



JUDAISM AND VIOLENCE

IS THERE SUCH CONNECTION BETWEEN JUDAISM AND VIOLENCE?

JUDAISM – BASIC IMPLICATIONS

- Dichotomous vision of security
- Based on peace – peace as an order
- Mishvah (rabbinic code) – peace is given by God
- War – possible, allowed by God if somebody acts against His people
- God – the Supreme Warrior of Jewish armies
- Chanukah – Festival of Lights, the Maccabean rebellion
- King David – the warrior, who led the Israelis against Phillistimes
- No clear doctrine of war e.g. just war or else

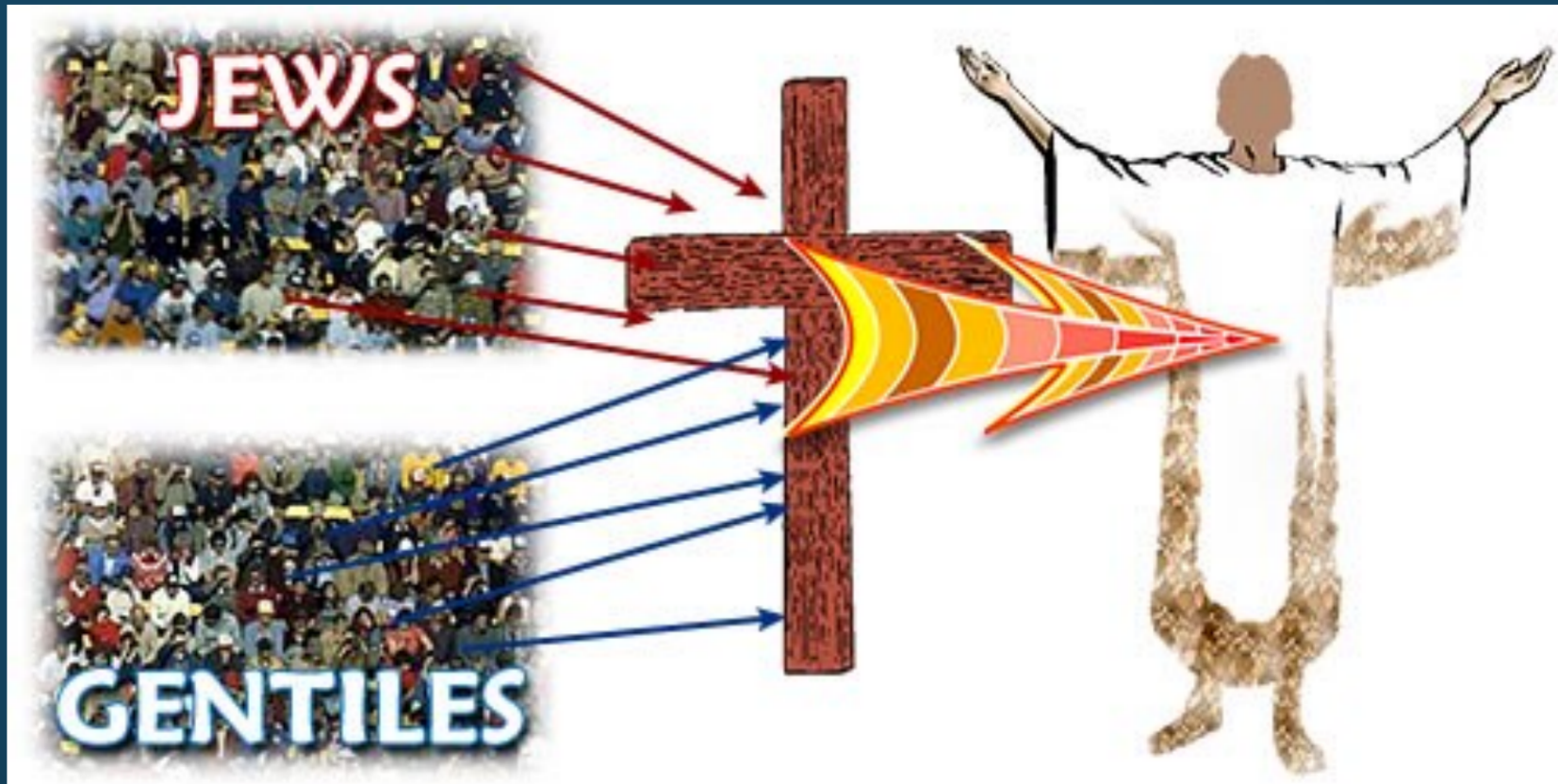
BASIC ELEMENTS



VIOLENT TOPICS IN JUDAISM

- Sacred texts
- Rites
- Customs
- Talmud, Midrash, Halakha and Kabbalah
- Contradictions in some texts
- Religious symbols
- Religious language
- Religious norms and values
- One cannot be a Jew without belonging to Jewish people
- The unbelievers

THE JEWISH VS THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE



TWO TYPES OF VIOLENCE

- Jewish nationalism (Zionism)
- Religious Jewish violence (Hassidis)
- Violence justifies the violence
- War rules – religious justification
- The Covenant – the basic pillar of the Jewish political entity
- Prohibition of human sacrifices
- Death punishment is allowed
- Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth
- Israeli Military – sacred role
- Jews and Gentiles

MOSES AND THE COVENANT

The Ten Commandments



JUDAISM AND THE BIBLE

- The Oral Torah – source of interpretations
- The Talmud (the Jewish Bible) is a substitute
- Judaism is a historically adapted religion
- The Moses Law
- Zealotry – punishment to those, who oppose God's will
- Sages' interpretation – Zealotry is applicable to more than 10 persons
- The act should be perpetrated at once
- Individualistic and spontaneous act
- Sacred duty or premeditated violence?
- The Jewish political leadership – Israel and Judea

THE ZEALOTS OF MASADA

Rebellions against Rome



THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH TEACHING

- Four pillars
- Extracanonical books
- The writings of the Sages (Mishah, Halachik, Aggadic)
