

# DO I STAY CHRISTIAN?

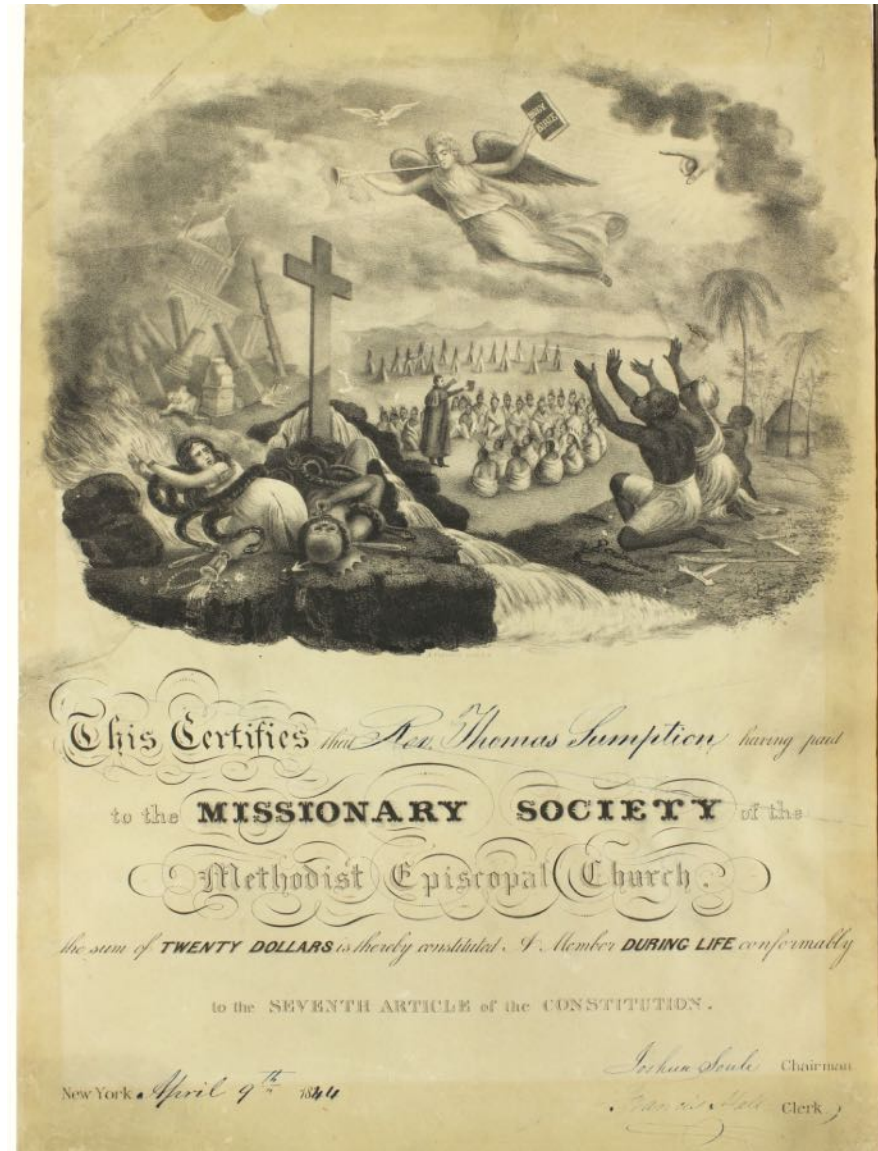
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Part I: No

Chapter 2: Because of Christianity's Suppression of Dissent (Christian vs. Christian Violence)

Chapter 3: Because of Christianity's High Death Toll—And Life Toll (Crusader Colonialism)

Catherine McGee, February 12, 2023



## BEGINNINGS

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# ANTI- IMPERIALISM

Echoing its founder's nonviolence, the Christian faith initially grew as a nonviolent spiritual movement of counter-imperial values. It promoted love, not war.

—Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay  
Christian?* p. 22



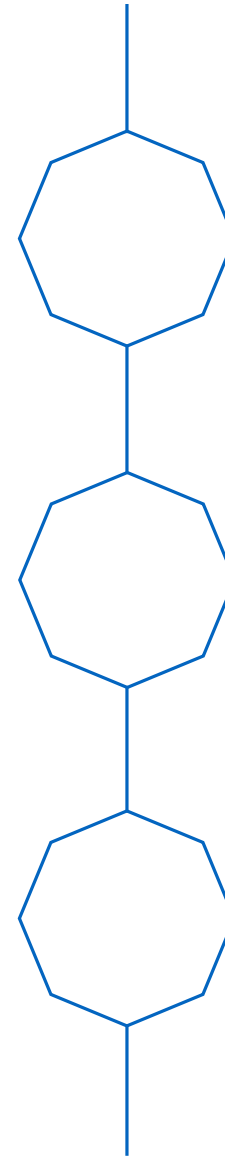
There was the calm sea of political protection. Under Constantine the Christian Church was a protected Church. **If anyone tried to bother the Church, it was an easy thing to run to the Roman authorities and have the problem settled.** Even in matters of doctrine this occurred.

—*Full Speed Ahead! With Christ Our Captain*, 1960 GPH VBS Curriculum, p. 32

# Heresy

When the heretic to some is the heroic reformer to others, and when the orthodox commit crimes against humanity in the name of orthodoxy, the terms *heresy* and *orthodoxy* seem equally problematic, and say as much about **power struggles** as they say about either theology or morality. —**Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 24**

WHAT DO  
**WE CHOOSE**  
TO REMEMBER?



ATHANASIAS

AUGUSTINE

THOMAS AQUINAS

## CRUSADER MENTALITY

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In nearly every encounter between Western Christians and global non-Christians, Christians have continued the Crusader mentality, seeing their neighbors as dangerous opponents in a holy conflict and presenting them with the same three options: **convert** to become one of us, **get out** of our way and **leave**, or **submit** to our dominance, subjecting yourself to a second-class status. That would be bad enough, but these options have often been supplemented by a fourth: **or die**.

—Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 30

## CRUSADER TO COLONIZER

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If you ask when the Crusades ended, some historians would say about 1300. But you could make a case that for another five hundred years, the Crusades continued by going global, and doing so under an alias: **European Christian colonialism**. Christian crusader colonialism has been a clever way of hiding the ultimatum of *convert, leave, submit, or die* in plain sight.

—Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 30-31

## DEATH TOLL

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- Millions of Indigenous people around the world have suffered genocide, land theft, cultural humiliation, displacement, and apartheid.
- Millions of human beings were kidnapped in Africa, shipped in horrific conditions to the New World, and then exploited for their labor in “perpetual slavery.” Women were routinely raped by the enslavers, and they had to watch their families be separated as their children and spouses were traded like livestock, all while the enslavers justified their actions using the Bible. Millions experienced a first set of wars to resist initial subjugation followed by a second set to achieve liberation.

