



The Antisemitism Initiative  
presents

**What the Church needs to  
know to fight Jewish Hatred**

**What is  
Antisemitism?**

**“Anti-”** prefix meaning  
against or opposite

# Semite:

1)

**a:** a member of any of a number of peoples of ancient southwestern Asia including the Akkadians, Phoenicians, Hebrews, and Arabs

**b:** a descendant of these peoples

2)

**a:** member of a modern people speaking a Semitic language

## Etymology

French *sémite*, from *Sem* Shem, from Late Latin, from Greek *Sēm*, **from Hebrew *Shēm***

# Who was Shem?

Genesis 9

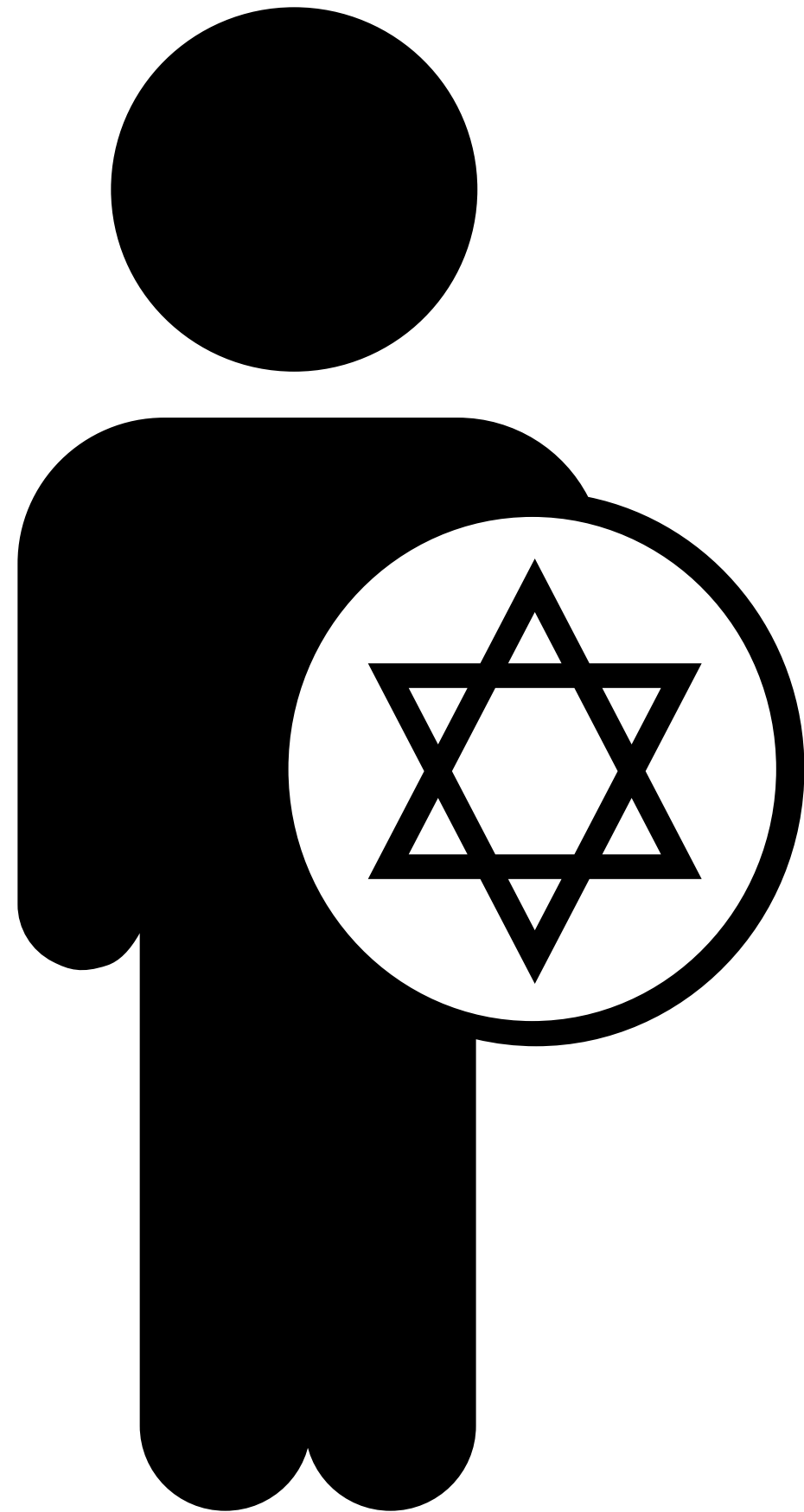
One of the **Sons of Noah: Shem**, Ham,  
and Japheth.



