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# DeProgram Program

*From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa*

*Transcript*

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*Parasha: Khayei Sarah / חיי שרה*

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*Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim.* It is the evening of the 2nd day, *kaf bekhodesh Mar Keshvan, Parashas Khayei Sarah, taf-shin-peh*, 5780, the evening of the 1st day, Sunday, 17 November, 2019, webcasting from the first Jewish community in history that still doesn't get it.

That is a point I repeatedly make, because Israelis repeatedly still don't get it, because they grow up in a community that is 100% Jewish and have no experience in their formative years of gentiles; they have no experience of the fundamental hatred of Jews that has no foundation in truth.

And thanks to the post-religious early Zionists who because they were post-religious did not understand the hostility that has nothing to do with our behavior, nothing to do with any alleged concern for the welfare of the hallucinated Palestinians. That is just a smoke screen.

The early Leftist Zionists in particular believed that religion was nonsense. What matters are the material, objective conditions of society that can be changed. Antisemitism was the product of objective conditions that the Jews could change by moving someplace else and creating a New Jew who would be the opposite of the antisemitic caricature of the Jew; the shylock, the money-grubbing capitalist who loves money more than anything else; a pale weakling who one could physically abuse for fun because he posed no physical threat.

So, they became men of the soil, farmers but with guns to defend themselves. They threw in the garbage can the laws and values of the Jewish nation that kept them immortal, when all other nations and empires they had lived in and were abused by had disappeared down the memory hole of history. They believed that if they changed

themselves, they would be rid of the accusations cast against Jews that led to horrible persecution.

Indelible in my memory was my first visit to Israel in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, two years before the Six-Day War. I had no Zionism in my boyhood and youth. I had a strong Jewish sociological identity growing up in schools where classes of twenty might contain two Jews, one of them me.

I loved Leon Uris's *Exodus*, published at the end of the 1950s. That book is what made Natan Sharansky in the old Soviet Union, a youthful communist, a Zionist. That was all I knew of Israel, that book and the movie, when I landed here with no plans except the knowledge I could work for room and board on a kibbutz.

I arranged that within a day or two. I found a place through the Mapai Party office in Tel-Aviv, hitched south to Kibbutz Nir Am, where there was a unit of Nahalayim, soldiers, a unit in the army. I had no idea what Nahal was. No matter. These were boys and girls, young men and women, my age and in a time before the Six-Day War when Israel was not an attraction to foreigners. I was pretty much alone as an American, when Israelis had yet the facility with English they have today. No matter. Within a week of working in the citrus groves and apple orchards by day, hanging out with my newfound friends in the evening, I knew I was home and would someday make my home in Israel. I was smitten.

Not knowing a word of Hebrew beyond *shalom* when I landed, I nonetheless, when in the company of those young, vital, beautiful, handsome sabras, felt, without understanding a word, as I felt among Jews in America. Similar faces but physically more vital, a little taller, a little healthier.

While their words were incomprehensible, their body language and facial expressions were completely recognizable. They spoke Hebrew with the music of Jews speaking English in New York, surely coming from the Yiddish. All the traditional ethnic groups in NY have their accents. On the radio, I know a New York Irishman, an Italian, a Black, a Jew, and the music of my newfound friends was my music. It was an almost an out-of-body experience.

These sabras were middle class Ashkenazim from Givatayim, a comfortable suburb of Tel-Aviv, educated in government schools controlled by Mapai, the dominant Social Party in Israel in everything.

But when it came to the subject of antisemitism, I was stunned, surprised, shocked, almost depressed. They had been taught that the Jews were the cause of antisemitism. By their beliefs and their behaviors, they made themselves hate-able.

I met a girl there (whom I also married) raised in a communist household in Israel who insisted that she was not a Jew but an Israeli. Judaism is a religion, she said, and she was an atheist. Ergo, she was not a Jew. Think of the late Shulamith Aloni, bosom buddy of the late Shimon Peres, who wanted the Ministry of the Interior to

remove the word “Jew” from her birth certificate in the space for nationality. She wanted to be registered as an Israeli, not a Jew.