- The Medieval reading of the Torah (Rashi and Halachi rulings)
- The mystical writings – the Lurianic Kabbalah

JUDAISM AND NATIONALISM (ZIONISM)

- Hassner and Aaron's theory (the Ancient times theory)
- The 4 big revolts
- The Hasmonean Revolt vs the Seleucid Empire
- The Great Revolt
- The Revolt of the Diasporas
- The Bar Kokhva Revolt against the Romans
- Three common features
- Jews want their own political autonomy
- Revolts are "Messianic"
- Violence against the occupiers and politico – religious deviants

THE MACCABEES

Heroes in Judaism and Christianity



THE GREAT OUTCOME

- The destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Romans – the Exile
- Jewish martyrs and Christians Saints
- The big Split
- The Pharisees – rich and educated
- The poor Jews and Christianity
- The Pharisees were legitimated
- The Pharisees doctrine – all writings during the Exile are excluded
- The Dead Sea scrolls
- The Apocalyptic vision
- The Mytho-historical account

PHARISEES

Rich and Educated



THE POOR JEWS



JUDAISM TODAY

- Based on the Halakha – traditionalism
- Normative ritual life and several rights
- The Oral Torah has replaced the Written
- The Rabbinic writings
- Adaptation to the world
- Suppression Zionism and Repressing Messianism
- Violence – only in case that Judaism is in danger
- The Land of Israel and the holy dispute – two big changes
- The sovereignty is only in the hands of God – Jewish people have to act
- Religious interpretation: rebellions are divine punishment, Jewish people need to repent
- The Hassidis opposition

HASSIDIS AND JEWS

Hassidis are Jews



WAR LAWS TODAY

- Moderation and restraining
- To launch a war – prudence and caution
- Mandatory war (Milkhemet Mitsvah) – defensive war
- Discretionary war (Milkhemet Reshut) – the consent of the Sanhedrin and the High Priest
- Regulation and humanization
- Peace first
- Prohibition of harming civilians and their property
- Capital punishment – after legal procedures and in most extreme circumstances
- The innocence doctrine