—**Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 32**



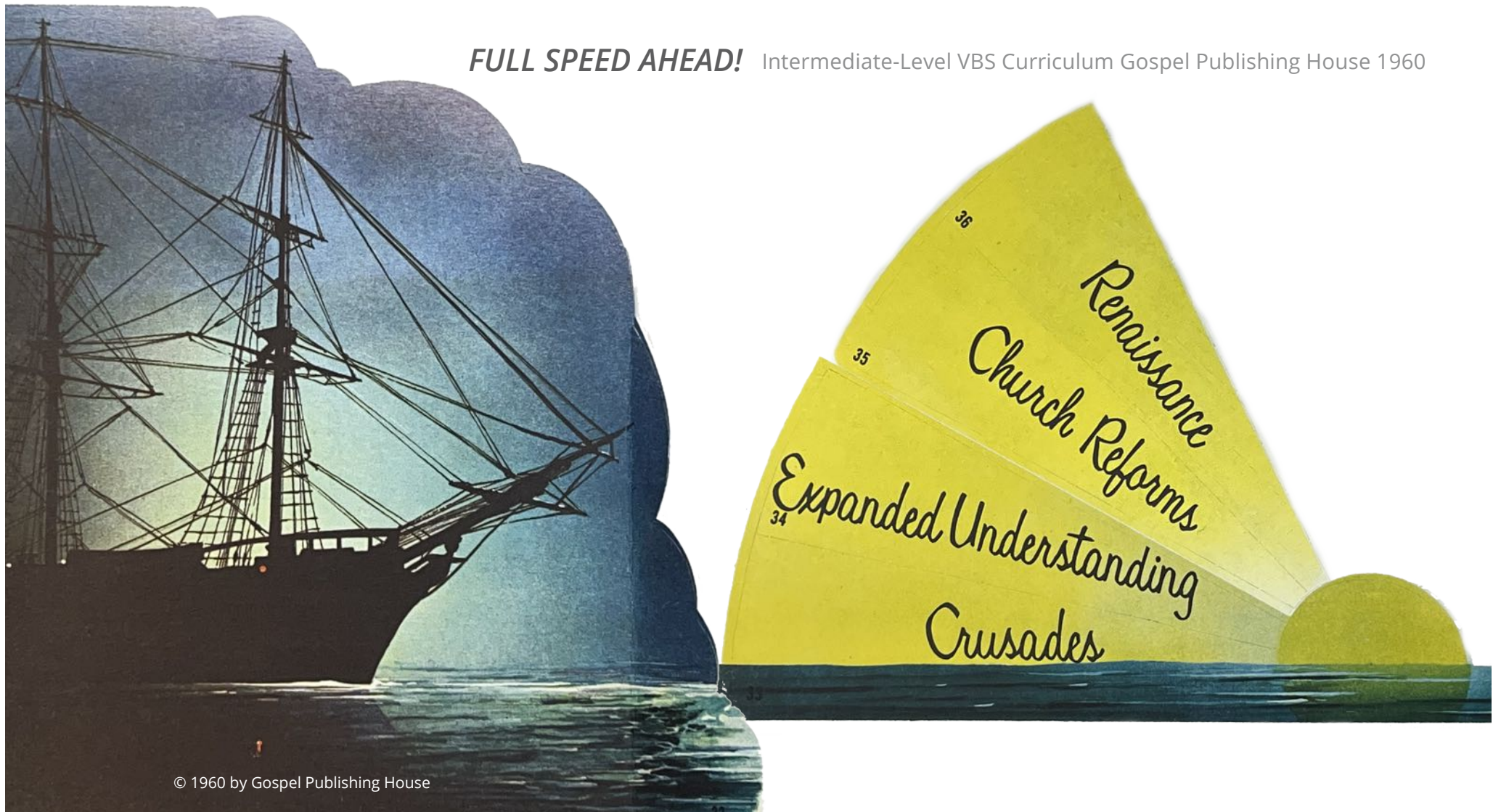
## LIFE TOLL

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- In addition to the death tolls of war, colonizers inflicted new life tolls upon colonized peoples. The colonized suffered constant traumatic humiliation, exploitation, and abuse, intensified by the knowledge that their children would suffer under similar conditions, generation after generation.
- Even after liberation, descendants of the colonized faced a long, painful, usually violent process of recovery after independence as they tried to build new social and political infrastructure in the context of deep-seated corruption, intertribal conflict, insupportable debt, arbitrary borders, and other lasting consequences of colonialism.

—**Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 32-33**

**FULL SPEED AHEAD!** Intermediate-Level VBS Curriculum Gospel Publishing House 1960



WHO'S **STEERING**  
THE SHIP?