And so, I was flabbergasted as I got to know these Israelis whom I had been given to understand were proud Jews and with whom I otherwise felt such a shared identity, whose understanding of antisemitism was shockingly fit for antisemites. The secular Zionists did not dismiss the hatred but went along with it and set out to rectify the antisemitic view by changing the very nature of the Jew so as not be hate-able anymore. Step No. 1: The Torah goes into the garbage with its claim that we are the Chosen People. That only makes the non-Jews hate us. Next, you junk the dietary laws that work to keep Jews a separate community. Catholic men and women enter monasteries and convents to isolate themselves from society. We Jews remain in society but isolate ourselves by not breaking bread with non-Jews, except on our terms. We do not socialize with gentiles.

By contrast, to my newfound friends, I had experienced antiJew behavior and knew from the first, though I did not have the words, the concepts, and the intellectual ability to express what I experienced. I knew antisemites were nuts; that I did nothing to make them hate me. They hated me because they hated Jews in general for having killed Jesus, I guess, when even as a little boy I thought this was a ridiculous idea. Did the Jews kill Jesus? I had no idea. I wasn't there. Maybe they did, but I had nothing to do with it. My late mother once, as a girl in the Bronx a hundred years ago, said she passed a Catholic girl on the sidewalk in their neighborhood who pointed at her and said, “You killed G-d.”

In a word, I knew from the start that there was nothing wrong with me but with them I did not deserve the daggers of hatred they stared at me when they found out I was a Jew. The problem was in their own heads, not mine.

Jump cut to Israelis to this day who still don't get it. Last week's firing of hundreds of rockets at us, each one meant to murder a Jew or two at random, was answered by Israel bombing and destroying inanimate objects and some thirty wild asses of Muslim terrorist men and apparently a whole family was killed in what normal military lingo labels “collateral damage,” a euphemism for unintended, accidental fatalities, a euphemism for killing people by mistake.

I also once came across the military fact that in warfare, it is not unusual for like, don't quote me, 25% of your casualties to be the victims of their comrades in arms in error, using another euphemism, “friendly fire.”

And so in response to those fifty hours last week of the IAF and IDF pounding the enemy, warfare by assassination, call it tweezer warfare, in which Israel never strikes at groups of enemies in uniform or civilian clothing at random, the howls of war crime were immediately in the air when a family of eight in Deir al-Balah inside the Strip was obliterated. Not only did the antiJew goyim point the finger of willful murder on the part of the killer Jews, the Israelis think the proper response is to refute the charge and

promised an investigation to prove them wrong, but miss the underlying and irrational hatred that precedes the specific accusation of the allegedly deliberate slaughter of a family of Ancient Palestinians.

Immediately with the news of this accidental bombing on Shabbos, the International Criminal Court in The Hague opened a preliminary investigation into Israel's battlefield tactics. Like the Goldstone report, I guess; this is not the first time antiJews insinuate that the Jews engage in criminal warfare. Usually, it is the charge they sadistically use more force than is necessary because, well, by implication, it is their evil desire to cause pain to the innocent Balestinians, the victims of their Zionism.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \*

Yes, following the collateral damage, the United Nations Coordinator for Middle East Peace stationed in Jerusalem Nicolay Mladenov -- though what he coordinates is a mystery -- issued a statement. "There is no justification to attacking civilians in Gaza or elsewhere. Such a tragedy. I call on Israel to move swiftly with its investigation" because Israel announced it had already begun one.

Of course, the IDF began an investigation in order to learn what went wrong. But unfortunately, the IDF said no more, leaving open the possibility that it will discover an evil intention to massacre a family of innocent civilians.

What it should have said is that "The investigation is an internal operational probe whose findings will not change the truth that this was collateral damage, and anyone who thinks otherwise is an ugly antisemite."

