

YOM HASHOAH A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST¹

Leader: Today we are observing Yom Hashoah, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. This year, Yom Hashoah falls on Thursday, April 16th.

A little more than one generation ago one-third of the world's Jewish population was butchered by humanity gone mad. This unthinkable historical fact occurred in 20th century Europe; in a civilization shaped by western religious values, moral and intellectual traditions. For the Nazis, mass murder and the exploitation of human corpses became a civic duty and obliterated society's moral, religious and intellectual traditions. Humanity became irreparably stained with guilt, for the persecutor, no longer considering his victim human, ceased to be recognizably human. And the world, so deaf and so indifferent to the atrocity, ultimately became an accomplice.

The German mind followed the path of the philosophy of moral nihilism to its logical end point where nothing was of value. God was dead. Humanity, created in the image of God, and specifically the Jew whose very presence pointed to God, became to the Nazi, an intolerable reminder. In the insanity of their revolt against God, a revolt against reason was born and a journey toward limitless pursuit of the irrational was tragically launched. For the sad truth is, that the same Beast, which was unleashed by the Nazi's, lives even today somewhere in each one of us. And it is true that if the world will not learn from history, then sadly, it is doomed to repeat it.

To set the tone for this remembrance service, listen to the following lyrics as Messianic Believer and Musician Ted Pearce sings "The Forgotten People."

The Forgotten People (A Holocaust Remembrance Anthem)

By Yochanan Ben Yehuda & Ted Pearce
iStand with Israel

Introduction: Nazi Audio Broadcast with Rudolf Hess (Hitler's Deputy) speaking ...

Six Million People crying from the grave//Invisible People calling out their names//Beautiful People taken from their home//Scattered People nowhere to go.

And the Mothers and Fathers and the Sons and Daughters//They were carried away in trains//Their bodies were broken and beaten and burned//And their ashes fell down like rain//They were branded and a number and a yellow star//And paraded around in shame//They called it a crime, "To be born a Jew"//And in the Name of God they were slain.

Blessed People who tried to help//While evil people schemed among themselves//Everyday People who ignored the news//Indifferent People sitting in the pews.

And the Mothers and Fathers and the Sons and Daughters//They were carried away in trains//Their bodies were broken and beaten and burned//And their ashes fell down like rain//They were branded and a number and a yellow star//And paraded around in shame//They called it a crime, "To be born a Jew"//And in the Name of God they were slain.

¹ By Barry Rubin, modified by Kevin Lind, adapted by Donald N. Norris

The Forgotten People, calling out, calling out, calling out//Six Million People crying out, crying out, crying out//The Forgotten People, calling out, calling out, calling out//Six Million People crying out, crying out, crying out.

(Instrumental Interlude)

It's time to wake up from the pleasant sleep//Time to see your nakedness and begin to weep.//Sound the Alarm! Shouting "Never Again"//Let the righteous revolution begin//History must never repeat itself So lift your voices and take a stand//United as one "For Zion's Sake"//Undivided as the Nations Rage We've got to rise like an Army in "The Name"//For the Nation that was born in a day.

The Forgotten People, calling out, calling out, calling out//Six Million People crying out, crying out, crying out//The Forgotten People, calling out, calling out, calling out//Six Million People crying out, crying out, crying out. (Repeat)

Can you hear them crying out again?

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Leader: Even more true is that those who tolerate evil are just as guilty as those who perpetrate it.

READER 1: [LIGHTS 1ST CANDLE]

Today we light memorial candles to those six million Jewish dead and those who stood with them against the Beast and who died sanctifying the Name of God. This candle of memorial reminds us that even one small light can help to conquer the Beast. Remember Yom Hashoah. Remember it to sanctify it.

ALL:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe who sanctifies us when we remember and creates the fire of sanctification.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, the True Judge.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe who has kept us in life, sustained us and brought us to this season.

READER 2: [LIGHTS 2ND CANDLE]

If I could light six million candles for 60 years and allow my tears to flow without end, still the cry from the ground where the blood of the innocent was poured would not be drowned out. We, who claim to follow the way of God, must always remember.

LEADER: For the Lord will make war with Amalek in every generation.

READER 1: The children of Abraham are those who pursue Justice and Righteousness.

LEADER: And the King will answer and say to them, "assuredly I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

READER 2: "The Christian religion," said Bishop Holfrich of Lmburg in his letter of Lent in 1939, "has not grown out of the nature of this people [the Jews]. Rather, it has had to make its way against [them]."

READER 1: "The greatest miracle of the Bible," said Archbishop Konrad Grober, "Is that the true religion [Christianity] could hold its own and maintain itself against the voice of Semitic blood."

LEADER: Odd, is it not, that neither Bishop Holfrich nor Archbishop Grober could explain away the embarrassing fact that Yeshua was a Jew.

READER 3: [LIGHTS 3RD CANDLE]

Against the vast audiences who accepted the view of racial hatred, which had been inculcated by centuries of anti-Semitism preached in the Churches of Germany, a few voices spoke out.

