



Where Was God in the Holocaust ?

Presented by Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz



We Are Used to the world turning it's back on Jews

- Eisenhower did not bomb the train tracks...
- The Polish peasants were far worse than the Germans
- Ukrainian guards were worse than Nazi guards
- No country would let Jews emigrate to their land
- We know that nearly everyone hates us.....
- BUT WHERE WAS GOD ?

What is the Correct Question to Ask?

- Where was God in the Holocaust?
- Could There Have Been a Holocaust without God ?

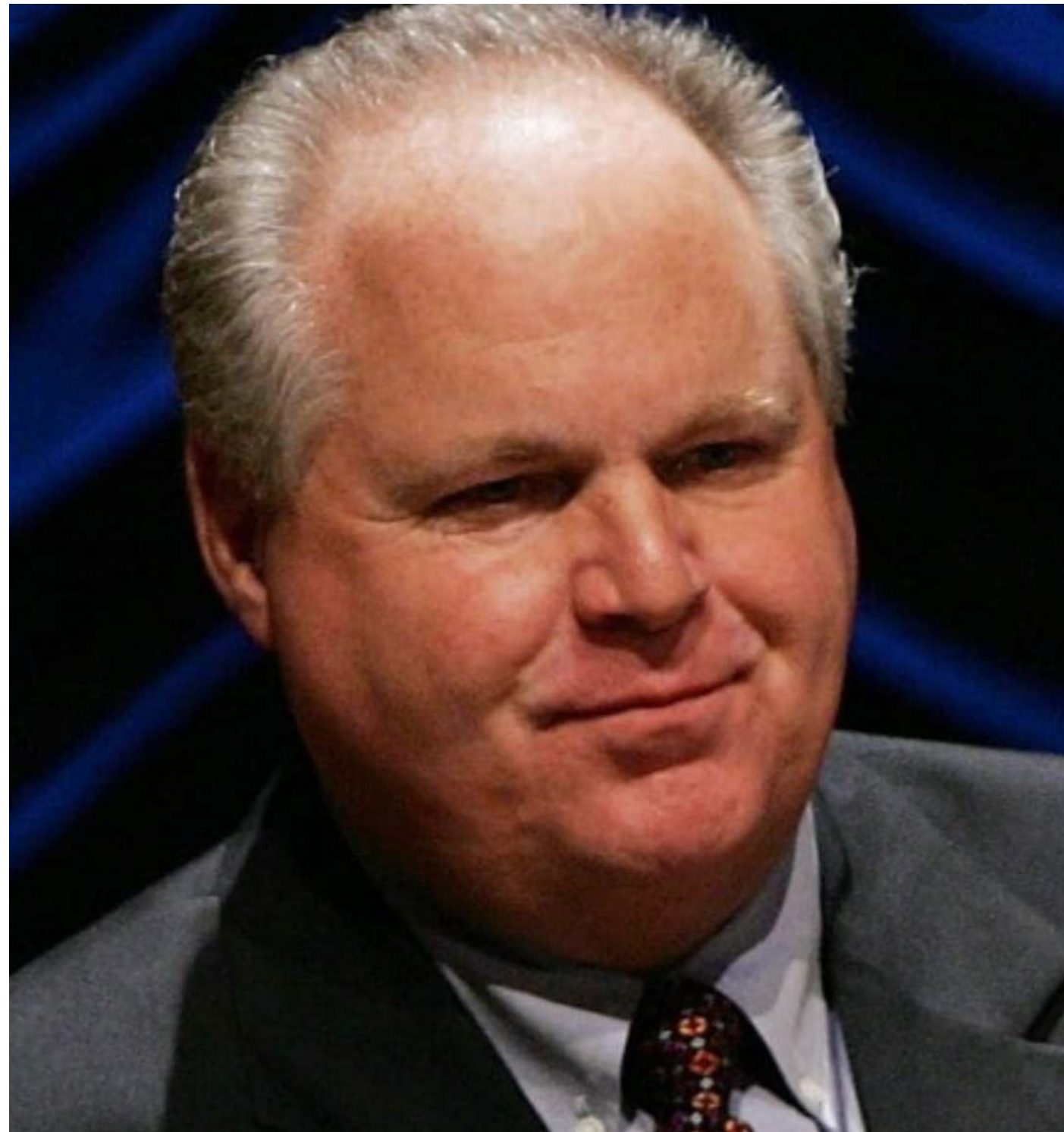
Germany in the 1920s

- No anti-semitism
- No masses of people waiting to kill the Jewish people
- Germany was the seat of culture & sophistication
- Germany was a democratic society
- Jews had more rights & privileges than in any other place in the world
- Jews were well off financially