The official IDF statement read, "According to the information available to the IDF at the time of the strike, no civilians were expected to be harmed. The IDF is investigating the harm caused to civilians by the strike."

And I want to say, "Give me a break." Of course, no civilians were expected to be harmed. To think otherwise is to accuse us Jews of the deliberate murder of human beings posing no threat to us.

What the IDF, what the government, has to say in such moments, is that regardless of our investigation, the blood of this family is on the heads of their fellow Muslims in the Islamic Jihad cult who fire hundreds of rockets into our homes to murder us at random, about which war criminality Comrade Mladenov says nothing; and says this perhaps because the Israeli government says nothing.

The accusation is that we deliberately massacred a whole family for no good reason except perhaps to satisfy our evil urges licensed by our Jewish religion than allows to us murder any gentiles we want.

The IDF spokesman might have laced his statement with a little acid, such as reminding the world that we Jews are believed to love money more than any anything

else, and would not waste precious ammunition on people posing us no threat; to kill them just for the pleasure of it, the hell of it.

On Friday one of the weekend papers wrote up a young Egyptian man raised to be a fanatical Muslim who one day in his teens woke up and has become a major supporter of Israel. He says that he was taught in school and the mosques that “The source of all evil in the world is the Jews.” This is the mindset of the Muslim priests in their pre-modern robes in Tehran.

But you will never hear an Israeli address this abysmal, medieval, archaic, primitive, superstitious hatred of Jews that is central to Islam.

Quoting from Haaretz, “Israeli military sources said the army was unaware of the family’s presence in the building when conducting the strike and that it had intended to hit Islamic Jihad infrastructure only.”

A neighbor of the family that was killed was quoted, “The airstrike intentionally targeted civilians.” I read that and was fascinated by the obtuse blindness to the reality that the reason Israel was bombing in the Strip at all was the aggression of Islamic jihad, its deliberate firing hundreds of missiles at Israeli civilians at random. It was Islamic Jihad that was guilty of this neighbor’s accusation.

Don’t the Israelis see that these accusations are nothing but classical antiJew psychological projection? Like Hitler who accused the Jews of conspiring to overrun the whole world, when it was Adolf and his Germans who wanted to do that.

And what yours truly found and not for the first was the eerie coincidence of last week’s events and allegations about killing the innocent with the guilty, for that was last week’s parasha, the story of Sodom and Gomorra. HaShem the Great Multitasker in the sky orchestrated events freighted with a lesson in proper sexual conduct that also raised the ethical conundrum of the innocent suffering with the guilty. That was Avraham’s first appeal to the Almighty.

Israel says it will investigate this incident but it should also make clear that whatever its findings from an operational point, this was collateral damage and the ultimate bearer of the guilty for the destruction of this family lies on the heads of Islamic Jihad, that once again launched rockets deliberately in an effort to kill Jewish non-combatants at random.

No one -- not one -- not one of those missiles targeted a military target in Israel. Every one was deliberately fired at civilians. But about this fact UN Coordinator Mladenov in Jerusalem was silent, and in The Hague, the UN-invented International Criminal Court investigates only this one Israeli incident, and not one of the hundreds of rocket launches. And Israel is remiss in not shining a light on the antisemitism of this behavior. This wholly unfair persecution of Israel via allegations of cruel, sadistic and immoral mass murder is nothing but this year’s way of smearing Jews with the kind of guilt used to smear us for killing a Jew from Nazareth. It is this facet of the violence against us that Israelis are ill-equipped to understand.

Islamic Jihad said, “Israel is responsible for the consequences of the ongoing aggression against the resistance and the Balestinian people in Gaza.”

Israelis also do not yet grasp the Muslim tactic here of hiding behind the verbal hologram of the Balestinian people in Gaza. Islamic Jihad could not be more blatant in advertising its ideology which is age-old belligerent Islam, and only hides behind the verbal mask of Palestinian Nationalism, which deception Israelis still don’t see through.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \*

Now, in a related story to the foregoing about the Israeli difficulty in confronting the classic hatred of Jews lurking beneath the masquerade of Palestinian Nationalism, the French no less are committing suicide via their blindness and denial to the menace of Islam that all demographic projections predict will conquer France in the next thirty years.