Provost Bernard Lichtenberg of St. Hedwig's Cathedral in Berlin prayed for the Jews and Non-Aryan Christians the morning after Kristalnacht. *Kristalnacht*-The night of shattering of glass. The night that shattered the Western soul. Provost Lichtenberg reflected: "What took place yesterday, we know. What will be tomorrow we do not know; but what happens today we have witnessed; outside a synagogue is burning, and that also, is a house of God."

Cardinal Faulhaber of Munich also spoke out: "History teaches us," he said, "that God always punished tormentors of the Jews. No Roman Catholic approves of the persecutions of the Jews. Racial hatred is a poisonous weed in our life." In October 1938, Cardinal Faulhaber provided a truck for the removal of the Torah and other religious objects from a synagogue when its Rabbi thought it was in danger. Nazi mobs, infuriated by the Cardinal's actions, demonstrated their anger in front of his home, shouting: "Away with Faulhaber, the Jew's friend."

In recognition of the complicity of many German Christians with the Nazis, Lutheran pastors met at Stuttgart. One, a Pastor Niemoeller, declared: "We are bound to the German people in a community of suffering, but also in solidarity of guilt."

READER 2: In the most silent moment, in the darkness of night, a voice is heard from the depths of my soul:

ALL: Remember, remember. For if you do not remember, we can have no rest. Remember, remember, lest the world forget and relive.

READER 4: [LIGHTS 4TH CANDLE]

"Watchman, inquire for us of the day and of the night." So Isaiah returned and said, "It is of the Day and of the Night." Against the darkness of night, there are those who managed to cleave to the light:

LEADER: ...A voice is heard in Ramah, it is Rachel weeping for her children

READER 3: ...Pharaoh said, "Throw all the male children into the river, but the females keep alive"

READER 1: ...And Herod slew all the male children under the age of two

READER 4: The Ukrainian guards took all the Jews of Linovice to the cemetery. The youngest member was a boy by the name of Ephraim. The Rabbi said to his congregation,

READER 2: "We are about to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore do not be afraid. Fortunate are we that we have been found worthy to die as Jews. We will march straight to that place where rest the righteous for whose sake God has allowed the world to endure."

READER 4: Before the Ukrainian guards could move, little Ephraim went up to the Rabbi and began to cry.

LEADER: "Rabbi, please don't leave me. Take hold of my hand so it won't be so hard to die."

READER 4: And so the Jews of Linovice who were led by their rabbi and a little child entered the cemetery. There they were all shot and buried in one mass grave.

READER 5: [LIGHTS 5TH CANDLE]

When Cecile Klein arrived in Auschwitz, she was 18 years old. That first day, prisoners came and explained the fate awaiting them. Young women with children, middle-aged and old people were being selected and killed the same day. Cecile's mother also listened to the news. Immediately she ran over to Cecile's sister who held her little boy. "I have just heard from a prisoner that women with children will be spared hard labor. Let me take little Danny. You are young; you'll survive the hard labor. It's for the best, now, go." Cecile's mother did not give her sister an opportunity to object, but quickly removed the child from her arms and joined the line of other women with children. Walking off, she managed to yell to Cecile, "take care of your sister" though Cecile was the younger one. The mother knew the agonies that her daughter, Cecile's sister, would suffer when she would find out the truth. Cecile's sister was only 21 years of age. That night, her mother and nephew, Danny, the son of her sister, were killed.

READER 6: [LIGHTS 6TH CANDLE]

The Nazi reign of terror swirled like a huge net, sweeping everything and everyone into cold, dark captivity. The soldier was no respecter of persons. The boots cared not what they crushed with their fierce step. It was all alike to the Beast. The poor, the rich; the humble, the famous; the simple, the educated; those whose small contribution went unnoticed and those whose talents had blessed nations. The concentration camp became the great equalizer. No longer did it matter who or what you were outside those walls; there, everyone shared the same simple desire to survive. Dignity was something buried deep within an undernourished shell of flesh.

LEADER: The words of the dead came alive in the camps, shattering the power of the Beast with their last breath, defying the power of the Beast, and proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising has become, in its way, a bright moment during those dark times. Surely, the captives in that small community concluded, it is better to die fighting, defending, resisting, than to suffer a humiliation that's even worse than death. Poorly armed and underfed, the ghetto fighters withstood till the end.

READER 7: [LIGHTS 7TH CANDLE]

With the children they fled the Holocaust

to keep alive the flame of faith

A mother's body could not survive Siberia
but her soul lived on to inspire her family

A father and children came to America
and planted anew the eternal seed

The precious grew and flourished and nourished the flame
and overcame adversity and torment

With faith in their hearts and a siddur in their hands
their family remained a bastion of Torah

With devotion to Torah and faith in the One
Who mercifully hears the prayers of His people Israel

READER 1: Let us stand and join together in reciting the Shema

ALL: [stand]

Shema Yisrael Adonai ELoheynu, Adonai Echad

Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God. The Lord Is one.

Blessed be His name, Whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.