- German society was advanced in the arts, theatre, and opera...
- Jews who visited Germany described it as a "beautiful country"
- Jews were doctors, lawyers, professors, businessman, etc.
- Germany was an open, liberal, democratic society
- No one was going to vote in an anti-Semitic dictator

**Let's get the
conservative
revolution
underway....**

"We need Rabbi
Michalowicz to be
elected as the next
President of the
United States"

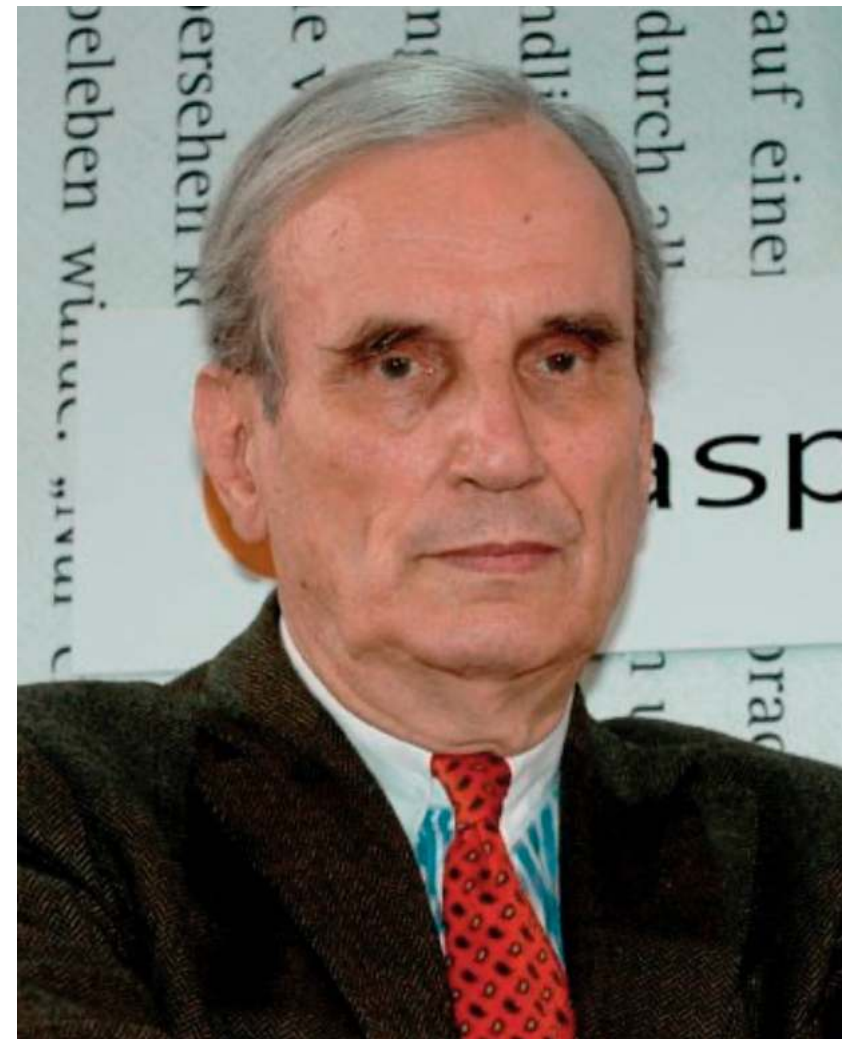


**The odds of Hitler becoming R.C. & Sole Dictator over
80 million people were far less likely than Yossi
becoming President of the United States!**

Hitler Was the Least Likely Candidate for Power

- Born to a very typical father who was an average government worker
- Hitler never heard the word "Jew" in his house.
- As a student, he was nothing special
- He did not have a great upbringing as a child

Joachim C. Fest, The Face of the Third Reich (1963)



Adolf Hitler was evidently an alert pupil of average gifts whose abilities were thwarted by lack of self-discipline from an early age and a tendency towards an easygoing, irregular way of life... Almost all his reports rate his industriousness as "uneven", and in mathematics, natural history, French and even German his work is considered "unsatisfactory". The report of September 1905 rates his history, in which he was supposed to have been ahead of the whole class, as only "satisfactory"; in gymnastics alone he is rated "excellent"; on the whole this report was so unsatisfactory that he left the school at age 16.

