

Jews and Christians Throughout History Reflection Paper II

Instructions:

Please read the question carefully. Then try to draw upon the readings and lectures to build a convincing argument for your position. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length.

Question

In his book, The Anguish of the Jews, Fr. Edward Flannery wrote: "During the first half of the second Christian millennium, the history of Antisemitism and the history of Judaism so converged as almost to coincide. It is a scandal of Christian history that while the Church and the Christian State were at the zenith of their power and influence, the sons of Israel reached the nadir of their unending oppression." [p. 90]

Based on your readings and the class lectures is Flannery's assessment of Jewish-Christian relations during the Middle Ages correct? To what extent does the theology of "Jewish preservation" developed in the writings of St. Augustine and Gregory the Great complicate Flannery's assessment? To what extent do the Jewish documents indicate that Jewish scholars were entirely passive with respect to Christian efforts at evangelization? Does the search for "order" in a Christian society mean that a collision with Judaism was absolutely necessary? In what ways do the public disputations indicate a significant shift away from previous Christian evaluations of Judaism? In what ways did Christian "scholarship" or learning about Judaism work to reverse these previous assessments?