

No, “Goy” Doesn’t Mean “Cattle”

THE LIE

Jews dehumanize non-Jews by referring to them as “*goyim*,” which means “cattle.”

THE TRUTH

“Goy” (plural *goyim*) means “nation.” It appears multiple times in the Bible, even applied to the Jewish people, and no serious scholar has ever contested this.

BACKGROUND

- On June 30, Candace Owens and Shawn Ryan sat down on The Shawn Ryan Show and told millions of listeners that the Hebrew word “goy” secretly means “cattle.” Owens called the idea that it means “nation” a “modern invention” and “completely made up.” Ryan agreed. ([The Shawn Ryan Show](#))
- Owens has repeatedly used this claim to accuse Jews of dehumanizing non-Jews.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- **This isn’t debatable:** “Goy” is the standard Hebrew word for “nation” or “people.” It has meant that for over 3,000 years — confirmed by every dictionary, every Bible translation, and every credentialed Hebrew scholar. ([Wiktionary](#))
- **The word predates English entirely:** “Goy” was already in use throughout the Hebrew Bible before English existed. Old English didn’t emerge until the 5th century A.D. — roughly 1,500 years after Abraham. ([Dynamic Language](#))
- **The Bible proves it:** God promises Abraham he’ll become a “great nation” (*goy gadol*) in Genesis 12:2. At Sinai, Israel is called a “holy nation” (*goy kadosh*) in Exodus 19:6. Every Jewish and Christian translation renders “goy” as “nation” or “people” — never “cattle.” ([Genesis 12:2](#)), ([Genesis 19:6](#))
- **The word applies to Israel itself:** The Bible calls Israel a “goy” repeatedly. If “goy” meant “cattle,” Jewish scripture would be calling the Jewish people cattle — which makes the claim self-defeating. ([Chabad](#))
- **The etymology doesn’t connect, period:** “Goy” comes from Hebrew roots tied to “body” or “collective group.” The English word “cattle” comes from unrelated Indo-European roots tied to “chattel” and property. Different word families, different continents, no link.
- **Hebrew already has words for cattle — and they’re nothing like “goy”:** *Baqar* (cattle/herd), *shor* (ox/bull), *par/parah* (bull/cow), *egel* (calf), *behemah* (livestock). None resemble “goy.” None even share a root. ([Hebrewpod 101](#))
- **“Goy” has also come to mean “non-Jew”:** “Goy” has evolved in common speech to loosely refer to anyone who is not Jewish, comparable to *Gringo* in Spanish, *Auslander* in German, and *Ajam* in Arabic. ([Chabad](#))
- **The “cattle” claim isn’t new:** The idea that “goy” secretly means “cattle” traces back to Nazi-era propaganda and the forged Protocols of the Elders of Zion, both designed to portray Jews as viewing non-Jews as subhuman animals to be herded and controlled. ([USHMM](#)), ([Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion](#))

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QUOTES

“That ‘cattle’ idea traces back through literal Nazi propaganda to antisemitic sources like The Protocols of the Elders of Zion; if Owens really believes it to be true, she differs from other Catholics in her understanding of Scripture, which would have God promising Abraham that ‘I will make of you a great cow.’” — Nitsuh Abebe, *The New York Times*

TAKEAWAY

Candace Owens and Shawn Ryan didn't expose some dark truth. "Goy/goyim" has never meant "cattle" in Hebrew; it simply means "nation," as in God's promise to Abraham of a "great nation" (*goy gadol*, Genesis 12:2) or calling Israel a "holy nation" (*goy kadosh*, Exodus 19:6). The actual words for cattle are *baqar*, *shor*, *par*, and *parah*—with zero connection to *goy*.

Owens' fantasy that Jews view non-Jews as subhuman livestock to be herded is straight from Nazi propaganda and The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, not the Torah or Talmud. By pushing this garbage on podcasts and Epstein-file rants, these click-chasing grifters show they can't be bothered to open a Bible or dictionary before smearing Jews.