Dr Eduard Humer, one of Hitler's teachers, interviewed in 1923.

I can recall the gaunt, pale-faced youth pretty well. He had definite talent, though in a narrow field. But he lacked self-discipline, being notoriously cantankerous, wilful, arrogant, and bad-tempered. He had obvious difficulty in fitting in at school. Moreover, he was lazy... his enthusiasm for hard work evaporated all too quickly. He reacted with ill-concealed hostility to advice or reproof; at the same time, he demanded of his fellow pupils their unqualified subservience, fancying himself in the role of leader



(Source D) Adolf Hitler in 1899

Older Adolescence & Young Adulthood

- Ages 16-19 : Did very little while living with his. Mother
- At 19, went to Vienna to enrolled in the Academy of Arts.
- He was not accepted, because he had no talent.
- Lived as a ward of the state.
- Lived as a vagrant living an illusionary world of dreams.
And imagination

August Kubizek



Every single opinion that entered Hitler's head was turned into a twenty, thirty or even forty minute monologue, with the length of the lecture directly proportionate to Hitler's dislike. Theatrical performances of which he disapproved would be given the most thorough lambasting, especially when the performance had been of Wagner, which to Hitler was akin to holy text. What is perhaps most curious is that during this time period Hitler seems to have had no particularly strong feelings about Jews. He was, it seems, about as anti-Semitic as just about everyone in Europe at that time, and certainly was not yet possessed of the violent, murderous, paranoid, apocalyptic hatred of them that would later cause the deaths of many millions of people.

- In Vienna, Hitler continued the same lazy lifestyle he had enjoyed in Linz after dropping out of school. Kubizek described Hitler as a night owl who slept till noon, would go out for walks taking in all the sights, then stay up late discussing his ideas on everything from social reform to city planning. Hitler made no effort to get a regular job, considering himself far above that. He dressed like an artist and at night dressed like a young gentleman of leisure and often attended the opera.
- Kubizek also recalled Hitler displayed an increasingly unstable personality with a terrible temper. At times he was quite reasonable but he was always prone to sudden outbursts of rage especially when he was corrected on anything.
- Hitler was also prone to sudden bursts of inspiration and had many interesting ideas but never finished anything he started. Whether composing his own opera or redesigning the city of Vienna, he would start with much enthusiasm and work hard, only to eventually lose interest.
- In Vienna, and later, Hitler suffered bouts of depression. Other times he experienced extreme highs, only to be followed by a drop back into the depths. One consistent personality trait was the hysteria evident whenever someone displeased him. Hitler's personality has been described as basically hysterical in nature.

Thus, I have drawn the portrait of the young Hitler as well as I can from memory. But for the question, then unknown and unexpressed, which hung above our friendship, I have not to this day found any answer: "What were God's intentions when he created this man?"

-August Kubizek

- Austrian historian Brigitte Hamann, in her new book, *Hitler's Vienna; The Learning Years of a Dictator*, presents evidence of Hitler's friendship with a number of Jews during his time in Vienna before World War I.
- She reports that at this time, when Hitler was between the ages of 17 and 24, most of his friends and business partners were Jews and he openly stated his sympathy "for this wise nation which unlike the Germans knows how to stick together."
- That connection, Hamann found, went back to the Austrian city of Linz where Hitler, who was born in 1889, lived between 1898 and 1907. The Jewish family doctor, Eduard Bloch, was respected in Linz, especially by the poor whom he would treat at any hour. One of Bloch's patients was Hitler's mother, Klara. In Oct. 1907 Hitler returned to Linz to attend his dying mother. Bloch visited her daily and treated her kindly.
- After Klara's death in Dec., Hitler expressed his gratitude to Bloch, gave him one of his paintings as a present, and sent him postcards he drew himself, signed "Your eternally thankful patient, Adolf Hitler."

- Between 1910 and 1913, Hitler lived in an asylum for homeless men, an institution sponsored in Vienna by wealthy Jews.
- His closest friends were the Jewish co-residents Josef Neumann, who helped him sell his paintings; Siegfried Loeffner, who supported young Adolf in a row with an antisemitic rival; and Simon Robinson, a war invalid who backed the poor Hitler financially. Hitler's business partner was the art dealer Samuel Morgenstern.
- Prof. Hamann reports that with Neumann, Hitler would carry out nightly discussions about Moses, the Ten Commandments, and the philosophy of Zionism. "There is no clear evidence of Hitler's views of Zionism,"

World War I

- At 26, Hitler is a corporal in the Army
- "He often sat on a corner with his helmet on his. Head, lost in thought. None. Of us were able. To coax him out of his apathy."
- "That while he certainly was brave; as he was extremely odd, he could not be made into a Sergeant."
- "He would never command respect."

