

Rabbi Fabricates Story that Pope Benedict said the Jews Will No Longer be Evangelized

You may have heard that on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, the *Jerusalem Post* carried an article on the pope's visit to Israel. Quite a few Catholics became alarmed when they read the headline: "Vatican to Stop Missionizing Jews." I received quite a few emails asking if the Catholic Church had finally thrown in the towel and decided to stop preaching the Gospel. You can find the article at:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1242029507154&pagename=JPost/JParticle/Printer>

The article, written by "Abe Selig and Jerusalem Post staff," claims the following (I will underline the important parts):

After meeting the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, and praying at the Western Wall on Tuesday, Pope Benedict XVI arrived for a historic meeting with the chief rabbis at Heichal Shlomo, next to the capital's Great Synagogue, and agreed that the Catholic Church will cease all missionary activity among Jews.

In his welcoming address, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yona Metzger thanked the pope for his announcement, calling it an "historic agreement and, "for us, an immensely important message."

The *Catholic New Service* (<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0902175.htm>) added that Metzger also claimed to have received a "document" from the pope claiming the same contents:

He [Rabbi Metzger] also thanked the pope for a document he said he had received that morning promising that the Catholic Church would not conduct missionary activity among the Jews.

My question is, why would Rabbi Metzger stoop to lying about such a matter? If the pope had made such a statement, he would have consigned himself and his pontificate to apostasy, but the rabbi apparently has no qualms putting the Catholic Church in such a preposterous and impossible position. Rest assured, the pope neither gave an "announcement" nor a document to the rabbi that stated the Catholic Church would now be ceasing all missionary efforts to the

Jews. It appears to be just another case of Jewish religious chutzpah at work, and it is getting bolder as the days wear on. As the *Catholic News Service* reported:

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters later he was not sure what document the rabbi was talking about, but that in the meeting room there were copies of all of the statements published by a Vatican-sponsored dialogue with representatives of the rabbinate over the past nine years.

The *Jerusalem Post* continues:

Metzger also congratulated the pope on his arrival to "our holy land - the land to which we prayed to return during 2,000 years of exile... And, with God's help, our meeting today is taking place in the Land of Israel, in our city of Jerusalem - the eternal capital of the Jewish people."

Actually, the pope said nothing about Jerusalem being "the eternal capital of the Jewish people." "Eternal" implies that God has given back Jerusalem to the Jews, but no such event has occurred, although the Jews would like everyone to think so. History shows that God took Jerusalem from the Jews 2000 years ago, after which it became a melting pot of three religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

According to *Zenit* news service, in contrast to Metzger's claims, Pope Benedict called for both the erection of a Palestinian state and the permitting of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland in an around Jerusalem and the rest of Israel – both of which the Jews in Israel have resisted ever since it was proposed. *Zenit* reports:

BETHLEHEM, MAY 13, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Expressing support for the goal of a sovereign Palestinian homeland, Benedict XVI announced that the Holy See will institute a bilateral commission with the Palestinian Authority.

The Pope affirmed this today as he closed a full day of events in the Palestinian Territories, stating that the Holy See "looks forward" to "establishing shortly" the "Bilateral Permanent Working Commission that was envisioned in the Basic Agreement," signed Feb. 15, 2000 between the Holy See and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Pontiff's visit began this morning as he traveled from Jerusalem, where he is staying until Friday, and passed through the border between Israel and the Palestinian Territories at the Tomb of Rachel door.

He stopped at Bethlehem's presidential palace, where he was greeted by the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas.

The Holy Father affirmed, "I earnestly beg the Almighty for peace, a just and lasting peace, in the Palestinian Territories and throughout the region."

He assured the president that "the Holy See supports the right of your people to a sovereign Palestinian homeland in the land of your forefathers, secure and at peace with its neighbors, within internationally recognized borders."

Benedict XVI encouraged the crowd assembled for the welcoming ceremony to "keep alive the flame of hope" that a solution will be found to meet "the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for peace and stability."

He made a particular appeal to the international community to "bring its influence to bear in favor of a solution."

Acknowledging the effects of recent conflict in Gaza, the Holy Father expressed the hope that reconstruction will happen quickly with international assistance.

....Benedict XVI addressed the crowd, expressing solidarity with the "homeless Palestinians who long to be able to return to their birthplace, or to live permanently in a homeland of their own."

He affirmed: "Your legitimate aspirations for permanent homes, for an independent Palestinian State, remain unfulfilled. Instead you find yourselves trapped, as so many in this region and throughout the world are trapped, in a spiral of violence, of attack and counter-attack, retaliation, and continual destruction."

END

Robert Sungenis