KABBALAH AND VIOLENCE

- Kabbalah – Mysticism
- The intermediate connection between every Jew and God
- Kabbalists and the world
- Esoteric teaching
- Ecstatic Kabbalah – meditation and direct connection with God
- Theosophical Kabbalah – to know God's plan and actions
- Ecstatic Kabbalah is extremely violent – the Lashes of Fire ritual
- Theosophical Kabbalah – no violence, but psychological influence
- The Zohar – main source of the Kabbalistic teaching
- The Lurianic Kabbalah – the life force and everything good is from God
- The ultimate choice

JEWISH KABALLISM

The Jewish self-defense

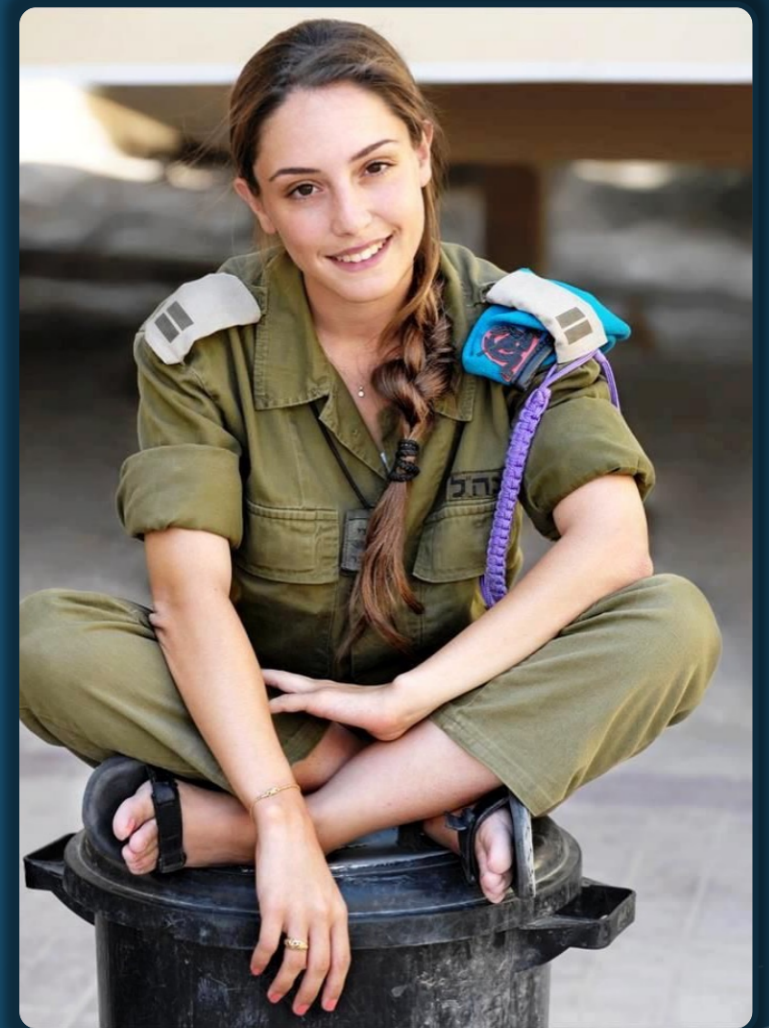


JEWISH MESSIANISM AND VIOLENCE

- Messianism in Judaism is not based on violence
- Violent sects of Messianism – the Sabbatean movement
- Hassidism – mass rebellions and violence
- The preservation of the Holy Lands – the core of the Israeli Messianism
- The rebirth of the Solomon's temple
- IDF – the holy guards of Jerusalem
- No human intervention is allowed
- The Messiah – connected with the Apocalyptic days
- The secular Jewish scholars – the Messiah as a metaphor

ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES

Sacred Duty



THREE BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT JUDAISM AND VIOLENCE

- Jews vs Jews – West vs East?
- The martyrdom in Judaism – revenge or avenge?
- The new far-right movements and Neo-Fascism?