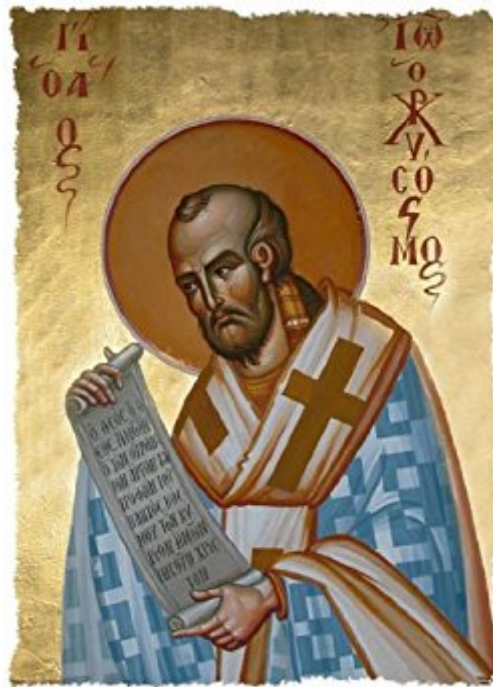




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# Saint John Chrysostom: Eight Homilies Against The Jews



## Synopsis

While in their writings Hilary and Eusebius introduced the pagan world to this strange version of Jewish history, Chrysostom expressed similar theories with much greater violence from his pulpit at Antioch. In eight sermons which he delivered in 387 he speaks with a bitterness and lack of restraint unusual even in that place and century "> 164 pages

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

St John Chrysostom was the finest homilist Christianity has ever produced. His work still continues to influence the way Christians see the Bible in Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, and the learned among the founders of the various Protestant denominations. What James Parkes, who wrote the forward of this collection, does, is essentially a character assassination. Parkes comes from an Anglican background, and apparently experienced 'brutal antisemitism' on the Continent (amusingly, not daring to talk much about the same scourge sitting in England for centuries, even to the time of Disraeli, and showing its ugly face in modern times). It's painfully obvious he had little knowledge of Christian/Jewish relations of the day. He also doesn't seem to grasp the idea that Chrysostom, along with all the major writers, including Jews, Gnostics and Pagans, were fierce

rhetoricians. The intellectuals played hard-ball in those days. There was none of the thin-skinned political correctness we endure in modern times. Chrysostom saw them as a negative influence, and was even harsher with those Christians, who like modern Pentecostals or Messianic 'Jews', try to convince gullible believers that ancient ethnic rites are what bring salvation, rather than a belief in Christ and the Apostolic Church He created. For an education on how Chrysostom's comments should be read, there is a wonderful podcast by former Holy Cross theology scholar Jeannie Constantinou, which can be located [here](#).

These are John Chrysostom's eight sermons against the Jews. He delivered these sermons while he was a preacher in Antioch in Syria in the year 387. His tone is very harsh towards the Jews, and these sermons are very important for scholars investigating Christian-Jewish relations in Late Antiquity. Because of the harshness of the tone, many scholars have accused John of anti-semitism, but more objective scholars try to peer behind the curtain of these sermons and assume that his vitriol is provoked by frequent fraternization between the Jews and Christians in Antioch. Anyone interested in this topic should read "John Chrysostom and the Jews: Rhetoric and Reality in the Late 4th Century" by Robert L. Wilken. Wilken really sets the context well for these sermons. I'd also suggest looking at "Jews and Christians in Antioch in the First Four Centuries of the Common Era (Sources for Biblical study)" if you can find a copy of it. This version of the sermons for the kindle is merely adequate. It's not user friendly. There is no table of contents. No real explanation of the text. No copyright information. I can't even tell who the translator was. There's a brief introduction excerpted from what appears to be a public domain history on anti-semitism (The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue: A Study in the Origins of Antisemitism). Also the text contains typos. When the text was scanned for digital transfer some "i"s became "l"s and some "n"s became "ii"s etc. For the price of \$1.99 though it's not a bad deal.

Saint John Chrysostom wrote about his thoughts on Judaism. I consider this book to be a primary source of early Christian attitudes which have influence today. Thus this book is valuable as an important historical document which has significance today. It appears to partially answer the question: what are the sources of antisemitism?

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