I have in mind the excellent French academic Guy de Milliere who publishes regularly on the Gatestone website who not only reports on the demographic process but the denial of the French in the face of Muslims who do not deny their goal which is conquering France, and really the whole world.

In his latest article, which willy-nilly relates to Israel, he cited the imam in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem last March. “In 2050, France will be an Islamic country. We believe that Muslims will have a country that will bring Islam, its guidance, its light, its message and its mercy to the people of the West through jihad; for the sake of Allah...At the time of the Ottoman Empire the Muslims had conquered Poland and Austria. And the call to prayer was recited there; the Islamic nation is able to recover its original identity, and spread Islam, Allah willing. The means at our disposal are the conversion to Islam and the payment of the jezya tax (that infidels must pay for refusing to convert), or we will ask the help of Allah to fight the infidels.”

De Milliere also added the fact that a growing number of French people are converting to Islam, and “One can see the streets white European people wearing Islamist clothing.”

Unfortunately, de Milliere used the term “Islamist” which is as phony and dishonest as “Islamophobia.” It is a fact that Muslims themselves do not use these terms, “Islamist” and “Islamism.” It was Western non-Muslim academics like Daniel Pipes who fostered the invention of the words “Islamist” and “Islamism,” when Muslims themselves make no such distinctions. Plainly, it seems to me, that what Pipes and others were up to was painting a portrait of Islam in which the violent ones are isolated as “extremists” and therefore unrepresentative of Islam as a whole, which is a dubious contention.

We just heard the imam of Al-Aqsa; are we to believe he is not representative of mainstream Islam? On what grounds? On the contrary, Steve Emerson of the Investigative Project who monitors Islam in the States is closer to the truth when he highlights the sermons on Fridays in mosques everywhere stirring up hatred for Israel, as mentioned before, the Jews as “the source of all evil in the world.”

When 60% of the Arabs after 9-11 believed it was a Mossad operation meant to get people to hate Arabs, it's a reasonable assumption that the same 60%, the mainstream, are in tune with these sermons they hear in their mosques, and read about Jews in their Koran.

The imam in al-Aqsa is not a fringe figure but representative of this dreadful religion so-called, this plagiarized version of Judaism, Judaism burglarized and perverted. In my book Phantom Nation, I quote Winston Churchill who as a 20-something soldier in the British army in Afghanistan wrote two books about fighting the Muslims in the 1890s and called Islam "the most retrograde force in the world." And I just came across a quote from President Teddy Roosevelt who had to deal with the kidnapping in 1904 of Greek-American playboy Ion Perdicaris and his stepson, Cromwell, in Morocco by Mulai Ahmed ar-Raisuli, chief of a bandit gang, in an attempt to force the sultan to meet his demands over internal issues. President TR sent seven ships to Morocco from the Mediterranean fleet; the British sent ships; Spain got involved. In the end, the sultan capitulated and Perdicaris went free. In 1916, Roosevelt wrote, "Whenever the Mohammadans have had complete sway, wherever the Christians have been unable to resist them by the sword, Christianity has ultimately disappeared. If the people of Europe had not possessed a military quality with, and gradually a growing superiority, over the Mohammadans who invaded Europe, Europe would be at this moment Mohammedan, and the Christian religion exterminated."

Well, it looks like what the Old Rough Rider feared is coming true another way. Europe is being peacefully invaded and colonized by the Muslims because the Europeans have not only lost a military spirit; they have no religion anymore to stand up to the religion overrunning them.

Israel for its own sake must see through the lie of a "Palestinian nation with rights" that Israel has to respect. Israel should sound the tocsin to the whole world of the menace of militant Islam.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \*