

## No, Israel Doesn't Fight Wars for Religious Sacrifice

### THE LIE

Jews believe that killing Gentiles serves as a religious substitute for Temple sacrifice, and that Israel's wars are driven by this theology.

### THE TRUTH

This theology does not exist. Not in scripture, not in the Talmud, not in two thousand years of Jewish law. Jewish law forbids murdering anyone – Jew or Gentile. Israel fights wars of self-defense, and always has.

### BACKGROUND

- On June 22, 2026, JD Hall appeared on the Tucker Carlson Show and claimed that Jews believe killing Gentiles is a form of atonement. ([The Tucker Carlson Show](#))
- According to Hall, this began after the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, when the rabbinate supposedly replaced animal sacrifice with the sacrifice of non-Jews.
- This, he said, is why Israel instigates wars.

### TRUTH EXPLAINED

- The sanctity of *all* human life – Jew and Gentile alike – is at the center of Torah and Jewish tradition: every person is created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). Murder is universally prohibited (Genesis 9:6). Maimonides confirms Gentile life is sacred (Mishneh Torah). The Talmud teaches that “whoever destroys a single soul destroys an entire world” (Sanhedrin 37a), and preserving life overrides nearly every other commandment (Yoma 85b). So seriously does Judaism take human suffering that, according to Jewish sages, God rebuked the angels for celebrating when the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea. To this day, Jews remove drops of wine at the Passover Seder, one for each plague, because even an enemy's pain is not cause for full rejoicing. ([Genesis 1:27](#)), ([Genesis 9:6](#)), ([Mishneh Torah](#)), ([Sanhedrin 37a](#)), ([Proverbs 24:17](#)), ([Yoma 85b](#))
- The sanctity of life is also why the Torah explicitly, repeatedly, and vehemently forbids human sacrifice. Leviticus prescribes the death penalty for anyone who sacrifices a child to Molech, and promises God will cut off any family that does so. Deuteronomy calls it an abomination that God hates. The prophets repeatedly denounce it with horror as something God never commanded and never conceived. The idea that Jewish law substituted human sacrifice for animal sacrifice inverts the entire moral thrust of the Torah. ([Leviticus 18:21](#)), ([Leviticus 20:2](#)), ([Deuteronomy 12:31](#)), ([Jeremiah 7:31](#)), ([Jeremiah 19:5](#)), ([Jeremiah 32:35](#)), ([Ezekiel 16:20](#))
- There is not a single line in two thousand years of Talmud, legal codes, or prayer books that identifies war – or the killing of Gentiles – as a spiritual act.
- Jewish law prohibits it outright. The Torah forbids murder three times. Maimonides confirmed the prohibition applies to Gentiles. The rabbinate cannot rescind a biblical commandment. The only killing Jewish law permits is self-defense – and the Talmud applies that protection universally, to Jew and Gentile alike. ([Exodus 20:13](#)), ([Deuteronomy 5:17](#)), ([Genesis 9:6](#)), ([Mishneh Torah](#)), ([Sanhedrin 72a](#)), ([The Schechter Institute](#))
- The Torah never made blood sacrifice the only path to atonement. Leviticus explicitly permits a flour offering as a substitute and calls it atonement. If blood were the non-negotiable requirement Hall implies, that verse wouldn't exist. ([Leviticus 5:11](#))
- The prophets said the same thing centuries before the Second Temple was destroyed. Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah all declared that God prefers repentance, justice, and mercy over sacrifice. Psalm 51 calls a broken spirit the truest offering of all. ([Micah 6:6-8](#)), ([Isaiah 1:11-17](#)), ([Hosea 6:6](#)), ([Psalms 51:18-19](#))

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- When the Temple fell, the rabbinate elevated prayer, fasting, and charity as the paths to atonement because the Torah already pointed there. Yom Kippur works through confession and fasting, consistent with Torah law that predated the Temple's destruction by centuries. ([Jews for Judaism](#))
- Every war Israel has fought was defensive – from five Arab armies invading the new Jewish state in 1948, to three Arab armies mobilizing to attack Israel in 1967, to Egypt and Syria's surprise attack on Yom Kippur, to Hezbollah's cross-border raids, to October 7 and its aftermath. A nation driven by theological bloodlust doesn't sign the Abraham Accords, return the Sinai to Egypt, or repeatedly offer peace to its enemies. ([US State Department](#)), ([US State Department](#)), ([Jewish Virtual Library](#)), ([INSS](#)), ([Britannica](#)), ([IDF](#)), ([IDF](#)), ([CFR](#))

### QUOTES

“They have built shrines to Baal, to put their children to the fire as burnt offerings to Baal—which I never commanded, never decreed, and which never came to My mind.” – Jeremiah 19:5

“You do not want me to bring sacrifices; You do not desire burnt offerings; true sacrifice to Hashem is a contrite spirit; Hashem, You will not despise a contrite and crushed heart.” Psalms 51:18-19

“For I desire goodness, not sacrifice; Obedience to Hashem, rather than burnt offerings.” – Hosea 6:6

“What need have I of all your sacrifices?’ Says Hashem. ‘I am sated with burnt offerings of rams, And suet of fatlings, And blood of bulls; And I have no delight In lambs and he-goats.” – Isaiah 1:11

“With what shall I approach Hashem, Do homage to Hashem on high? Shall I approach Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Would Hashem be pleased with thousands of rams, With myriads of streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, The fruit of my body for my sins? He has told you, O man, what is good, And what Hashem requires of you: Only to do justice And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God.” – Micah 6:6-8

### TAKEAWAY

JD Hall's claim is not just wrong, but spectacularly illiterate. Throughout the Torah, Talmud, and Jewish tradition, human life is sacred and takes precedence over nearly every other commandment.

Furthermore, the Torah never made blood the only path to forgiveness, the Prophets hammered repentance and justice over rituals centuries earlier, and two thousand years of Talmud, codes, liturgy, and Jewish practice contain zero trace of this imaginary war-blood theology. Jewish law explicitly forbids murdering any human being — Jew or Gentile — as a violation of “You shall not murder,” with Maimonides declaring it a biblical transgression against any ben adam. The only permitted killing is self-defense, applied universally.

If Hall's deranged substitute atonement were true, Jewish literature would scream it from every page and observant communities would be acting on it; instead, they don't, because it's a slanderous invention. Israel's wars were defensive responses to invasions, blockades, massacres, and rocket barrages — from 1948's Arab armies to October 7 — not some rabbinic blood ritual.

Hall is simply inventing demonic motives to justify his own hostility toward Jews.