Hitler Joins German Workers' Party

- On September 12th, 1919, dressed in civilian clothes, Hitler went to a meeting of the German Workers' Party in the back room of a Munich beer hall, with about twenty five people. He listened to a speech on economics by Gottfried Feder entitled, "How and by what means is capitalism to be eliminated?"
- After the speech, Hitler began to leave when a man rose up and spoke in favor of the German state of Bavaria breaking away from Germany and forming a new South German nation with Austria.
- This enraged Hitler and he spoke out forcefully against the man for the next fifteen minutes uninterrupted, to the astonishment of everyone. One of the founders of the German Workers' Party, Anton Drexler, reportedly whispered: **"He's got the gift of the gab. We could use him."**
- After Hitler's outburst ended, Drexler hurried over to Hitler and gave him a forty-page pamphlet entitled: "My Political Awakening." He urged Hitler to read it and also invited Hitler to come back again.

Hitler's First speech

- Hitler was scheduled to be the second speaker at this meeting. It was to be his first time as a featured speaker, despite the misgivings of some committee members who doubted Hitler's ability at this time.
- But when Hitler got up to speak, he astounded everyone with a highly emotional, at times near hysterical manner of speech making. For Hitler, it was an important moment in his young political career. He described the scene in *Mein Kampf*:
- "I spoke for thirty minutes, and what before I had simply felt within me, without in any way knowing it, was now proved by reality: I could speak! After thirty minutes the people in the small room were electrified and the enthusiasm was first expressed by the fact that my appeal to the self-sacrifice of those present led to the donation of three hundred marks."

Hitler's Own Words...

Through a thousand years of incest, often practised within the narrowest circles, the Jew has generally preserved his race and its characteristics more sharply than many of the peoples among whom he lives. His power is the power of money, which multiplies in his hands effortlessly and endlessly in the form of interest and imposes upon the people that most dangerous yoke, whose original golden gleam makes it so difficult to foresee its later melancholy consequences. Everything which makes man strive for higher things, whether it is religion, socialism or democracy, is to him all a means to the end of satisfying his lust for money and power in their consequences his activities become a racial tuberculosis of the peoples. And this has the following result: anti-Semitism for purely emotional reasons will find its final expression in the form of pogroms. The anti-Semitism of reason, however, must lead to the systematic combating and elimination of Jewish privileges. Its ultimate goal must implacably be the total removal of the Jews. Of both these purposes only a government of national strength is capable, never a government of national impotence.

People's Reaction to Hitler

- All accounts describe Hitler as awkward, fawningly polite, “noteworthy for his hasty greed when eating and his exaggerated bows.”
- Pfeffer Von Salomon was so flabbergasted by Hitler's personal appearance, he refused to be introduced to him.
- Hitler was a social misfit.
- "He begins in a low tenor voice, and after about fifteen minutes, something occurs that only be described by the metaphor "the spirit enters him."

1920s

- 1921 - Munich Chief of Police states there are very few right wing groups who espouse murder
- 1923 - German depression - bread lines -Nazi party has 55,000 members
- Hitler's failed attempt to capture Bavarian Government Hall.
- Given a light prison sentence. Writes Mein Kampf with Rudolph Hess.
- "This is a gift from God, having Hitler back."
- Economy improves in 1928....
- May 28, 1928 NSDAP only gets 2.6 % of the vote in elections

1929 - 1932

- 1929 Great Depression
- With the DNVP continuing to lose members in 1929-30, Alfred Hugenberg decided to throw his financial weight and press support behind Hitler and the NSDAP. The DNVP formally aligned itself with the Nazis in 1931.
- In the presidential election held on March 13, 1932, Hitler got over eleven million votes (11,339,446) or 30% of the total. Hindenburg got 18,651,497 votes or 49%.
- On Sunday, April 10, 1932, the people voted. They gave Hitler 13,418,547 or 36%, an increase of two million, and Hindenburg 19,359,983 or 53%, an increase of under a million.
- The Old Gentleman, now 85, was elected by an absolute majority to another seven-year term.

