

I ask my brethren: **separate yourselves from the tents of the Zionists and do not touch their movement, lest you perish through all their sins.**

Rabbi Eliezer Gordon,

rabbi of Telz, Lithuania (1841-1910)

To the Jewish people, the believers, I will speak & raise my voice to warn them regarding this. Until now, our country was clean & free **of the plague of the Zionist movement.** But now we have heard, to the sorrow of all who fear God and respect His name, that this heresy has reached here as well, and they have already held a gathering in one of the communities in our country. My heart cries out, lest this poison make a path for itself, since no one realizes how far things have gone.

Therefore, for the sake of Zion I will not be silent and for the sake of the holy Torah I will not cease to cry out in a loud voice, “Be careful **not to get caught in this net**, which is hidden to entrap the true faith we have received from Sinai!”

Therefore, our Jewish brethren, believers in the true belief give to us by Moses and passed down as an inheritance: Do not go on their way, keep your feet away from their path, **for those who join them descend to the depths of Hell**; all who go to them will never return and will not achieve life in the World to Come. And whoever listens to me will dwell safely and securely. (Tel Talpios, Av 5664)

Rabbi Chaim Mordechai Gottlieb,

rabbi of Miskolc, Hungary

Rabbi Yaakov Emden once wrote (commentary to Avos 2:6) that whoever does not enter the fray to fight against those who go on the wrong path, does not care about the insult of God’s Torah and is not considered a man. Therefore all great and righteous rabbis of our generation, and anyone who has the spark of Judaism within him, do this [**fight against Zionism**] in order to save the remainder of the Jewish people. (Divrei Simcha, letter 3)

Once he entered the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah for the morning prayers. Amazingly he began by **cursing the Zionists for about two hours**, and only then did he begin to pray.

Rabbi David Friedman,

rabbi of Karlin-Pinsk, Russia (1828-1915)

I received your letter in which you wrote strong and zealous words against the Zionist organization. All

that you wrote is correct, for we have already seen that **this organization decided to practice vanity & emptiness.** God is not in their midst, and **they look only to do evil, to uproot the name of Israel,** God forbid. Their goal is only nationalistic Zionism. (Responsa Har Hacarmel, p. 23)

Rabbi Eliyahu Akiva Rabinowitz,

rabbi of Poltava, Russia (1861-1917)

The Zionists do not make Jews heretics in order to have a state, **they want a state in order to make Jews into heretics!** (Mishkenos Haro’im, p. 269)

Dear Rabbi Moshe Carpas:

I have also read your words in connection with the sect of the Zionists who are now powerfully banded together. I do not blush to admit that I do not know how to find paths to oppose them, seeing that some of these men are known as evil in their localities, and have already proclaimed their purpose, which is to uproot the fundamentals of our faith and to take over all Jewish communities to aid them in their plan. It is hardly credible that after the revelations of their arrogant hearts there should still be found right-minded men willing to ally themselves with them. It is greatly astonishing throughout the whole Jewish People that they should be given a place and a voice in public affairs, since it is known they are causing others to sin.

Let the people guard their souls lest they join them in the destruction of our religion and become an obstacle to the House of Israel. If you intend to give a coin to the Jewish National Fund, give it to another idolatry, but not to the Zionists, since this idolatry is worse than any other. (Mishkenos Haro’im, p. 270)

The Jewish people have **suffered many plagues** – the Sadducees, Karaites, Hellenisers, Shabbesai Zvi, Haskalah, Reform and many others. **But the strongest of them all is Zionism.** (ibid. p. 269)

Regarding Zionism & Mizrachism: in our countries they have already ruined a great many of our brethren. I am telling you this in advance so that you might take steps that these movements not take hold in your country. They are poison to all that is vital to the Jewish people. All of their actions since their founding have been against our holy Torah. There is much evil contained in their words and actions. (Hapeles)

Rabbi Shmuel Rosenberg,

rabbi of Unsdorf, Hungary (1841-1919)

The Zionists have become known in the world, and

they are considered like the lowest & the cheapest. Many of them are wicked men, without the yoke of Torah and fear of G-d, men who pursue reform. Many righteous men have already cried out, “Separate from these men!” Whoever joins this group is considered a guilty soul in the eyes of the Torah. (Tel Talpios, Av 5664)

