The Apostle and The Apostleship Part IV
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Anti-Semitism and The Apostleship

> **Anti-Semitism** is the hostility of a person, a group, an organization, or a nation toward the Jews.
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> **Apostleship** is the office of a divinely called, chosen, and faithful one **sent** by the **DIVINE** authority. The **DIVINE** may appear to be three, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but they are **ONE**.

The prophet Hosea gives us God's eternal wisdom, applicable in all ages.

> **Hosea 14:9 (HCSB)** [9] Let whoever is wise understand these things, and whoever is insightful recognize them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and the **RIGHTEOUS** walk in them, but the **REBELLIOUS** stumble in them. *Emphasis mine*

The rebellious nature of man is the main cause of anything that is against the ways of the LORD. Christ Jesus has come, and God has provided a way to overcome our rebellious nature. Stumbling is therefore minimized**.** Yes, I would love to say eliminated, but that face in the mirror says otherwise.

The world's system is against the nation of Israel, because the world lies in the hands of the evil one, Satan. The Bible says Israel's greatest enemy is Israel itself.

Many will agree that Satan attempted to eliminate the "SEED" of Abraham, whereby all the nations of the earth can be blessed. What is amazing, though, is the rationale behind it. Does the created thing believe it can be above its Creator?

My goal was to understand the "Apostleship" and why some in the Body of Christ would harbor antisemitism. Since man's sinful nature came from the fallen one, Satan, something about created man must justify his appeal before God. So, what is God's promise to Abraham, a *fallen* chosen man that is so antagonistic?

> **Genesis 22:18 (NKJV)** [18] **In your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice**. *Emphasis mine*

Salvation to the Jews and the Gentiles by Faith

> **Galatians 3:8 (NKJV)** [8] And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the **Gentiles by faith**, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying,* "*In you all the nations shall be blessed.*" *Emphasis mine*

God never hides the fact that even the called, chosen, and faithful will not stumble. In **Genesis 22**, it was the Angel of the LORD, *Jehovah Himself,* who called to Abraham to stay his hand from Isaac. Abraham proves his righteousness because he heard and obeyed.

> **Genesis 22:11-12 (HCSB)** [11] But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He replied, "Here I am." [12] Then He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me."

But there is another offspring that comes out of Abraham, the rebellious, but still chosen for a purpose. It is revealed in **Genesis 22:17**.

> **Genesis 22:17 (HCSB)** [17] I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the **stars** *(heavenly descendants)* **of the sky** and the sand *(earthly, carnal descendants)* on the seashore *(affected by the world)*. Your offspring will possess the gates of their enemies. *Emphasis mine*

Abraham's Heavenly Descendants

> **Galatians 3:6-7 (HCSB)** [6] Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, [7] then understand that **those who have faith** are Abraham's sons. *Emphasis mine*

> **Galatians 3:29 (HCSB)** [29] And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Abraham's Rebellious Seed – The Sand on the Seashore

The sand on the seashore is the dust beside the sea. This sand is separated from the sea *(the world and the unsaved)* and washed by the sea's waves. The sea signifies the Gentile nations. The Gentile nations are used by God to chastise Israel throughout the centuries, like the waves from the Mediterranean, coming

up again and again with invading armies to wash Israel as the dust. **Purpose:** to produce a remnant who are like the sand on the seashore. *Recovery Bible version*

> **Romans 9:27-29 (HCSB)** [27] But Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: Though the number of Israel's sons is like the sand of the sea, **only the remnant will be saved**; [28] for the Lord will execute His sentence completely and decisively on the earth. [29] And just as Isaiah predicted: If the Lord of Hosts had not left us offspring, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah. *Emphasis mine*

God's Eternal Love for a Rebellious Israel

> **Hosea 3:1,5 (NLT)** [1] Then the LORD said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them." [5] But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the LORD their God and to David's descendant, their king. **In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the LORD and of his goodness**. *Emphasis mine*

God will restore Israel, and the only justification required is **HE WILL**.

