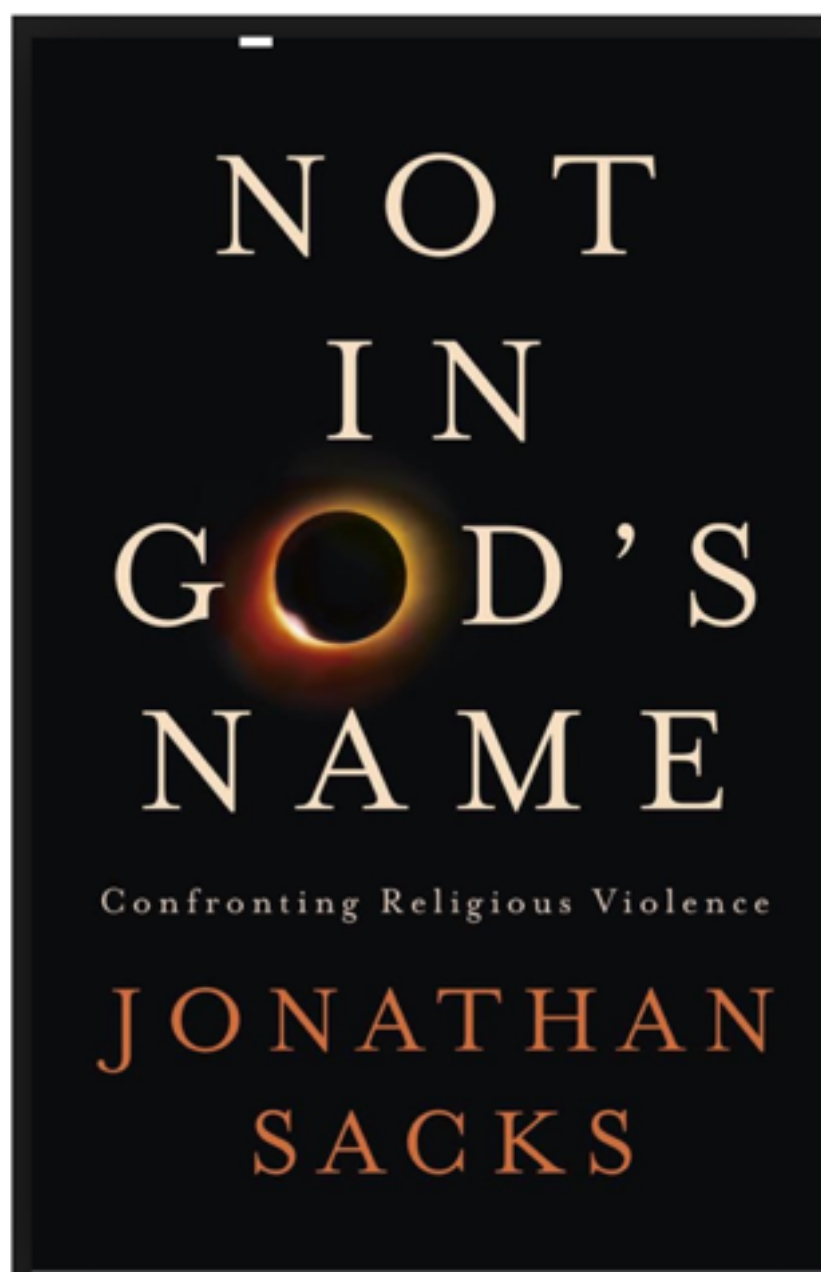


NOT IN GOD'S NAME



ACTS
WINTER 2018

St David's United Church
Calgary



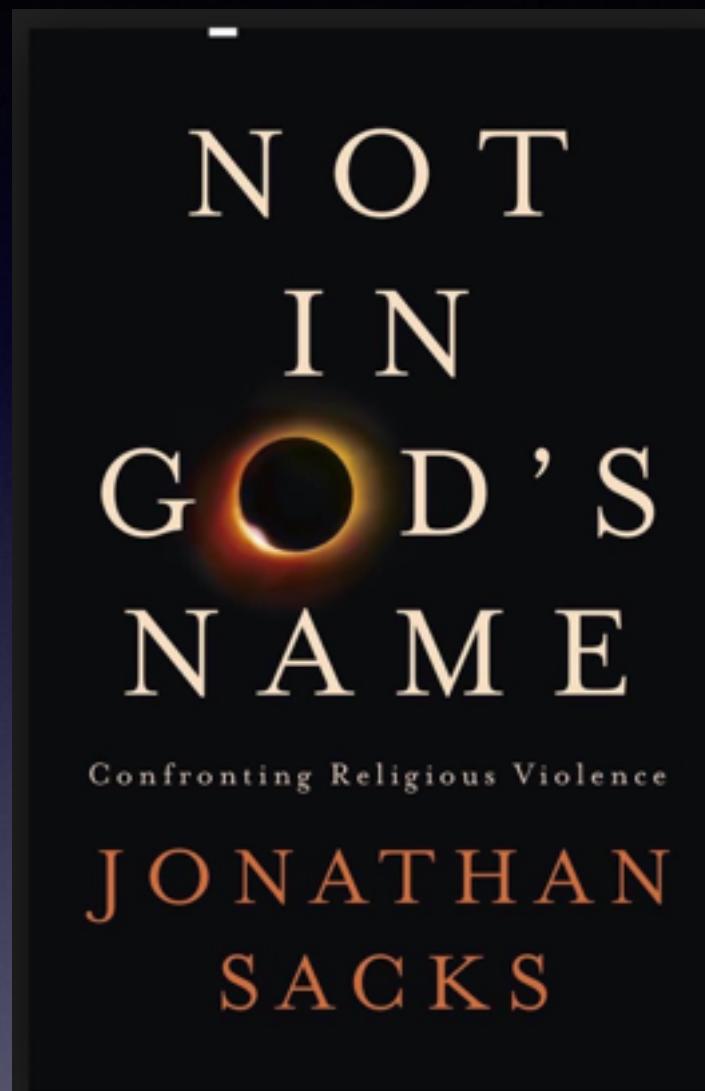
Holy Manners Book Study # 40

Session #4

- House Keeping
- Opening: Pat

Housekeeping

- Please feel free to raise questions as we go.
- LENTEN RETREAT - MT. ST. FRANCIS on Sunday, March 4th - 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The theme, led by retreat leader Susan Campbell is "Encountering a Sacred Intimacy With God"
- SDUC.ca



Opening:

Pat Nyberg

BAD FAITH

CHAPTER 4: THE SCAPEGOAT

CHAPTER 5: SIBLING RIVALRY



SCAPEGOATING: RITUAL OF ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR)

**“And Aaron shall cast lots
for the two goats; one lot for
the Lord and the other lot
for Azazel.” Leviticus 16:8**

**“Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the
supreme high priest, who has gone through to
the highest heaven, we must hold firm to our
profession of faith.” Hebrews 4:14**

SCAPEGOATING

**REFLECTION ON THE MYTHOLOGICAL
BACKGROUND AND ITS VARIOUS
INTERPRETATIONS IN HEBREW AND
CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES**

- **SCAPEGOATING: A PRIMAL RELIGIOUS RITE**
- **NOT “INVENTED” BY THE EARLY HEBREWS BUT “BORROWED” FROM NEIGHBOURING CULTURES AND GIVEN A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS MEANING**
- **CHRISTIANS TOOK UP THE “ATONEMENT” MEANING AND APPLIED IT TO THE ATONING WORK OF CHRIST**

“It is not religion that leads to violence but it is violence that leads to religion.”

It is necessary to distinguish between “anti-Semitism” (a matter of racial evil) and “anti-Judaism” (a matter of religious prejudice)



ANTI-SEMITISM...

