

NOT
IN
GOD'S
NAME
Confronting Religious Violence
JONATHAN
SACKS

Monday, March 26th, 2018

Housekeeping

Opening: Betty Smith





OUR CHAPTERS THIS EVENING:
"LETTING GO OF HATE" AND
"THE WILL TO POWER OR THE
WILL TO LIFE"
(CHAPTERS 14 AND 15)

Slide One

Continuing our focus on
"The Open Heart"
The final section of the book.

Slide Two

This final section of the book proposes to demonstrate how Judaism can contribute to a multi-faith alliance against religious violence using lessons learned from three thousand years of biblical history shared by the religions of Abraham - and to find clues from the Bible to engage this important challenge.

Slide Three

Image for chapter 13 - Book Cover for the title:

"I Shall Not Hate - A Gaza Doctor's Journey" -

Some class members might remember this book study of almost 10 years ago, but others will not.

Please post the image of the book using this link

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<https://tinyurl.com/y6ubrixq>



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DR. IZZELDIN ABUELAISH

ISHALL NOT HATTE

A GAZA DOCTOR'S JOURNEY

"This story is a necessary lesson against hatred and revenge."
ETHEL WIESEL, Nobel Peace Prize laureate



Slide Four

"To be free, you have to let go of hate"
(238)

Wayne shares some personal experience
and opens conversation to the group

Discuss

Slide Five

Abrahamic monotheism was the first moral system to be based, not just on justice and reciprocity but on love (239)

Moses would have succeeded in taking the Israelites out of Egypt, but he still might have failed to take Egypt out of the Israelites.



Moses with
the Tablets
of the Law
being
carried
down from
Mount Sinai

Slide Six

The Ten Commandments, which God gave to Moses from Mt. Sinai during their wilderness sojourn was the blueprint for a justice system based on covenantal love. This would move the people past their bad experiences of the past, and give them a basis for establishing themselves as a new nation, open to the future.

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the Land of Egypt....

Therefore you shall love the Lord your God...Your neighbour as yourself...

Honour your father and your mother..." etc.

Slide Seven

But religion, without a basis in
covenantal love, can lead to violence.

Can you build a society on hate?

(Sacks gives examples of Muslim
indoctrination of hate into young people)

Consider -

The image of Lot's wife, who -
immobilized by hate - looked back to look
at Sodom and was turned into a pillar of
salt..(Genesis 19:17-26)

Discuss this "silly story"



The Sodom and Gomorrah motif from the [Nuremberg Chronicle](#) by [Hartmann Schedel](#), 1493. Note Lot's wife, already transformed into a salt pillar, in the center

Slide Nine

Memory as moral force.

It can immobilize or liberate you.

Slide Ten

What about vengeance?

Deuteronomy 32:35/Romans 12:19:

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay" says the Lord

What does this mean?

Slide Eleven

Moving from a culture of blame to one of penitence

Blame bars the path to responsibility

Not - "Who did this to me?"

But - "What then shall I do?"

Discuss

HOSPITALITY BREAK

Slide Twelve

"The Will to Power or the Will to Life"

Considering Ten Implications - from our
study

1. A generation from now the world will be more religious (255)
2. Within religion, the most anti-modern, anti-Western movements will prevail (256)
3. The West must recover its ideals (256)

4. In a world of relativism, what "talks" is power (brute assertion of force).

5. Extremism - the West, indeed the world as a whole, has never faced a challenge quite like this. (258)

6. Many are seeking a scapegoat for this situation.

A scapegoat must be someone you can kill without risk of reprisal

Israel and Judaism is that scapegoat for many in our world today (259-60)

7. There must be an international campaign against the preaching and teaching of hate

We must recover the Abrahamic monotheistic values

based on love at the heart of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. (262-63)

8. The only viable covenants are the two that God made with Noah and Abraham

These are the covenant with Noah and the covenant with Abraham.

These covenants are shared by all three of the religions.

The first - our common humanity

The second - our particular identities (264)

9. The crimes resulting from religion are caused by humans making God in their own image rather than letting God remake us in God's image (265)

10. Now is the time for Jews, Christians and Muslims to say together what they failed to say in the past

"We are all children of Abraham"

Slide Seventeen

Small or Large group discussion question

One important thing I have learned from this course.



Closing - Ken Kittridge

Don't forget to submit book suggestions for
our autumn series that begins in mid-
September.



See you at ACTS in
September