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## **The Jewish Nation: An Eternal People (Shmuz #1) Rabbi Bentzion Shafier**

Adolf Hitler rose to power speaking in pubs in Germany. He would rant and rave about the state of Germany and how they must get rid of the Jews. At one of his meetings, there was a Jew in the back who starts clapping and continues after everyone stops. Hitler asked the man; don't you believe I will do it? The man says I believe it, but you're not the first to hate us. A man named Pharaoh try to kill us, he failed, and in honor of that we celebrate the holiday of Passover. Then, a man named Haman try to kill us, he too failed, and in honor of that we have the holiday of Purim. Then, the Greeks try to kill us, they failed also, and in honor of that we have Hanukkah. But you hate us more than all of them, and when God defeats you we will have the greatest of holidays.

But there is no holiday that marks God saving us from the Holocaust, no celebrations. But the reality is that the Jews are still around, despite the most systematic attempt to kill us all, we are still here. For 2000 years, we have been tortured and persecuted. Any method known by man to kill has been used on the Jews. And the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks -Syrians are no longer around anymore, but we are. It's very hard for us to see God, but if you want to see the hand of God, read the pages of history. Those who try to persecute us are no longer here and we are. The list of places where the Jews have been expelled from is a very long list. Leo Tolstoy said “the Jew is the symbol of eternity, he is the one whom they were never able to destroy, neither bloodbath nor afflictions, neither fire nor the sword succeeded in annihilating him he is the one who has guarded the prophetic message and transmitted it to all mankind, the people such as this can never disappear, the Jew is **eternal**.”

Adolf Hitler said before he was going to commit suicide that he commands the leaders of the nation's of the world and those under them to continue what he was doing,

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he had the goal of the third Reich's lasting 1000 years. Where is the third right now? Where are the Jews now? After 1900 years, but she was miraculously reclaim their land! After being thrown out of every country, a beating people, how the world would they be able to conquer their land? Just to add to this miracle, when they went back to their land it was basically sand dunes and deserts. Look at it now, it rivals the top countries in every area of the world. On May 14, 1948, the Jews declared a state of Israel's independence. On May 15, 1948, 5 Arab countries attacked. Everyone thought there was going to be a second Holocaust. The Israeli army had 17,000 rifles, 1000 machine guns and 45,000 soldiers. We were surrounded by 50 million Arabs, and we had very little weapons, and a very weak untrained Army. The Air Force would drop grenades on the Egyptian army, they ran out, so they started throwing soda bottles! An entire two boots was defended by two machine guns and 12 rifles and they held off the Egyptian army for one month! In the real world, this doesn't happen. The stronger, more prepared, wins. We were surrounded on every front, an entire armies, tanks, jeeps, and they could not conquer Israel.

The Gemara in Gittin says that wrote Rav Yochanan Ben Zakkai view that Jerusalem was going to be taken over, he spoke to the Roman general Vespasian and asked them to give him Yavneh and its sages. This is all he asked for? Thousands of people were dying! He understood that the single secret to our existence is Torah. If we don't have it, we are history. Granted, Hitler only killed one third of the Jewish population, he succeeded in killing out Torah. All the Yeshivas and Torah centers were gone. In 1945, of people had to work on Shabbat. No one gave off. Because of that, many Jews assimilated. The Jewish nation went from a frum nation to almost fully assimilated. There was no Torah. Rav Aharon Kotler, in the 1960s, when he wanted to open up a yeshiva in Lakewood, got some of his followers together. He presented them a plan to build a Beit midrash which could fit 200 people. This is crazy, such a huge Beit Medrash!

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Today, there are over 3000 people learning there. There are now more full time learning a yeshivot than ever before, it's amazing. How? We are living in very unique times. The fact that after 1900 years we are still here while every powerful nation who tried to kill us out are no longer here, and we built our land from a wasteland to what it is now, and finally the resurgence of Torah like never before, shows that moshiach is coming very soon. It is a slow awakening. Jews make up 2% of the United States, but open up a New York Times any day and you are guaranteed to find an article on Israel or the Jews. All of Hollywood is controlled by Jews, every position and power, Nobel Peace Prizes, etc. African Americans make up 20% of the United States, but they don't get half as much attention. What goes on in Africa? We live in amazing times. Until the shift comes, we need strengthening. A lone fish in the sea has a difficult time swimming. But when many fish swim together, it's much easier. When Moshiach comes everyone will know about God. Don't wait till it's too late, act now!

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