I humbly join those great rabbis who have preceded me and **forbade joining this Zionist organization. One must not join their conspiracy for any purpose.** (Zichron Yehuda v. 1 p. 184)

It should not occur to you that you, by human hands, can build the ruins of Jerusalem, and arouse the end of exile with great love of the Jewish people, to improve their state through this action, as the Zionists hold. Only God is the healer of the broken-hearted and the bandager of their pains, and if God does not build a house, its builders work in vain. (Zichron Yehuda 1:187)

Rabbi Shalom Dov Ber Schneersohn,

Rebbe of Lubavitch, Russia (1866-1920)

“Verily, those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians & Sabians, whoever believes in God & the Last Day & does righteous good deeds shall have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve”.



The Rabbis Speak Out

The past century has seen the rise of the Zionist philosophy, which transforms Judaism from a religion to a nationalism, from spirituality to materialism. (The word “Zion” was used by the prophets as a name for Jerusalem. The secular nationalists borrowed the name for their movement, whose goal was to take over Jerusalem.) The Zionists convinced a segment of world Jewry to leave behind their faith in the Almighty, not to trust in His security, and to take matters into their own hands. They forced their way out of exile and built a “Jewish” state. This act in itself was a severe violation of the Torah, which forbids Jews to found their own state before the coming of the Messiah. The act is **doubly sinful** when we consider that they founded their state in the land already inhabited by the Palestinian people. **They cruelly expelled, murdered and persecuted the Palestinians, and stole their land – all terrible crimes** in the eyes of the Torah.



The following is taken from **The Rabbis Speak Out: The 130 Year Record of Religious Jewish Opposition to Zionism.**

Rabbi Yehoshua Leib Diskin, rabbi of Brisk, Lithuania & later rabbi of Jerusalem (1817-1878)... "The Jews have always been religious people who lived with belief and trust in the Almighty. In their long history, they have gone through many different periods. There were times when they had their own land, sanctioned by the command of the Almighty. At other times, such as in the current era, they have been in exile. In the course of the two thousand years of this current exile, following the destruction of the Temple, Jews have remained faithful to the Almighty. Knowing that their exile was His will and His decree, they have always accepted it, and have not risen up to fight with other nations or dominate them. They have lived loyally under whatever governments they happened to live.

Zionism, starting from its founding day in the year 1897, aroused sharp condemnation from all the Rabbis, both in Palestine and around the world. All of religious Jewry was united in its opposition to this dangerous new movement, and fought it fiercely. The result was that Zionism took hold almost exclusively among non-religious Jews. And were it not for the

tremendous downfall of Jewry in the Second World War, Zionism could never have conquered any part of religious Jewry. In the War, which preceded the establishment of the Zionist state by only a few years, the Jewish people was torn to pieces and lost almost all its greatest Rabbinical leaders. Many Jews lost their faith and felt defenseless and vulnerable, and they were taken in by the Zionists' promises to "defend the Jewish people."

We bring some excerpts from words of the Rabbis of past & present generations on Zionism. These are the Rabbis, giants of Judaism, by whose light religious Jews walk to this day. As the reader will see, they were **totally opposed to the ideology of Zionism, the existence of the State of "Israel", the Zionists & all of their acts.**

We must note that many of the rabbis quoted here lived before the founding of the Zionist state, and although the Zionists even then had a long record of cruelty & brutality to the Palestinians, their intentions & actions were not widely known. In fact, the Zionists took care to present themselves as a movement to purchase land and settle in Palestine, not as a movement to make wars with other peoples and displace them. Therefore, the rabbis of that period focused their opposition on the Zionists' violations of the Torah and their rebellion against the Almighty's decree of exile.

Even in the period after 1948, the Zionists' crimes against the indigenous people of Palestine received almost no coverage in the international media and thus most of the Rabbis did not know about them. In the State of "Israel" itself, the Zionists understandably did not want to arouse public opinion and therefore their media, for many years, did not report on the plight of the Palestinian people; they forcibly blacked out any coverage of their own atrocities. It has only been in the last two or three decades, starting approximately with the Lebanon War of 1982, that the Western world has gained an awareness of these issues. This awareness is reflected in the words of the Rabbis of the most recent period.

