

# Present Challenges: Reflections in Light of Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ

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## Christian Anti-Semitism: Past History Challenges: Reflections in Light of Gibson's The Passion of the Christ

[John T. Pawlikowski](#), *Catholic Theological Union*

### Abstract

A contemporary film on anti-Semitism describes this century's "shadow" over the cross. Recent Catholic documents have spoken in this language. In 1989 the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace stated that "Harboring racist thoughts and entertaining racist attitudes is included anti-Semitism in its list of continuing manifestations to be regarded as sinful. In point of fact, it terms anti-Semitism that racist ideology has assumed in our century." My assignment is to provide an overview of post biblical anti-Semitism, following up on previous forms of anti-Semitism in the New Testament.

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