“**9** These were the three sons of Noah,  
and from them came the people who  
were scattered over the whole earth.”

**“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem!  
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.  
May God extend Japheth’s territory;  
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,  
and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth.”**

**Genesis 9:26,27**



What exactly is Antisemitism?

- Prejudice
- Discrimination
- Hostility

All directed against the Jewish people, **God's Chosen**, as a religious, ethnic, or racial group

## Let's Define **Prejudice**:

**a) (1): preconceived judgment or opinion**

**(2): a. an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge**

**b) an instance of such judgment or opinion**

**c) an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race, or their supposed characteristics**



# Let's Define **Discrimination**:

a) prejudiced or prejudicial **outlook, action, or treatment**

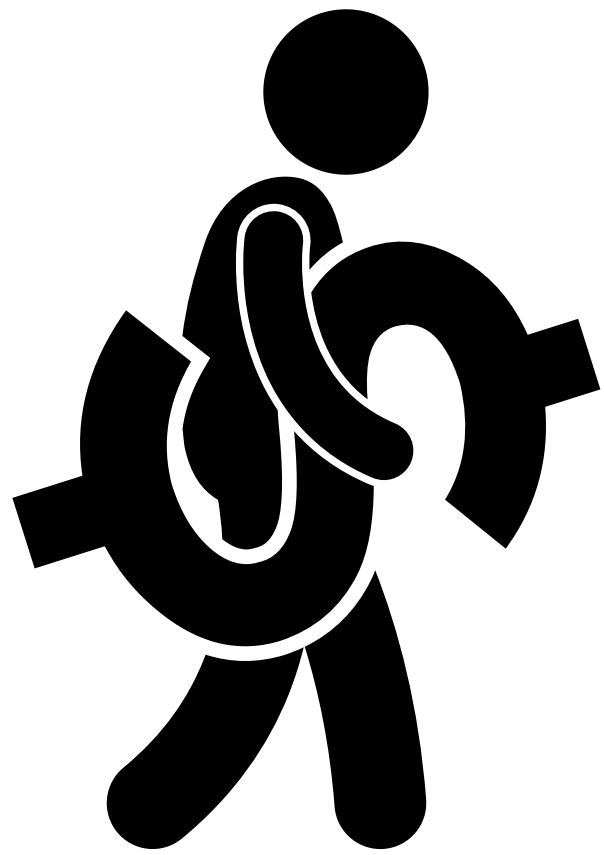
b) the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating **categorically** rather than **individually**

Let's Define **Hostility**:

deep-seated,  
(usually mutual)