We hope & wait for the day when the Almighty's glory will be revealed, "the earth will be full of knowledge of the Almighty" (Isaiah 11:9) and "the Almighty will be king over all the earth" (Zachariah 14:9). Then there will be a spiritual revolution in the

entire world, and the Almighty will redeem all Peoples, as we say in our prayers, "All the nations will become one organization to do Your will with their whole heart." And in the words of the Psalms (102:23), "Nations and governments will gather together to serve the Almighty." May it be soon, in our days, amen.

 "The greatest rabbis should **gather immediately and excommunicate the Zionists.** They should exclude them from the Jewish people by forbidding their bread, their wine and intermarriage with them." (Mara D'ara Yisroel v. 2 p. 43)

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch,
 rabbi of Frankfurt, Germany (1808-1888)

During the reign of Hadrian when the uprising led by Bar Kochba proved a disastrous error, it became essential that the Jewish people be reminded for all times of an important, essential fact, namely that **(the people of) Israel must never again attempt to restore its national independence by its own power;** it was to entrust its future as a nation solely to Divine Providence. (Commentary on the Prayer book, p. 703)

We mourn over that which brought about that destruction (of the Temple), we take to heart the harshness we have encountered in our years of wandering as the chastisement of a father, imposed on us for our improvement, & we mourn the lack of observance of Torah which that ruin has brought about... This destruction obliges us to allow our longing for the far away land to express itself only in mourning, in wishing & hoping; and only through the honest fulfillment of all Jewish duties to await the realization of this hope. **But it forbids us to strive for the reunion or possession of the land by any** but spiritual means. (Horeb, p. 461)

Rabbi Yechiel,
 Rebbe of Alexander, Poland (c. 1833-1893)

This entire idea of **establishing a state is a decree of forced apostasy** upon us, God spare us. (Oros Rabboseinu p. 16)

Rabbi Yerucham Yehuda Leib Perelmann
 of Minsk, Russia (1835-1896)

God forbid, a person **must not allow himself or his**

children to join the defiled Zionists, for their feet run to do evil and their place is a place of defilement. (Tzavaas Abba 10:20)

Rabbi Yechezkel Shraga Halberstam,
 Rebbe of Shinova, Galicia (1811-1899)

"Imagine how it will be if, God forbid, **the idea of Zionism becomes a reality. Then the sinners will be kings, the troublemakers will be high officials, and the young snakes will be leaders. Then your enemies will rule over you!**"

(Introduction to Daas Harabbanim, 1902)
Rabbi Pinchas Eliyahu Rothenberg,
 rabbi of Piltz, Russia ©. 1902)

The Zionist movement is not a movement of great Torah leaders and upright men, **but rather a movement of faithless men;** therefore, believing Jews, learn from the rabbis' example. Do not join them and do not take part in their gatherings. (Tel Talpios, Av 5664)

Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein,
 rabbi of Novhardok, Russia (1829-1908)

Woe to us, for our holy Torah is in unimaginable decline, **especially now that the hated movement called "Zionism" has spread,** to our sorrow. Regarding them it is stated in the prayerbook, "Zion cries bitterly" for they are the ones who extinguished the fire of our holy Torah. (Hapeles 5665, p. 139)

Anyone who fears God **should flee from the Zionists and Mizrachists as one flees from fire.**

Rabbi Shmuel Salant,
 Chief rabbi of Jerusalem (1816-1909)

Jerusalem greeted Herzl appropriately and, excommunicated and ostracized, he was compelled to sit alone during his entire stay in Jerusalem. This was after a strict warning was issued by the rabbi of Jerusalem, Rabbi Shmuel Salant, **"that no one should draw near to him or give him a place** in the Jewish area of Jerusalem." (Mara Dara Yisroel v. 2)

Rabbi Yosef Meir Weiss,
 Rebbe of Spinka, Hungary (1838-1909)

Since the days of the Tower of Babel, there has been no defilement in the world like the defilement of Zionism.

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