Adonai, hoo Elohenu. Adonai, hoo Eloheynu.

The Lord, He is God. The Lord, He is God.

[All sit]

READER 8: [LIGHTS 8TH CANDLE]

The Kadeesh is a prayer in Aramaic, which, in Judaism, has become associated with mourning. However, it is not a prayer, which concerns itself with death, but rather a prayer of assurance and of praise for God. Perhaps tradition has made the Kadeesh a gift to mourners. For at such times we need to be reminded that it is God who, finally, rules the world. That it is God who will comfort the inconsolable, who will avenge the tyrant, who will right the wrongs and correct the injustices; that it is God who creates peace in heaven and on the earth; both in the world around us as well as within our hearts.

ALL: May His great Name grow exalted and Sanctified.

READER 1: Germany: 195,000 Jews killed

ALL: In the world that He created according to His will, May He establish His kingship,

READER 2: Austria: 53,000 Jews killed

ALL: in your lifetime, and in your days, and during the lifetime of all the house

of Israel.

READER 3: Czechoslovakia: 255,000 Jews killed

ALL: Swiftly and soon. And let us say, Amen.

READER 4: Poland: 3,271,000 Jews killed

ALL: May His great Name be blessed

READER 5: USSR: 1,050,000 Jews killed

ALL: Forever and ever.

READER 6: France: 140,000 Jews killed

ALL: Blessed, praised, glorified,

READER 7: Belgium: 57,000 Jews killed

ALL: exalted, extolled,

READER 8: Luxembourg: 3,000 Jews killed

ALL: mightily upraised and lauded

READER 1: Norway: 1,000 Jews killed

ALL: be the Name of the Holy One - Blessed is He

READER 2: Holland: 120,000 Jews killed

ALL: beyond the voice of all

READER 3: Italy: 20,000 Jews killed

ALL: blessing and song

READER 4: Yugoslavia: 64,000 Jews killed

ALL: praise and consolation

READER 5: Greece: 64,000 Jews killed

ALL: which are spoken in this world,

READER 6: Bulgaria: 5,000 Jews killed

ALL: May there be abundant peace from Heaven

READER 7: Romania: 530,000 Jews killed

ALL: and life upon us and all Israel.

READER 8: Hungary: 200,000 Jews killed

ALL: He who makes peace in the high heavens
May He make peace upon us
And all Israel.
And let us say AMEN.

READERS: [EACH TOUCHES THE CANDLE THEY LIT AND SAYS...]

READER 1: Dachau

READER 2: Buchenwald

READER 3: Sachsenhausen

READER 4: Ravensbruck

READER 5: Auschwitz

READER 6: Bergen-Belson

READER 7: Flossenburg

READER 8: Terezin.

READER 1: A survivor will read about a fire in the paper and desperately hope that her brother died from the fumes before the fire reached him.

READER 2: A survivor will be very quiet yet scream inside.

READER 3: A survivor will cry and pretend to her children it is a headache.

READER 4: A survivor will go to a funeral and cry, not for the one who died, but for those who died and were never buried.

READER 5: A survivor awakes in sweat from a nightmare, unable to sleep again, in vain do they chase the ghosts from their bedside; but they remain, as guests, for the remainder of the night.

READER 6: A survivor possesses one thing we do not; an utter fearlessness of death. For to the survivor death signals a relief from the nightmare of the past.

ALL: Remember Yom Hashoah. If we remember, we proclaim and honor the Name of God.

READER 7: But, O Lord, what will happen if we forget?

READER 8: O Lord, our God, it is our hope and prayer, that in our days we will see the Earth full of

the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. We pray for the soon return of the Messiah. For it has been foretold: the Lord shall be King over all the earth; on that day the Lord shall be One and His name One.

LEADER: In honor of our fallen spiritual brothers and sisters, join with me as we recite the national anthem of Israel, Ha Tikvah, which means The Hope. We will recite it in English as Marty Goetz sings in Hebrew in the background

ALL: [stand]

As long as deep in the heart	Kol od balevav P'nimah	בלבב פנימה כל עוד
The soul of a Jew yearns	Nefesh Yehudi homiyah	נפש יהודי הומיה
And towards the East	Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah	ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
An eye turns to Zion	Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah	עין לציון צופיה
Our hope is not yet lost	Od lo avdah tikvatenu	עוד לא אבדה תקותנו
The hope of two thousand years	Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim	התקוה בת שנות אלפים
To be a free people in our land	L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu	להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.	Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim	וירושלים ארץ ציון

READER 1: To be a free people in our land...

READER 2: To be a free people...

READER 3: Free to be a people...

READER 4: Free to be. Free... to be.

ALL: Thanks to God our hope is not lost.

LEADER: And so we recognize those who fell in the Holocaust. Let us pray together each in your own way, for those who fell, for those who grieve, and that nothing like this should ever happen again.

[Each pray as they feel led]

LEADER: Remember Yom Hashoah. If we remember, we proclaim and honor the Name of God.

ALL: The people of God live because our God still lives!