- **hatred that results in racial scapegoating**
- **when detected, it is a sign that civilization is in crisis**
- **Anti-Judaism is a rejection of the Hebrew faith in favour of another or no faith... frequently practised by Christians and Muslims, but it need not be hatred.**

SCAPEGOATING:

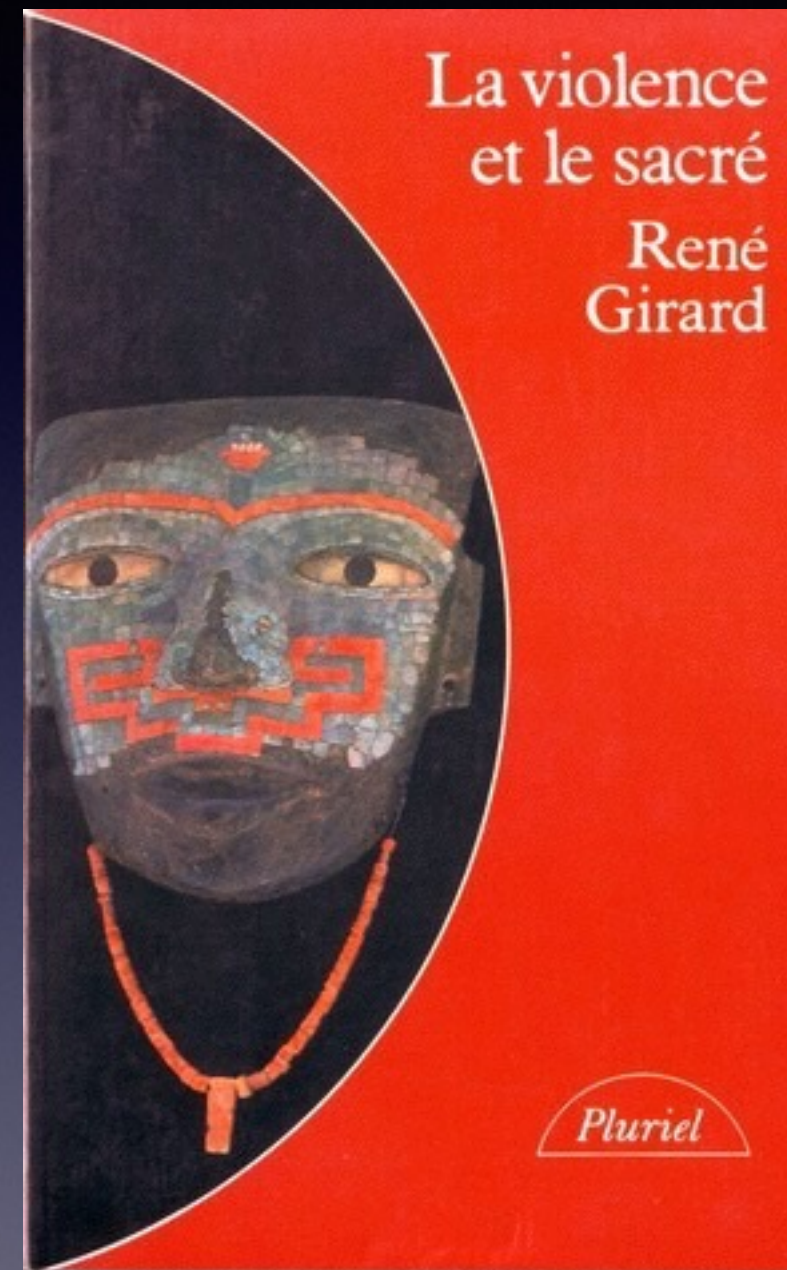
- **A SOLUTION THAT COMPOUNDS A PROBLEM**
- **WHEN THE VIOLENCE IS OVER, THE PROBLEM REMAINS**



RACIAL SLURS AND ANTI- SEMITISM:

- **NAZI GERMANY**
- **ISLAMIC WORLD TODAY**
- **XENOPHOBIA IS AS OLD AS THE HUMAN CONDITION**
- **NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT JEWS ARE FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE QU'RAN (like negative remarks about other nations in the Hebrew Bible.**

“All societies require religion which performs the task of “casting out” the violence, deflecting it from the group itself by placing it on an external victim, thus turning violence outwards instead of allowing it to turn destructively inward.”