> **Hosea 14:4-5 (HCSB)** [4] **I WILL** heal their apostasy; **I WILL** freely love them, for My anger will have turned from him. [5] **I WILL** be like the dew to Israel; **HE WILL** blossom like the **lily** and take root like [the cedars of] Lebanon. *Emphasis mine*

> **Hosea 14:6-7 (HCSB)** [6] **HIS new branches** will spread, and **HIS** splendor will be like the olive tree, **HIS** fragrance, like [the forest of] Lebanon. [7] The people will return and live beneath **HIS** shade. They will grow grain and blossom like the vine. **HIS** renown will be like the wine of Lebanon. *Emphasis mine*

Jesus reveals Hosea 3:5 to Peter in **Matthew 19:28**.

> **Matthew 19:28 (HCSB)** [28] Jesus said to them, "I assure you: In the Messianic Age, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

To an Israelite, the number twelve holds great significance. On the other side, the modern-day church holds the twelve apostles in the same high esteem as the Israelites hold the twelve tribes.

Excerpts from *Written Not With Ink* by T. Austin-Sparks: It contains the teachings he gave in Taiwan in 1957. Some can take this excerpt and twist it into something other than his intentions. *The writings are unaltered except for grammatical punctuations.*

"Written Not With Ink"
by T. Austin-Sparks

Chapter 10 - A New Nation
26 February 1957, at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

We will begin with the prophecy of Isaiah in a very well-known chapter: Isaiah 53:10,11. Now, will you just try to remember these verses: "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him, he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied."

Now I want you to notice two statements in those verses *that* are very alike: "He shall see His seed" and "He shall see of the travail of His soul."

Now will you keep that in your mind and turn over to the New Testament to another well-known chapter in the gospel by John, chapter 3, verse 3: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God". Now let us put our passages together before we go on. "He shall see His seed... and He shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied." "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Now shall we read verse six of John 3: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born anew". Now I want you to go over to the gospel by Mark, chapter 3, at verses 13 and 14: "And he goeth up into a mountain and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he appointed twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach."

Will you keep those passages in mind and then go over to the Gospel by Luke at chapter 10 and verse 1: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come." Now I hope you will be able to remember all these passages because I am going to add one more, and that is in the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verse 22: "But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem."

I wonder if you recognize what all those passages of Scripture represent. What we are going to think about tonight is what Jesus began to do and what He is *continuing* to do.

What Jesus is Doing

You remember that when Luke wrote the Book of Acts, he began by saying, "The former treatise of all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day when He was received up." Now, as Luke is beginning to write another book, he really means to say, "I am going to write about what Jesus is continuing to do and to teach since He was received up," and seeing that Jesus is still doing and teaching, this matter comes right down here tonight.

Luke's second volume was never finished. The story that he started to write was never completed. For some reason, Luke broke off his story. He just left it with the Apostle Paul in prison and told us no more. I do not know what might have been Luke's reason for not going on, but if the Holy Spirit was leading Luke to write, I know why Luke did not go on. It was because the story will go on long beyond Luke's life. The story would go on for many hundreds of years after that. That story could not be finished until the Lord comes back again. So, the story is going on today. We still live in the day when Jesus is continuing to do that which He began when He was here.

That leads us to ask what was it that Jesus began to do and to teach? If we can answer that question, we will know why He is still continuing teaching and doing. Now, all these passages which I have just asked you to read tell us what Jesus had begun to do. We take the first two: Isaiah 53:10,11 and John 3:5. In Isaiah 53 we have these words about the Lord Jesus: "He shall see His seed... and He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied."

Now, the Jewish nation was always called the seed of Abraham. Anybody who knows anything about the Bible or about the Jews knows that this is true. The Jews always speak of themselves as the seed of Abraham. That means that from Abraham came a certain nation that is the Jewish nation.

The Jewish nation is quite a clearly defined nation. There is no mistaking them. If you meet Jews, you know quite well that they are quite a distinct people. No matter where they are all over the world, they still retain their distinctiveness as a people. My point is that the seed of Abraham is a clearly defined nation. It is a nation on this earth, which everybody can recognize. Now listen to these words. These words are spoken about the Lord Jesus: He shall see His seed, and He shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. What did Jesus begin to do? He began to bring into being a *new nation*, another distinctive people, a people who can be recognized just as clearly as ever the Jews could be recognized. That is what He began to do. And all His teaching was about these new people that were coming into this world, and that is what Jesus is going on doing and teaching now. He Himself is producing a new nation, a new kind of people.

