

# Why most Jews find it so hard to accept Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah

MAY 2015

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All scriptures are unless noted otherwise.

**Summary:** *The early church was initially made up entirely of Jews. From their leader Yeshua to the newest baby, they were all Jews. What happened? Why do Jews find it so hard to accept that Yeshua could be their Messiah? There are good reasons. Prophecy is clear that in the last days thousands and thousands of Jews will come to see their Messiah. This message will help you understand where Jews are coming from and be prepared for the massive harvest of Jews brethren in the coming years. And if you're a Jew – please give me your feedback.*

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Shalom and happy sabbath dear fellow brothers and sisters of Yeshua – and fellow children of the one true God Most High, our wonderful Abba. Many of you are listening to this from countries all around the world, but we have this wonderful bond of God's spirit, wherever you are! Whether you're listening in Beijing or Yunlin, Taiwan or from Nairobi or from Poland or Milan, Italy – or Sao Paulo, Brazil – welcome. And all of you from the UK and USA and Canada and Australia who regularly come to this website, welcome.

I want to ask you: though the early church were all Jews – and there are *some* Jewish believers in the Messiah today -- why are we seeing so relatively *few* Jews among believers today? There are a few, but why so few?

***What could be some of the reasons that make it so hard for Orthodox Jews to accept Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah?***

I think you'll be given much to think about in this message. Remember I always recommend you hear the audio as well as print the notes to help you as I sometimes move quickly with the scriptures. There's a lot to cover. Throughout, I will say the *Hebrew* name that our Savior heard every day – Yeshua – instead of the Greek/anglicized name Jesus.

*Some years ago, I had opportunity to speak with a Jewish rabbi about why they find it so hard to accept that one of their own – Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth – could have been the promised Messiah. Much of what the rabbi said will be in this message plus what I learned by digging into their own writings and statements.*

*I have a passion for Jewish people, as they have been the recipients of so many genocidal attempts at their very existence. If anyone needs a Savior -- and we all need a Savior, the Jewish people certainly do. Even right now, Iran has vowed to do all in its power to wipe Israel off the map. And so have numerous terrorist groups surrounding Israel. People in Israel need to have a personal and national relationship with their Messiah.*

***WHY do we need this topic?***

*I want to give a 2 part sermon:*

1. Today's sermon is on *WHY* the Jews reject Yeshua as their Messiah (Jesus Christ). This will help us understand where they are coming from, and frankly – where Christianity played an awful role in their distrust and disdain for anything to do with the Jewish Messiah Yeshua. And it will help you Jews hearing this to understand what happened. And it will help you who are believers in Christ to be able to help talk about Yeshua to Jews in a sensitive and understanding way.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> sermon, will come much later, will scripturally show how Yeshua was indeed the prophesied Messiah. Surely all of us need to know how to show that, how to prove that, directly from scripture.

The Western world has largely been very, very tough on Jews for demanding the crucifixion of Yeshua. But I think by the time we're done with this message, you might understand better what transpired. PLUS, if you are ever given the opportunity to discuss Yeshua with Jews, you'll have a firm foundation of where they are coming from, as they put up barricades and walls around the subject. You'll understand "WHY" much better after this sermon. You'll have sensitivity to them as you talk about the Christ.

When talking to Jews about the Messiah, we need to understand how they see the scriptures about Messiah and what their expectations are, so we're all "on the same page". To any Jews hearing this: if I've missed something or misrepresented you somehow, please get in touch with me through the website and I'd love to hear from you.

So let's get started.

### **THE EARLY BELIEVERS were ALL JEWS, so what happened?**

Let's start with the reminder that ***the early congregations of believers were comprised entirely of Jews.***

**The Leader – Yeshua of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ – was a Jew**, born of the lineage of King David in Bethlehem, Judah. In fact, it was prophesied to Judah, that out of his loins will spring the scepter and the Lawgiver – **Genesis 49:10**. His genealogy is given in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. In Revelation 5:5 he is called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah".

#### **Isaiah 11:1**

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots..."

We know Jesse David's father, who was from Judah. Compare **Jeremiah 23:5-6** and **Micah 5:2** as well. Out of David's lineage would come their ruler who would save them and rule over them safely. And that was the expectation of the promised Messiah.

#### **Hebrews 7:14**

"For it is evident that **our Lord arose from Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood."

Yeshua never denied being "a Jew". On his cross was Pilate's sarcastic sign "the King of the JEWS". Little did Pilate know! And we know the Jewish leaders hated that sign and asked for it to be changed. **John 19:21-22**

**All twelve apostles were Jews**, or parts of the tribes of Israel now residing in Judah. Even the apostle Paul – who was technically of the tribe of Benjamin, which was assimilated into Judah, called himself both a Benjaminite and a Jew. (**Philippians 3:4-6; Acts 22:3**).

**The names we read today in our Bibles – the names** for the early church believers -- are the *Greek* versions of the names they were *actually* called so we miss the Jewishness of the early church.

Jesus never heard the name “Jesus” growing up. He was Yeshua, which means “Salvation”. Simon Peter was Shimon Kepha bar Yonah. (Like Shimon Perez, a former leader in Israel), John was Yohanan. Judas was Yehudah (Judah), and so on. James – never heard that sound. He was really Yacov (Jacob). So the Epistle of James would be the Epistle of Yacov. And in the first verses of his epistle, he’s writing to the scattered 12 tribes of ISRAEL, scattered abroad, not primarily to Gentiles. So he’s writing to them about their very familiar Torah, the law. Matthew – was Mattityahu or Mattai for short.