*The*

**REFORMATION CHURCH  
BACK ON COURSE**

## SETTING THE TONE

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Their private houses must be destroyed and devastated, they could be lodged in stables. Let the magistrates burn their synagogues and let whatever escapes be covered with sand and mud. Let them be forced to work, and if this avails nothing, we will be compelled to expel them like dogs in order not to expose ourselves to incurring divine wrath and eternal damnation from the Jews and their lies ... **we are at fault in not slaying them.**

—Martin Luther, quoted in Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 17

# Supersessionism

Large swaths of Christians embraced and still embrace a doctrine called “supersessionism.” Yes, the Jews were “God’s chosen people” in the past, this doctrine says, but since they rejected Jesus, we Christians have **replaced** (or superseded) them. —**Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 18**

## A COLONIAL THEOLOGY

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Colonialism stands at the heart of Christianity's origins within Judaism. Christianity colonized Judaism, taking over its central theological concepts of messiah, eschatology, apocalypticism, election, and Israel as well as its Scriptures, its prophets, and even its God and denying the continued validity of those ideas for Judaism. In consequence a unique relationship exists between Christianity and Judaism; **no other major world religion has colonized the central religious teachings and scriptures of another faith and then denied the continued validity of the other**, insisting that its own interpretations are exclusive truth. —Susannah Heschel, "Theology as a Vision for Colonialism"

*The*  
**20TH CENTURY CHURCH  
FULL SPEED AHEAD**



### *Why did the Nazis burn the Hebrew Bible?*

The idea of race could not have been received by Germans, and could not have thrust them to commit such crimes in so short a time without the legitimacy if received from Christian, religious sentiments. If Germans supported Nazism it is also because it allowed them to remain a certain kind of Christians while becoming a new kind of Germans, as Nazis.

**—Alon Confino, *A World Without Jews: The Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide*, p. 8**



We need to acknowledge the persistence of a Christian imaginary tradition about the Jews in order to understand the transformation of anti-Jewish imagination in the Third Reich.

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Alon Confino, *A World Without Jews: The Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide*, p.126

## A COLONIAL THEOLOGY

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I noticed that every second or third car on the road had a bumper sticker of an Israeli flag or star of David. “I had no idea there were so many Jewish Guatemalans,” I said to my driver. **“Those aren’t the cars of Jews,” he explained. “They’re the cars of Pentecostals.** Pentecostals teach that God will bless whoever blesses the Jews. So they sell those bumper stickers at their churches. It’s a way for Christians to buy a blessing from God.” —**Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?* p. 19**



**Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg** ✓

@TheRaDR



Thread.

Jews, the Christian Zionist endgame is Armageddon/ bringing the end times, during which they believe we will not be saved. We're a tool to help them get there. Even if you like their "support for Israel" (I don't, it's pro-Occupation), you are cannon fodder to them. 1/x



**Tommy moderna-vaX-Topher** ✓ @tommyxtopher · Dec 27, 2018

Trump's SECRETARY OF STATE, America's chief diplomat, said "We will continue to fight these battles, it is a never ending struggle... until the Rapture." Holy shit.

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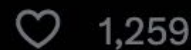




**Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg**  @TheRaDR · Dec 27, 2018 ...

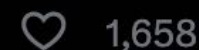
Replying to [@TheRaDR](#)

This eschatological theology we've been discussing depends on supersessionism, which is inherently antisemitic. But also this particular branch of toxic Christian Zionist Evangelicals is also not the only place where supersessionism/replacement theology shows up.



**Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg**  @TheRaDR · Dec 27, 2018 ...

So if you are Christian and reading this thread it would be a good and helpful form of allyship to Jews to interrogate the places where it might show up in your own community's thinking, and to do some grappling with that. Even if you're not actively trying to bring the Rapture.





**Danté Stewart (Stew)**

@stewartdantec



I am reading the gospels. God didn't send his Son to judge the world, Jesus says, but that the world might be saved through him. James Baldwin is right: "Salvation is not flight from the wrath of God; it is accepting and reciprocating the love of God."

8:54 AM · Dec 20, 2022 · **44.4K** Views

## PRESERVING IDENTITY, **WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**

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According to Zechariah 8:22–23: “Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to entreat the favor of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days, ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’” They do not say, however, “circumcise us when we get there.” They would worship the God of Israel *as Gentiles*. —**Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew*, p. 68**