A New Nation

Now you see what He meant when He said these words to Nicodemus. Nicodemus was interested in the matter of getting into the kingdom of God. Nicodemus was a son of Abraham; he was of the seed of Abraham; a representative man of the seed of Abraham. There is no mistaking Nicodemus. If you had seen Nicodemus, you would have said, "Behold an Israelite indeed". You would say that there is no mistaking that that man is of the seed of Abraham. That man comes to the Lord Jesus; he is interested in this matter of getting into the kingdom of God. Jesus said this to him, "You may be of the seed of Abraham, you indeed be a representative man of Israel, but you do not belong to the nation that I am forming. You are not the fruit of My travail, and so you must be born anew; that which is born of the flesh is flesh," by which the Lord Jesus meant, "That which is born of Abraham belongs to one race, but that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit, and that is altogether a different race".

The Lord Jesus tells us the nature of this nation that He is bringing, this seed that He has come to produce. He said, "That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit". This is a spiritual nation; this is a spiritual people. These people are the result of the work of the Holy Spirit. This is a very different thing from the seed of Abraham. What did Jesus begin to do? He began to produce a new Israel, but this time a spiritual and a heavenly Israel. That is what He is continuing to do.

Now, I do want you to recognize this. What are we Christians? What does it mean to be a Christian? Let me put that in another way: what is it that Jesus is doing with us? When we are born anew, when the Holy Spirit does His work in our hearts, what is it that is really happening? The answer is that Jesus is building the spiritual Israel. This Israel, *which* takes the place of the old earthly Israel, He is making into another nation, and just as the seed of Abraham can be recognized amongst the people of this world, so the seed of Christ *is* different from everybody else. That is the first fact about the Christian life: we are a new nation, and we are different from every other nation of the earth.

In the case of the seed of Abraham, the difference was outward. You recognize the Jews by outward features. But this new nation is not recognized by outward features. Here we are in a different place tonight with several nationalities from this world, and the majority of you are naturally Chinese, but there are some here from Denmark, and some here from Britain, and there may be some other nationalities here, but we are all one nation if we are in Christ. And that recognition is not just something outward; it is something inside. We all have something in common that is in an inward way. If we are in Christ, we are all born of one Father; we are all the seed of Jesus; we are all the fruit of His travail. This is a great inward thing, and this makes us different from all others. Well, I am not going to stay in that any longer; I must go on to the next passage that I read to you from the third chapter of Mark.

A New Government

"Jesus called unto Him whom He would, and they came unto Him, and He chose twelve." If you recognize it, that is a most impressive fact. If we don't recognize the significance of this, the Jews would, especially the Jewish rulers: "What is this Man doing? He has chosen twelve apostles; He has stolen the number of Israel; He has stolen away our national number, and He has given it to those men.

The national number of Israel is twelve – the twelve *patriarchs*, the twelve sons of Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel. Number twelve is the number of the seed of Abraham, and this Man has stolen our number twelve and given it to His disciples. What is this Man doing?"

And then you have to remember what twelve represents, and this is the point that upset them most. Twelve was always the number of government. You see, the twelve tribes of Israel were intended to be in the place of government. The

Lord had said to them through Moses, "Ye shall be the head and not the tail." Israel was intended to be the head of the nation, to govern the nations. Number twelve is the number of government. Now Jesus had stolen that and given it to His disciples. What was He doing? He was setting up a new government. You see what He is doing: He is setting up a new people to govern the nation.

You carry over that number twelve to the New Testament, and you begin with the twelve apostles, and when you get to the end of the Bible you find twelve everywhere. But what is twelve connected with at the end? It is connected with the New Jerusalem. It has twelve foundations to its wall. In those walls of foundation are the names of the twelve apostles of the land, and it has twelve gates, and there are twelve angels; the measurement of the city is 12,000 furlongs.

You see, twelve is everywhere. What does this mean? Well, that city that is presented there is a symbol or a type. It is the picture of the Church, and the Church is God's chosen instrument for government for all the ages to come. You see in the Church that the number twelve is everywhere. That is only God's way of saying that the Church is called by God for government in this universe. That is what Jesus began to do. He knew what He was doing; He knew He was doing a tremendous thing; He knew that what He was doing would bring all the dispensation of the Jewish against Him. He chose twelve, and what a terrible thing to do, for that was just the thing that would upset all Israel! He was starting all over again. The government had been taken from the seed of Abraham and given to the Church.

