

BALFOUR'S CHRISTIAN ZIONISM LEARNED IN CHURCH?

Since the early 19th century the Church of Scotland was in lockstep with the mores of the Colonial and imperialist London governments and trailed its colonising armies with proselytising missionaries.

One such converting crusader, Kirk minister, the Rev Alexander Keith (1791-1880), is credited with the Christian Zionist theory of **"A land without people, for a people without land."** This view came from his membership of the **"Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for The Conversion of the Jews"**, which travelled throughout Europe and the Middle East gathering statistical evidence on Jews.

The committee's findings were published in 1844 as: **"Narrative of a mission of inquiry to the Jews from the Church of Scotland in 1839"**. At page 164 of that book it states, **"At the utmost, the whole Jewish population of Palestine may be reckoned at about 12,000."** So one can see where the Rev Keith got his **'land without a people from'** especially given the large numbers of Jews in other countries at this time (Keith Reported 80,000 Jews in Constantinople alone).

At around this time the Church of Scotland shared the London establishment's antipathy (bordering on hatred) for some of their fellow British Christian citizens, namely the Irish Catholics. Later this antipathy manifested itself in calls for the repatriation of the Irish RC refugees that arrived in Scotland, fleeing the famine in that part of Great Britain, lest by interbreeding they would dilute the quality of the superior Scots blood.

Given the above it can safely be assumed that the Christian Zionism propagated by the Scots established church, which had a biblical context with the Holy Land, was also concerned with making sure that those persecuted Jews fleeing programs in Europe were settled anywhere but Scotland. A church that didn't want an Irish Catholic in the place wouldn't want Ashkenazi Jews here either.

In summary it seems that Balfour, like Keith before him adhered to the Church of Scotland doctrine of the day.

N.B. In a 2002 pamphlet the Church of Scotland apologized for their anti-Irish racism as defined in their 1923 report **"The Menace of the Irish race to our Scottish Nationality"**. They also did a U-turn on their earlier Zionist views, in a 2013 report entitled **"The Inheritance of Abraham"** which repudiated their earlier view that Jews had a valid claim to the land of Israel rooted in the Bible.