**ill will**

# The Economic roots of Antisemitism



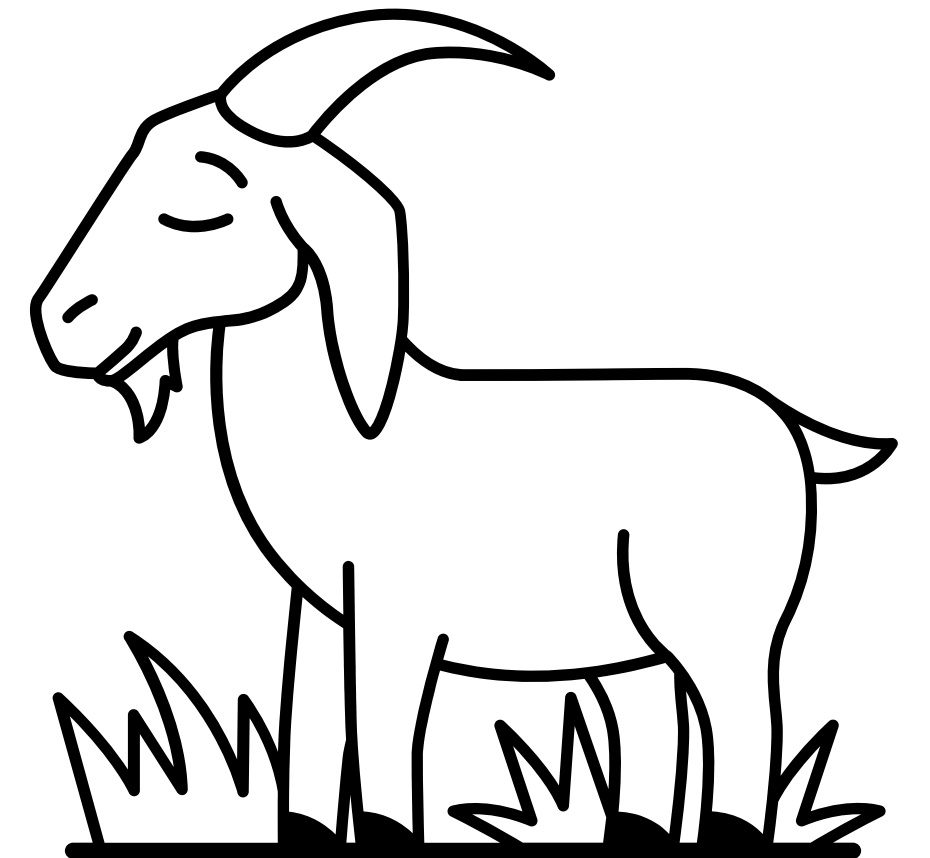
- Historically, Jews have held **financial positions** . Money lenders or bankers.
- **Resentment** fueled by these positions led to **envy**.
- Jews are viewed as **exploiters** of economic systems for their own gain.
- Stereotypes developed of Jews as **greedy and dishonest**.

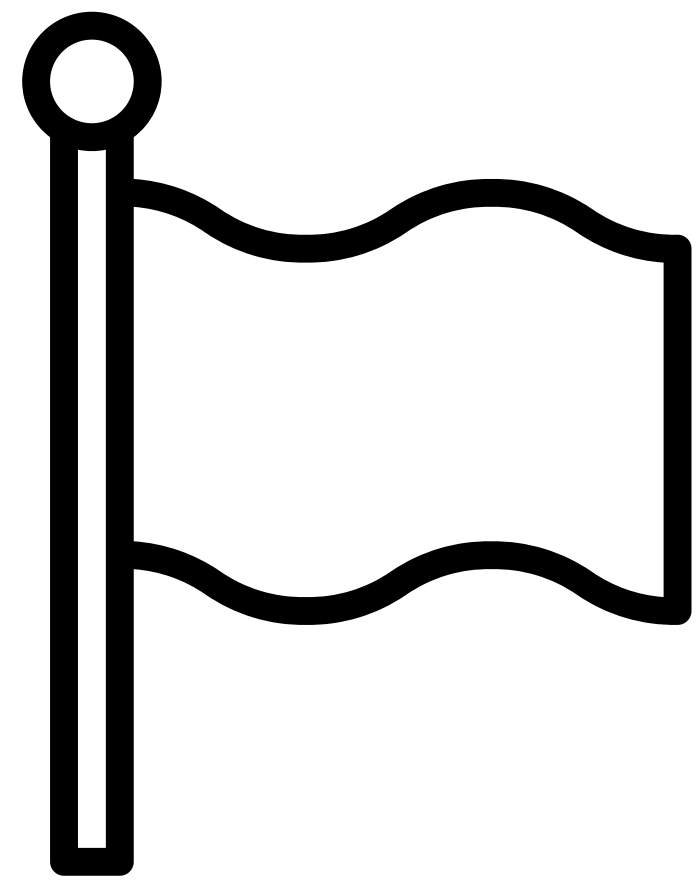
**Scapegoating:** one that bears the blame for others

Historically, the Jewish people have been blamed for societal problems.

i.e. Medieval Times: The Black Death, Jews were falsely accused of poisoning wells and spreading the disease.

Leading to expulsions and pogroms in Europe.





# Political Factors

- The political ideology of Nationalism often portrays Jews as **outsiders** and a **threat** to cultural and racial purity.
- Especially true throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, culminating in the Holocaust.

# Cultural Myths



Jews have been portrayed as **“OTHER”** throughout history.

Stereotypes as “cunning”

“manipulative”

“untrustworthy”

# Jewish Exceptionalism:



- The Jewish people are inheritantly unique. Maintaining cultural and religious exclusivity.
- This has sparked resentment and hostility when groups believe Jews are **“better”** or specially privileged