You and I, dear friends, if we are of the seed of Christ, we are called to that very great honour. We are called to fellowship with Christ in the ages to come in the government of this world. The Lord Jesus, by His teaching, is trying to teach us or train us how to govern.

Now, we all understand that this is spiritual. We know quite well that the Church isn't governing this world in a temporal way now, but He is training us for government. All the experiences that He is allowing to come to us are to train us to overcome, to have dominion. He gave them authority over unclean spirits and over all manners of diseases. You see, He had called them to this great government. Now that is a spiritual thing. The Church is called to deal with the forces of evil and to govern them. The Church is called to deal with spiritual diseases and to bring spiritual diseases under its control. I could only say this little bit; I hope there is a little hole through which you can see a very big world...

if you will put your eye to that little hole, you see on the other side the whole great purpose of the Lord.

You are called to govern in the ages to come. Christ is going to govern this universe, and we are to govern with Him. That is what He began to do when He chose twelve. I said that He did a tremendous thing when He chose twelve. The Jewish rulers recognized what He was doing, and they said, "We will not have this Man to rule over us." You see, they had seen the significance of this. They said, "This Man is going to set up a new government, and we will have nothing of Him; we will get rid of Him and all His ideas of government." They crucified the Lord Jesus because He was setting up another Israel and He was setting up another government, but it wasn't a temporary government of this world. He said, "My kingdom is not of this world," and He said, "My disciples are not of this world." This is a spiritual and a heavenly seed, this is born from above, this government is spiritual.

A New City and Temple

We have come to our last passage, Hebrews 12, and what does it say? "Ye are come unto Mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem." What is this? That is still following the old pattern; Mount Zion was the city of the great king. In the Old Testament, Mount Zion was the city of David, the city of the great king. Jerusalem was the center of government for the whole land. Now it says here, "You have come to Mount Zion" but it's not the Mount Zion of the Old Testament for you are come to the heavenly Jerusalem, you are come to Jesus who is the great King. Mount Zion is the city of the great King. You are come to the heavenly Jerusalem, the center of government of a new heavenly country. This is what it means to be a Christian.

I am going to finish there tonight. It is all very impressive to know what Jesus began to do and to teach, and He is continuing to do and to teach that. I could go on with quite a lot of other things; I could bring you to the temple, and I can show you that Jesus is building another temple, another house of God, but I am not going to give you too much tonight. He is following the old pattern, but the old things have passed away; all has become new. It is a new spiritual temple.

We are the seed of Christ; we are the fruit of His travail. It is in true believers that He sees the travail of His soul, and He is satisfied. Believers are the new Israel; believers are called and chosen for the new government; believers are called for the new representation of Christ in the nations; believers are called to be a holy

temple in the Lord; believers are God's new house. You see, when Israel, after the flesh, refused the Lord Jesus, they lost everything, and He has given it all to the Church. He said to the Jewish rulers, "The kingdom of heaven shall be taken away from you and be given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof, "and it is His believers who are that nation. The kingdom of heaven has been given to us.

Now may we all walk worthy of the Lord, may the distinctiveness of that Character be seen in us, that everybody can see the difference between us and all other people; that we are a special people, the character of heaven is in us, and the likeness of Jesus is seen in us, and we are learning everything that spiritual government means.

Chapter 13 - The Divine Seed
27 February 1957, at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

As we continue this evening where we left off last night, I think I had better go back a little over the ground we have covered. Last night, we saw that Jesus seems to have been following Israel's pattern. The people of Israel as a nation were the seed of Abraham. Jesus said to a leading member of the Jewish nation, "You must be born again". In saying that, He seemed to set aside the seed of Abraham and introduce another seed. That was the only conclusion the Jewish rulers could draw. They would say, "He is not accepting us as the seed of Abraham! He does not recognize us; He said that, as the seed of Abraham, we cannot enter the kingdom of God. He is saying we must be born again; that is, we must become a different race."

So, in the very first place, Jesus seemed to be introducing a new nation, and of course, He was. And then we saw that Jesus chose twelve apostles. That was another idea taken from Israel. There were the twelve sons of Jacob, there were the twelve tribes of Israel, and now Jesus chose twelve apostles. To the Jews, He seemed to be taking away their number twelve and transferring it to another people. He seemed to be building another kingdom on Israel's principle, and of course, He was!