1932-1934: Hitler's Rise

- On July 31st, 1932, the people voted and gave the Nazis 13,745,000 votes, 37% of the total, granting them 230 seats in the Reichstag. The Nazi Party was now the largest and most powerful in Germany.
- In 1930 - Germany gave the President the right to pick a Reich Chancellor if there's as no majority government.
- Hindenburg hated Hitler and saw him as an insane rabble rouser. Referred to him as "the little corporal" and at best, Hitler could perhaps be a Postman in a Post office
- In 1933, Hindenburg gave the R.C. To Hitler
- Feb.27, 1933 Burning of the Reichshatgg (seat of power).
- Hindenburg gives Hitler emergency powers.
- March 5, 1933 - NSDAP gets 44% of vote
- March 24, 1933 - Hitler passes the Enabling Act, making him dictator for 4 years.
- July 14 - With other parties banned or splitting up, the NSDAP becomes the only political party in Germany.
- Aug. 2, 1934 - Hindenburg dies. Hitler merges the posts of chancellor & president, becoming the supreme leader of Germany.

Jewish Belief

- **Rambam** - I believe with complete faith that the Creator, blessed be His name, **is the Creator and Guide** for all created beings. He alone made, makes, and will make all that is created.
- **Rosh HaShanah Prayer**: "He puts things into place , and Hashem alone is the realm."
- **Midrash**: The hearts of Kings are in the hands of Hashem.

What Did Hitler Say ?

- "I believe that it is the will of God to send a boy from him into the Reich to make him great. To raise him up to be the Fuhrer of the nation."
- "When I look back on the five years that lie behind us, I can say that this. Was not the work of human hands alone."
- "I go the way that providence dictates with the assurance of a sleep walker."
- "How can we not feel once again the miracle that brought us together."
- "That is a miracle of our age that you have found me amongst so many millions."

Mein Kampf

- The Aryan - this is the likeness of the Lord. The last obstacle to the jews' plan of world conspiracy is the German nation...if that champion is vanquished in the mighty conflict, the victory of the Mo growl man, and end of civilization, and the destruction of the plan of creation are at hand. A stop must be put to this. Threat. In standing guard against the Jew, I am defending the handiwork of the Lord.
- “And so I believe today that my conduct is in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator. In standing guard against the Jew I am defending the handiwork of the Lord. ... Therefore, I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord’s work. ... I believe today that my conduct is in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator.”

The Blessings & Curses

- Second Chapter of the Shema
- Tochacha at the end of the book of Vayikra
- Tochacha at the end of the book of Devorim
- Suffering comes "measure for measure" as a tool to see where we are going wrong, and as a means for Teshuva.
- Destruction of First Temple after multiple warnings from the prophets.

The Blessing of Esav

- "And you shall live by your sword, and you shall serve your brother, and it will be, when you grieve, that you will break his yoke off your neck."
- Rashi: **and it will be, when you grieve:** [תָּרִיד] is an expression of pain, i.e., when the Israelites will transgress the Torah, and you will have cause to grieve about the blessings that he took, "you will break his yoke," etc.
- Yitzchack blessed Esav to have the role of persecuting the Jews when they fail to live up to their mission.

First Occurrence of Government Legislated Anti-Semitism

- Midrash Tanchuma Shmos 5,2: The prophet said: They have dealt treacherously against the Lord, for they have begotten strange children; now shall the new moon devour them with their portions (Hos. 5:7).
- That is to say, they gave birth to children, but neglected to circumcise them. This teaches us that after Joseph's death the people disregarded the covenant of circumcision, saying: ***Let us be like the Egyptians.***
- When the Holy One, blessed be He, observed this, He suppressed the love He bore them, as it is said: ***He turned their heart to hate His people*** (Ps. 125:22).

Megillas Esther

- The entire story took place over 12 years.
- Haman's mercurial rise to power lasted 5 years.
- Achashveirosh was a commoner who rose to power.
- Rav and Shmuel debated as to whether Achashveirosh was a foolish or clever king.
- Haman was a barber.

The Source of the Anti-Semitism in the Megilah:

- **Talmud Megilah 12a:** For what reason were the Jews in that generation deserving of annihilation?
- It is because they partook of the feast of that wicked one, Ahasuerus, and they partook there of forbidden foods.
- It is because they prostrated before the idol that Nebuchadnezzar had made, as is recorded that the entire world bowed down before it, except for Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- It is because they bowed down to Haman , who had an idol around his neck.

