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We are hearing in our news bulletins frequent accusations of “anti-Semitism” directed at the Labour party, and now also apparently-similar accusations of “Islamophobia” directed at the Conservative party. These twin accusations imply that these two practices are not only unacceptable in today’s society, but in essence are just the same as each other. But we must be in no doubt that they are not the same at all.

“Anti-Semitism” is a deep-seated hatred of the Jews as a race and as a people, which has been a feature of human existence since the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Jews are God’s original covenant people to whom have been entrusted “the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises; whose [are] the fathers, and of whom concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen” (Romans 9.4-5, KJV). The Jews remain as the “apple of God’s eye” (egs., Deuteronomy 32.10 / Lamentations 2.18 / Zechariah 2.8). We know that at present they remain broken off from “the olive tree”, but the Lord is to graft them in once again when “the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Romans 11.17-32).

It is because of this key role that has been entrusted to the Jews by Almighty God that throughout their history they have been the target of Satan’s efforts to disrupt and destroy. If Satan can destroy the Jews he will bring to nought God’s promises of final victory, the victory centred in His Son Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and the Christ, the Lord (eg., I Corinthians 15.22-28 and 54-57). No wonder then that it is the Jews who have suffered more than any other people in the history of mankind.

The fact that the Jews, after centuries of wandering and persecution, and though still hard and unbelieving, are now back in their ancient God-given land, is an utterly remarkable fulfilment of God’s promises and a sure sign of His continuing faithfulness for His chosen people. Gentile followers of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah – people such as us – have the privilege and responsibility of lifting to the Lord the ancient prayer of Psalm 122 for “the peace of Jerusalem”, with all that that peace in Christ will finally involve.

Before we move on we take note of the continuing anti-Semitic tensions in and around Israel itself, between the Jewish state of Israel and Hamas, Hizbollah, the West Bank Palestinians, the Iranian forces in Syria near the Golan Heights (occupied by Israel since 1967), as well as

in the United Nations General Assembly. As mentioned at times in these Reflections, Israel, Jerusalem and Temple Mount remain at the epicentre of God's dealings with His creation.

By contrast we see how ridiculous it is to equate "Islamophobia" with anti-Semitism, though it suits parts of the political and media establishments to peddle this line of moral equivalence. Islam is a World Faith very late on to the scene, whose "truth-credentials" bear no comparison at all to those of Judaeo-Christianity, as is clear to anyone who cares to examine these credentials. Yet Islam is committed to world domination, and is making steady strides within western societies under the constant cry of "Peace", whereas Islam actually means "Submission". By way of example, London has a Muslim Mayor, and Britain could well soon have a Muslim Prime Minister: these may be two fine individuals, but when an Islamic path is followed, the resultant society is very different from the Christian-shaped society of Britain today.

Yet even to question either Islam or the wisdom of such political appointments as just mentioned, brings down cries of "racism", (not so, Islam is trans-racial), heaps of abuse and possible sackings. This is now the reality of the much-vaunted "British values" of "tolerance and inclusivity". The direction of travel is clear – towards the banning of all discussion or criticism of Islam, a Faith that is ill-fitting within western societies, violent in its conduct when it suits, and lacking in credentials.

Finally we know that "phobia" is about fear rather than hate, and such fear, meaning simply an awareness of what is going on and a valid desire to say "No thank you", is an entirely legitimate reaction for anyone with "eyes to see". Is all this wildly far-fetched? Hardly. There are reliable reports for example of Muslim groups in the United States bringing forward lawsuits prohibiting the public reading of Bible texts which give offence to Islam.

"Islamophobia" is a convenient catch-all term designed to eradicate any discussion of Islam. In total contrast, "anti-Semitism" is Satan's old, old effort to take on Almighty God and His chosen, covenant people. Thanks be to God, we know which side is, and will be, victorious (Christ's victory being already achieved on Calvary, and proclaimed with "It is finished!", John 19.30). But meanwhile it is time for those who love the Lord and His people to speak up and to speak out.