Christ Always in View
The important thing for us to recognize is that Jesus was not really imitating Israel, but what He was really doing was showing that Israel was an imitation of Him! Where would those ideas in Israel have come from? It was God who chose Abraham. It was God who made Abraham the father of that nation; it was God

who made Israel the seed of Abraham. It was God who arranged the whole matter of the twelve tribes of Israel. It was God who gave words about choosing the seventy elders. All that did not start with Israel; it started with God. All of these came out of the mind of God, and when you get into the mind of God, you only find one thing. The mind of God is not centered upon a lot of things; there is only one thought in the mind of God. God has never done anything without His Son in view. So that when He chose Abraham, He had His Son in view. When He chose the seed of Abraham, He had His Son, the Lord Jesus, in view. *Emphasis mine*

God has never done anything without the Lord Jesus in mind. So, we have to say that Jesus was not imitating Israel, but everything in Israel was an imitation of Christ. To put that in another way, all those things in Israel were but a passing illustration of the Lord Jesus in some way; they were pictures of the Lord Jesus. But when Jesus comes, He is the reality and not the picture. All those things were but earthly figures; He is the heavenly reality. *End of T.A.S excerpts from 1957*

> ***JDR* - 1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)** 11 Now all these things happened to them *(Israel)* **as examples**, and they were written for **our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. *Emphasis mine*

The Great Transition from One Humanity to Another
by T. Austin-Sparks
Atlantic States Christian Convocation messages given in Camp Wabanna, MD, USA in July 1968.

What is the Church? It is the aggregate of new creation people, men and women, Jews and Gentiles, everything, not remaining as they are naturally, Jews and Gentiles and so on, but just one new Man, one new Humanity. That is the Church! And which humanity is it? That touches on the function, doesn't it? There's the nature.

But God is doing this spiritually, as He did at the beginning. He is staying and proceeding, proceeding with His concept: "Let Us make *Man*, let Us make *Man*!" The Church is the one new Man: "Let Us make a Man," not an institution or any of the things the Church is called. No, "Let Us make a Man," and that's what He is doing with you and with me, not trying to make us any of the many things Christians are called and the names by which they go. He is just working on us to make us "the *Man*."

Conclusion:

Apostle Paul's apostleship caused him to be in danger not only from his own people, the Jews, but also from the Gentiles to whom he was sent. In his testimony before King Agrippa, we discover another of God's "I WILL." It was spoken by Christ Jesus.

> **Acts 26:17-18 (NKJV)** [17] **I WILL** deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, [18] to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' *Emphasis mine*

How does the Body of Christ, the CHURCH, survive and deal with antisemitism, false apostles, prophets, carnal local churches, etc.? I have only one suggestion. It is the Apostle Paul own words.

> **Acts 26:19 (NKJV)** [19] "Therefore, King Agrippa, **I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision**, *Emphasis mine*

That vision must originate from the Holy Spirit through hearing and obedience to HIM. Every believer must find his or her place in God's plan. Apostle Peter admits he doesn't understand everything written.

> **2 Peter 3:13-16 (NKJV)** [13] Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. [14] Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; [15] and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, [16] as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

Paul Explains Israel's Spiritual Stupor

> **Romans 11:7-11 (NKJV)** [7] What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. [8] Just as it is written: "*God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they*

should not hear, To this very day." [9] And David says: "*Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them.* [10] Let *their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always."* [11] I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles.

The Calling of God is Irrevocable.

Romans 11:26-29 (NKJV) [26] **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "*The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;* [27] For *this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."* [28] Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. [29] **For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable.** *Emphasis mine*

Is God the Father allowing all that we are experiencing today with antisemitism, false apostles and prophets, or whatever is going on in the church *(small "c")*? YES.

What I got from T. Austin-Sparks' teaching is a view of what Scripture will reveal, not a replacement for what God is doing with the physical Israel. Others might see it differently.

Revelation 22:1-2 (NKJV) [1] And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

The Tree of Life indwells our spirit by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:9-10 (NKJV) [9] (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), [10] finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Benediction

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV) [20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!** *Emphasis mine*