What Stopped the Anti-Semitism ?

- The entire Jewish people fasted for three days.
- They did sincere Teshuva for their misbehaviours.

Talmud Berachos 7b:

- “A Psalm of David, when fleeing his son, Absalom.” A Psalm of David? It should have said: A lament of David. Rabbi Shimon ben Avishalom said a parable: To what is this similar? It is similar to a person about whom a promissory note was issued stating that he must repay a debt to the lender. Before he repaid it, he was despondent, worried how he will manage to repay the debt. After he repaid it, he was glad. So too was the case with David. When the Holy One, Blessed be He, told him, through Natan the prophet, after the incident with Bathsheba, “Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your house” (II Samuel 12:11), David was despondent. He said: Perhaps it will be a slave or a mamzer who will rise up in my house, a person of such lowly status, who will have no pity on me. But once David saw that Absalom was the one through whom the prophecy was to be fulfilled, he rejoiced, as he was certain that Absalom would show him mercy. That is why David said a psalm, not a lament, thanking God for punishing him in the least severe manner possible.

Why Germany ?

Rav Meir Simcha of Dvinsk (1909)



- The Jew forgets his roots and sees himself as a natural citizen [of the host population]. He forsakes the study of his own religion in order to study foreign languages... **he thinks that Berlin is Jerusalem**, learning [moreover] from the corrupt among his neighbors, not even from the upright among them...
- Then, a stormy and tempestuous wind will blow, uprooting him and placing him among a distant nation whose language he has not learned. There, he will know that he stranger, that his [true] language is our holy tongue, while other languages are of passing value for him. He will know that his roots are those of the People of Israel, his consolation lies in the comforting words of the prophets of Hashem, who prophesied concerning the scion of Yishai [the Mashiach] in the End of Days...
- There [in his new land] he will find some respite, he will be aroused by a holy spirit and his children will add further vigor, disseminating in these new borders the Torah which had been forgotten... This is the way of the Jewish people from the day they began their wandering

The Warnings:

- April 25, 1933: the Law Against Overcrowding German Schools. (before this, everybody had to go to school on Shabbos. They weren't off on Shabbos, which meant that they were mechalel Shabbos and also they mingled with gentile boys and girls – and that was one of the big sources of intermarriage.)
- September 15, 1935, the law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor. That means intermarriage between Jews and Christians came to an end – for a Jew and a Christian to live together was a crime.
- January 5, 1937, decreed compulsory Jewish names.
- December 3, 1938, Jews were barred from the streets on Nazi holidays.
- December 28, 1939, the order was given that Jews should live only in all Jewish houses. (You can't mix – all Jewish houses.)
- December 30, 1939, there was a decree barring Jews from dining cars – to remind them of kashrus.

Why 1 Million Children ?

- But if we look back we'll discover that the parents had already massacred their children long before.
- The Tarbus school was spreading like wildfire and had ousted the old tome cheder almost completely – even where the old cheder remained, the melamed had only a handful of children; the Tarbus school had all the children in the towns and the villages.
- And these Tarbus schools were run by atheists who weren't ashamed to teach openly the doctrine of G-dlessness. They were total deniers of Torah, and great masses of Jewish children were now handed over to them to be destroyed.
- Reb Elchonon Wasserman said that Most Jewish children are being brought up like – gentiles. He meant like atheists – worse than gentiles; because the Tarbus school was consequent – they didn't do things halfway. And the parents gladly handed over their children to them – to apikorsim! And therefore, the truth is that very many children had been destroyed even before Hitler came.

What Would Have Happened Had the Holocaust Did Not come?

- European Jewry would have totally assimilated
- American Jewry would have totally assimilated
- Israeli Jewry would have starved to death

What Has Happened Since the Holocaust?

- There are more Jews living in Israel than anywhere else in the world.
- Religious Judaism in America is Thriving, while secular Jews are on the decline.
- Siyum hashas - filling the MetLife Stadium
- Jews in Europe are slowly realizing that they have to make Aliya.

The Real Question We Should Be Asking Is.....

- When are we going to learn ?
- When are we going to wake up ?
- What Teshuva should we be doing ?
- When will we, the chosen people understand that Hashem runs the world and gave us a role in this world?
- How long will the Jewish people be complacent?
- When will we realize how high the stakes are ?