 137, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem..."

The Jewish Telegraph Agency has reported that on Monday, November 16, on the Smithsonian TV Channel, a new documentary will be shown based on recently discovered filmed interviews with Hitler's closest associates during his final days in his bunker.

It seems an American judge at the Nurnberg trials, one Michael Musanno, conducted interviews with 22 men and women who shared the 18 rooms of that bunker with Der Fuhrer during the last four months of his 1000-year-old Reich that last a mere 12 years.

Somehow these interviews were forgotten/lost in an archive not come upon until two years ago in Pittsburgh, and what I found most illuminating in the news item in this JTA piece was information about Hitler's last will and testament that he wrote just before committing suicide. According the item, "After 12 years in power, leaving a trail of mass graves and rubble-strewn cities, the dictator's foremost obsession had not changed. He asserted in its opening paragraph that he had" – fasten your seatbelts – "always been a man of peace and the people who bore the ultimate responsibility for the devastation all around him at the moment was international Jewry and its helpers."

Not me, not little Adolf. The Jews bore the guilt for that 5-year-war, its 60 million dead, devastation and horror. It was just the Jews, International Jewry, for the Jews are an international body of conspirators out to conquer and devour mankind, monopolize all the world's money and turn everyone else into their slaves.

And what I hear in this is a deep echo chamber, a kind of perversion of Jewishness into its opposite. Anti-Jewism is to Judaism as anti-matter is to matter. There is a bizarre connection between Jewism and Nazism.

There is a truth all twisted up and buried inside the vision of Hitler's vision of a world-wide Jewish conspiracy that is in plain sight three times a day at the end of a Jew's thrice-daily prayers. It is in the concluding Aleinu prayer which ends with a wish for a world in which idolatry is no more and the world will come to see the truth that there is only one G-d, the G-d of the Jews is the G-d of all mankind, a God Who preaches justice, mercy, charity, kindness. The whole world will unite when the whole world sees the God of All Creation. As the prayer says, He will be One and his Name one.

So yes, Hitler and all deranged Jew-haters like him are onto something in their hallucinatory fear of Jews. They fear the power of the Jewish idea conquering the world and go to war against it.

The Jews preach the concept of the Chosen People as not a warrior people – that was Hitler's fantasy for Germans -- but as bearers of the word that HaShem exists.

Versus Hitler's concept of the Master Race, his mirror-image distortion of the Chosen People, a race that "rules" not by force but the virtue of its moral teaching and exemplary behavior. The Master Race is the master by virtue of biology, its super health and genes, not its superior virtuous morality.

In a way, obsessional Jew-haters like Hitler, like a lot talk-backers on the Israeli and Jewish websites, are bizarre, funhouse mirror imitations of Jews in their distortions. They are as locked onto the Jewish idea as the most pious, frummet Jew. But instead of seeing Jews as innovators in medical science to help the world, the first on the scene during natural disasters, they see us as evil-doers. One demented city council member in Chicago when the AIDS epidemic exploded said that the reason for the existence of AIDS in black babies was that in the hospitals where they are born, they are injected with the virus by Jewish nurses.

And I propose there is a little bit of that craziness in every antisemite, every anti-Israelite, who see in us in Israel as rapacious, imperialist conquerors, thieves of Balestine from its rightful owners, racists who continue to oppress and humiliate the Ancient Ones every day, when it truth we are arguably the most racially mixed nation on earth.

And never mind that it says in the Koran that Muslims must oppress and humiliate the Jews every day. Here Muslim preachers say it is the Jews who every day are oppressing and humiliating Muslims Other verses also say the Koran justifies stabbing us at random.

Islam in general is a funhouse distortion of Jewishness.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Well, if I am not mistaken, today, besides being a lovely sunny day after days of darkness and rain, was a day in which not one drop of Jewish blood was spilled by a blood thirsty Arab. I think there was one attempt made but otherwise, it was a day free of would-be murder attempts by our cruel, uncivilized Ishmaelitic neighbors.

For this we must be thankful.

Thank you Hashem for this beautiful, non-violent day.

Leila tov veShabbat shalom mi Eretz Yisrael.