

Anti-Semitism in 3 John?

(Hebraic view of 3 John)

In the 1st century, Gentiles were already vying for authority within Messianic Judaism as seen in 3 John where John writes:

(3 John 1:9-11) I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. (10) For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. (11) Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

In 3 John, the Apostle says that a Gentile “church” leader named Diotrephes, “who loved to be first”, no longer accepted what John the Apostle had to say! John reports that Diotrephes accused John and his people of using wicked words! John reports that Diotrephes no longer receives visits from the Jewish brethren and even forbids any of his church members from receiving them. Anyone who did receive them was “put out of the church”!

Verse 11 - John refers to this action as evil and those who do it “have not seen God” – calls them unbelievers!

This is the first recorded incident of anti-Semitism by the Church and was the start of many centuries of anti-Semitism within Christianity. Hitler and his cohorts claimed their anti-Semitic actions were just a continuation of those of the Church.