Rabbi Sacks traces the development of scapegoating of the Jews over several centuries of European history:

- * The Spanish Inquisition**
- * Luther's Reformation**

As well, he offers a philosophical justification for the scapegoating of the Jews.



Chapter 4 Summary

- **This chapter has been about how dualism moves from being theological and metaphysical to becoming pathological and a source of violent hate.**
- **It happens when a victim - an individual or group - is turned into a scapegoat as a way of projecting outwards the violence that would otherwise destroy a society from within.**
- **It becomes lethal when a group of people, a nation or a faith feels endangered by internal conflict.**

“Sibling Rivalry”
to follow.



© Can Stock Photo

Sibling Rivalry

- Cain & Abel
- Ishmael & Isaac
- Esau & Jacob
- Rachel & Leah
- Joseph & his brothers





Sibling Rivalry:
Cain and Abel



ISAAC AND ISHMAEL: SIBLING RIVALRY



JACOB AND ESAU

SIBLING
RIVALRY



SIBLING RIVALRY: LEAH AND RACHEL



Joseph and his Brothers: Sibling Rivalry

AN IMPORTANT LESSON FROM SACK

- **When we read our differing scriptures separately we discover that the narrative divides. When we read them together, we can begin to learn a new united way.**
- **This applies to all three sacred texts.**

LESSON # 2:

By critiquing the sacred stories through the lens of mythology and psychology, for example, our understanding of the classic narratives is enhanced.

**SIBLING RIVALRY:
developed in human
history before the sacred
texts were written.**

**We discover that from
time immemorial,
humans have wanted
what another has,
because he or she has
it. (mimetic desire)**





- Joseph's multi-coloured dream coat image is a prime example of Sibling Rivalry.
- Expand the image from “family” to “groups.”



ROMANS 9: 6-9

Paul reverses the Abrahamic family imagery of Isaac and Ishmael to apply to Christians and Jews. He was writing to Christians and “Judaisers.”

