

From Our Pastor December 30, 2017

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

The continent of Europe is changing in many ways. While the elected leaders of most European nations have looked the other way and pretended it is not so, demographics is once again proving to be the most dominant strategic force in the world.

A recurrent item reported from France in recent years is cause for deep concern. "French-Jewish families are being forced from their homes in Paris suburbs as Europe continues to be convulsed by levels of anti-Semitism not seen since the end of the Second World War." (Simon Kent on Brietbart.com)

Synagogues are closing one by one as Jews flee France, once regarded as one of the safest and most civilized of nations. The Paris commuter newspaper 20 Minutes documents an "internal exodus" during 2017 of Jews from the Seine-Saint-Denis department, saying it is emblematic of broader concerns that French Jews, like their brothers and sisters across Europe, are finding it increasingly difficult to reconcile their faith with the changing demographics of the continent. The paper reports that Jews are leaving their homes on the northeastern fringe of Paris to escape the open hostility that French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on Sunday condemned as "well-rooted." There are frequent reports of young men being attacked on Paris streets if they are wearing a star of David or a traditional Jewish skull cap.

As Breitbart Jerusalem has reported, "the experience of Jews in Paris is much the same across the rest of the country. More and more are feeling so unsafe that they now feel they have no other choice but to move to Israel for safety. They are continuing a trend that has seen tens of thousands of Jews quit the country in the past decade." More than 5,000 departures were recorded in 2016 on top of the record 7,900 who left in 2015 and 7,231 in 2014. In total, 40,000 French Jews have emigrated since 2006, according to figures cited by AFP.

Many observers say the growing anti-Semitism in Europe is the result of the immigration of Muslims from Africa and the Middle east. In the past twenty years millions have come to France and currently make up nearly ten percent of the population. Instead of assimilating as Frenchmen, most of these immigrants live in "enclaves" where they keep their own language, customs, and beliefs, and in many cases set up a Sharia law system. Immigrants, however, are not the only source of the problem. Historians note that anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in European history and has been for centuries.

Reports of anti-Semitism are on the rise in the USA also. Some believe that the rising number of hate-filled social media posts and incidents at many college campuses are political in nature--an expression of opposition to the modern state of Israel more than personal. Gabriel Groisman, Mayor of Bal Harbour, Florida, recently wrote on Huffpost, "Today, anti-Semitism is once again on the rise. It is at levels which we have not seen in

the Western world since the rise of the Nazi party. It is the moral obligation of all civilized people — Jews and non-Jews alike — to stand up to this bigotry and to put a stop to this age-old hatred."

His observation is correct. The world did nothing when Hitler passed laws boycotting Jewish businesses and professionals in 1933, when Hitler passed the Nuremberg Laws in 1935, and the violence began in earnest during Kristallnacht in 1938. As the evil is rising again, occasional efforts are being made to stop it, but the problem will not go away.

The only "final solution" to mankind's problems will be the return of Jesus Christ to rule the entire earth! Our creator promises us, "... I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory." (Isaiah 66:18) No longer will feelings of hatred and resentment dominate. People will learn to live together in peace.

Jerusalem, that city that has been fought over so many times and is still bitterly contested, will become the capital of a peaceful world. "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts." (Jeremiah 3:17)

Until that time, we should daily pray "Thy Kingdom come" and follow the admonition in Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."

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