Ancient Texts for Our Troubled Times: Next Steps

A Reflective Response to the Online Education Series delivered by Professor Amy-Jill Levine

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Next steps

Commit to an ongoing learning curve

Inform

Reform

Transform

Next steps

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- *In*form:
  - Acknowledge the dark pages of Christian-Jewish encounter in history and be willing to learn about supersessionism, anti-Judaism and antisemitism in our Christian tradition.
  - This act of learning itself is our individual way of taking responsibility.
- *Re*form:
  - Acquaint oneself with the Jewish roots and origins of Christianity. Jesus and his disciples were Jews. So too was the early Church. What does that mean? How does our understanding change when we deeply internalise this (new) historical knowledge?
  - This is not just revisionist history. It is in fact setting the historical record straight. But for some/many this will entail unlearning previous ways of being formed in the Christian faith.
- *Trans*form:
  - Judaism is a living tradition in its own right. Be curious to learn how Jews observe their traditions today. Avoid trying to understand Judaism and the Jewish people only in terms of what this means for Christian understanding. Be bold – try a visit to a local synagogue. If there is none in your vicinity, reach out to a local council of Christians and Jews who can assist you in making contact. Become an ally, not just an interested observer.

Inform

- Teresa Pirola, *Nostra Aetate: The Toil and Triumph of a Conciliar Journey* (2025)
  https://batkolinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/T_Pirola_Nostra_Aetate_The_toil_and_triump_of_a_conciliar_journey.pdf

  https://www.lightoftorah.net/more

  Teresa Pirola, *Catholic-Jewish Relations: Twelve Key Themes for Teaching and Preaching* (2023)
  https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780809156320/catholic-jewish-relations/

- American Jewish Committee and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Translate Hate: The Catholic Edition. Stopping Antisemitism starts with Understanding It* (2024)
  https://www.usccb.org/resources/TranslateHateCatholicEdition.pdf

- Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, *Resisting Anti-Judaism: Practices of Christian Solidarity* (2026)
  https://www.danieljoslyn-siemiatkoski.com/books

Reform

- The works of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine
  - Edited with Mark Zvi Brettler, *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (3rd ed., 2026)
  - *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (2006)
- Bat Kol International
  https://batkolinternational.org/
- International Council of Christians and Jews
  https://www.iccj.org/index.html
- JCrelations.net
  https://www.jcrelations.net/index.html
- Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, St Joseph's University (USA)
  https://www.sju.edu/college-arts-and-sciences/ijcr

Transform

- The writings of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
  https://rabbisacks.org/

- Rabbi Shai Held, *Judaism is About Love* (2024)
  https://www.hadar.org/about/people/rabbi-shai-held

- Dr Erica Brown
  https://www.ericabrown.com/
- Rabbi Angela Buchdahl
  https://www.centralsynagogue.org/worship/sermons/author/angela-w-buchdahl

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