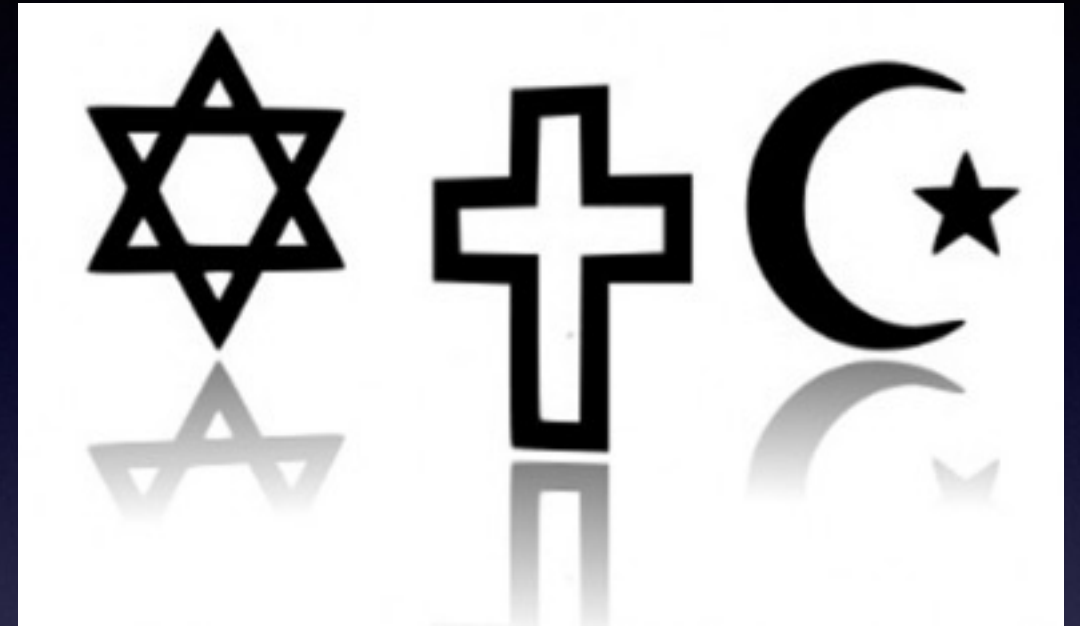


Paul declares:

- **Biological descent from Abraham is not enough to make one a child of the promise. For that, one needs faith in Jesus.**
- **In the Esau and Jacob narrative, God hated Esau and favoured Jacob. “The Jews who remain true to their faith have not just been rejected, but hated by God”**

This argument was taken further
by the church fathers.

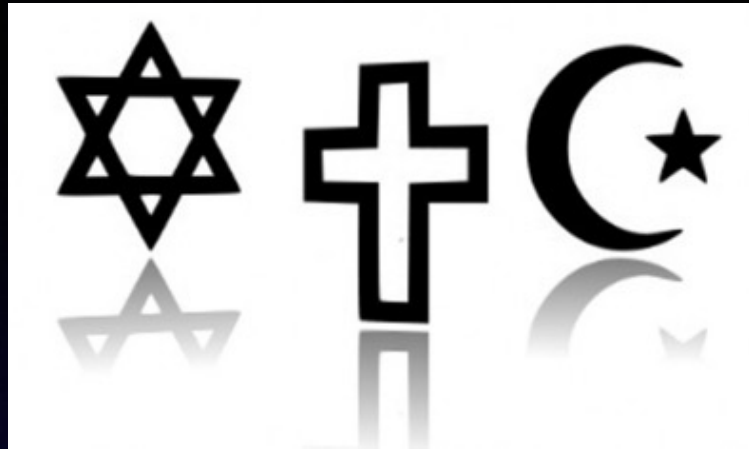
- This understanding was also adopted by Islam, who did to Christianity what Christians had done to the Hebrew faith.



- For Paul: God's covenant with Christians supersedes the covenant with the Hebrews
- For Mohammed: God's covenant with Islam supersedes the covenant with both Hebrews and Christians.

THE TRUE COVENANT:

- **has been lost to the originators and, thus, awarded to the successors.**
- **... the SIBLING RIVALRY has been expanded and continued....**
- **At the heart of all three faiths is the idea that within humanity there is one privileged position - favoured son, chosen people, guardian of the truth, gatekeeper of salvation - for which more than one faith competes.**



Such has been the history of the relationship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

SUMMARY:

- **The three-way contention was there from the beginning, long before there was a Judaism, Christianity or Islam.**
- **It is no accident that all three faiths read these stories as they do.**
- **We are challenged to seek a second level of meaning beneath these classic interpretations.**

**WHAT IF GOD WERE SAYING,
“NOT IN MY NAME?”...
HATRED AND VIOLENCE IS NOT ME**

Expanding our **encounter with Sacks and his book**

Jonathan Sacks: “Not in God’s Name”

A Video Presentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK3PK_qHkrs

18:30 - 26:00

Next Week: Session #5

Opening: Janet Clare

Reading Assignment: February 19th

II: SIBLINGS

Chapters 6 - The Half Brothers
and Chapter 7 - Wrestling with the Angel

Closing: Joan Gray

Closing:

GOOD NEWS: SIBLING RIVALRY AT THE OLYMPICS

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/american-sisters-compete-for-two-different-olympic-hockey-teams/>

- Have a great week!
- See you on February 19th.