

SB 664. Testimony before the Oregon House Education Committee. May 8, 2019.

The purpose of Section (g) SB 664 is to: “Preserve the memories of survivors of genocide and provide opportunities for students to discuss and honor survivors’ cultural legacies.” Google calls a Holocaust “a Jewish sacrificial offering that is burned completely on an altar.” And genocide is defined as “intentional action to destroy a people in whole or in part.” In order to apply the principles in Section (g) schools would have to sponsor an examination of the Jewish religion and its practices, as memorialized in what is called the “Old Testament.” I did not think a state school could teach religious beliefs and practices, but the sponsorship of SB 664 corrects me.

The Book of Joshua, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11, tell of the Israelites murder and burning of many nations and peoples, holocausts that were commanded by the Israelite god, Jehovah. The battle of Jericho is a good example. Not only were its peoples completely annihilated through killing and burning, but its artifacts destroyed. An Israeli soldier, Achan, secretly hid some Jericho’s artifacts, hoping to sell them. When Achan’s actions were discovered, he and his entire family were stoned and burned by Israeli authorities. In another incident, the nation of Ai and all its inhabitants were slain and burned and made into “a heap forever.” The nation Hazor met a similar fate.

In the Book of Numbers, the slaughter of the nation of the Midianites is explicit: *“They fought against Midian, as the Lord commanded Moses, and killed every man. The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children and took all the Midianite herds, flocks and goods as plunder. They burned all the towns where the Midianites had settled, as well as all their camps. They took all the plunder and spoils, including the people and animals, and brought the captives, spoils and plunder to Moses*” Numbers 31: 1-18, Numbers 31: 35

But Moses was angry that not all the boys and women had been killed. He ordered them slaughtered. He said: *“... Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man.”* So, the nation of the Midianites was slaughtered – except for the 32,000 young virgin girls set aside as sex slaves to Israel’s soldiers.

And in Deuteronomy LORD God directs the slaughter of seven (7) other other nations: *“When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations even nations larger and stronger than you you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons.”* Deut. 7:1-2. Thus light is shed upon genocidal practices towards the Palestinians, and raise questions about U.S. gifting money that is used in that endeavor. Under SB 664, students should learn about current genocide, and perhaps talk with Palestinian genocide survivors.

In Genesis, Jehovah also decreed that the Israelites be the Master Race: *“Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you ... Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”* Genesis 27:29.

In Deuteronomy, not just once, but TWICE Jehovah decreed the Israelites the world’s moneylenders: *“... you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.”* Deut. 28:12, and Deut. 15-6. And then this discriminatory practice: *“Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite...”* Deut. 23: 19-20. That is, Gentiles can be charged interest, but not Israelites ...

In Leviticus, Gentiles become the hereditary slaves of Israelites. Jehovah said, *“You can bequeath them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly...”* Lev. 25: 44-46.

What comes around, goes around. If discriminatory and genocidal philosophies are to be eliminated, we must know from whence they spring. And all peoples, Christians, Jews, and non-believers, should be freed from honoring them.

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