



CALENDAR ALERT

WHAT: Lecture by Michael J. Cook, Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ* – Will It Damage Jewish-Christian Relations?

WHEN: February 17, 2004 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM

WHERE: Congregation Beth Adam
10001 Loveland Madeira Road, Loveland, OH

DESCRIPTION: Dr. Michael J. Cook was one of seven international scholars invited by The Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to evaluate a script of actor/director Mel Gibson's upcoming film, *The Passion of The Christ*.

For nearly two thousand years, many Christians held the Jewish people responsible for the death of Jesus, a libel that led to persecution, inquisitions and pogroms. While Christian-Jewish relations have warmed considerably over the past 50 years, Jewish leaders are concerned that Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ*, an upcoming film about Jesus' last days, may reopen old wounds. Although Gibson claims he made his film with the best of intentions, his membership in an ultra-Catholic sect that rejects the teachings of Vatican II—the Catholic council that absolved Jews of blame for Jesus' death—has caused concern over the film's message.

Will the film be the greatest setback for Christian-Jewish relations in fifty years? What is its potential application against Jews in Europe and against the State of Israel? Dr. Cook will offer instructive comments for how we might approach the movie and how we should understand the potential ramifications of this film for the next decade, particularly in terms of the escalation of a new kind of anti-Semitism worldwide.

FEE: Free to public. Donations gratefully accepted

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Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati (<http://www.jewishcincinnati.org/>)

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MORE

INFORMATION: <http://www.bethadam.org/lecture> or contact Rabbi Robert B. Barr at 513-985-0400 or email rabbi@bethadam.org

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