**James 1:1** – “Yacov (James), a bond-servant... to the 12 tribes scattered abroad...”

Yeshua’s mom was not ever called Mary. But in Hebrew – she was Miriam. All the other “Mary”s of the New Testament were all really “Miriam”. Miriam’s husband was Yosef (Joseph). Are you hearing the Jewish names?

Are you getting it? It was all very Hebrew! Saul – was really Shaul. He was called the Greek “Paul” later. (And in the “Old Testament” Moses was Moshe, Solomon was Shlomo, Eve was Havah, Isaac was Yitzak and on and on. So as we read our English versions, we lose track of the fact that they were Hebrews! With Hebrew names.

The 3,000 who were baptized on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, though they had come from all over the Middle East – were Jews.

*But also keep in mind, that though the early believers were Jews, they were still just a TINY minority of the entire population of Jews. And so now these early believers were claiming the Jews’ Messiah had come – and had been crucified and rose again the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. MOST of the Jews, even in Peter and Paul’s day, were already rejecting this early Christianity for a variety of reasons.*

To top it off, God began to call and work with GENTILES -- anyone not of Israel or Judah. *Frankly many Jews even today think of Adonai or HaShem (the Name) as THEIR God. It was hard 2000 years ago, and still today, to “share” the one true living God with anyone who is not a Jew.*

The northern 10 tribes of Israel became scattered and lost to history. Many believe they are to be found among the peoples of the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and northwestern Europe. What I’m saying is, if that is correct, that there are many Israelites today scattered around the world among many of the dominant nations of Europe and North America and Australia.

**So God began to call non-Israelites, non-Jews – the Gentiles.** He wants all people to be saved, not just Israel. Our One True God is NOT just the God of Israel but he is God “of the spirits of all flesh” (**Numbers 16:22; 27:16**). Yahweh can be – for all who call on him and accept him as their God and Maker – Yahweh can also be the God of the Kenyans, the Chinese, the Russians, the Arabs, Filipinos, Brazilians and Germans. He is the God of all mankind who are being called to His purpose. The “god of this age” of course is Satan (2 Cor 4:4), but the one true living God is YHVH – or as the Jews call Him, Adonai or HaShem (the Name). Remember that even when Israel came out of Egypt, there was a large contingent of non-Israelites with them – the “mixed multitude”. And don’t forget that even King David was descended from the Canaanite Rahab and the Moabitess Ruth. That’s all a matter of record.

Paul also clearly teaches us that God is NOT the God of Jews only – but this same God is also God of the Gentiles also – **Romans 3:29-30**.

Those of you/us who are not Jewish or who haven’t already heard it, may do well to hear my sermons about **God’s word to the Gentiles, given in September 2012. So God began to work more and more outside of Judah – to call Gentiles also in His Family.**

Some **Samaritans of Acts 8** were called and baptized. Samaritans were a mixed-breed of people. Some of them were from the few Israelites allowed to remain in the land but who mixed with the peoples from other Gentile countries brought into their area (**see 2 Kings 17:24-35**).

Then there was **the Ethiopian eunuch** – who could have been Jewish in belief, but probably not racially. **Acts 8:27-39**. Philip the deacon taught him about Christ and baptized him.

And we know about **Cornelius** in Acts 10 – who is often called the first Gentile given God’s spirit – but what of the Ethiopian eunuch and the Samaritans? By the time we come to Cornelius, it was becoming an issue: is God really calling Gentiles into the chosen holy people, into the Body of Christ – and the answer was a resounding “YES”!

So then we come to Romans 11 and the Olive Tree and the Gentiles being grafted in – and how even Jews themselves will have to be grafted back into their own spiritual tree now, but only if they accept Yeshua.

**So what happened?** How did the Jewish early Church of God turn predominantly Gentile over time? Well, blindness in part was ordained over the Jews for the time being, while God – for a time – shifted his focus more and more to Gentiles. But only for a time.

**Frankly:**

- Orthodox Jews are raised from infancy to reject Yeshua as a traitor to Judaism and as a shame to their good religion. They have been told Yeshua was born out of wedlock, so this is a shameful thing to begin with, in their mind.
- Yeshua appears to the Jews to be someone who rejected much of the oral law and traditions of Judaism. They see warnings in Deut 13:1-5 that they are to beware of anyone coming and trying to advocate any changes in God’s word. Of course

remember that Yeshua clearly taught, "I have NOT come to destroy the Torah (the Law) and not one jot or tittle will vanish from the Torah ..." (**Matthew 5:17-20**)

What Yeshua DID preach against was the practice of making the oral law, the traditions, of equal value to the Torah of God (**Matthew 15:1-11**). Jews believe Moses was given a set of detailed oral instructions that he did NOT write down, but shared only with the 70 elders. Those oral laws – and many since then – make up the "traditions of the elders" and have come to be seen on the same level as the written scriptures. But remember Scripture clearly says Moses wrote down ALL that God had told him (**Exodus 24:4**).

Yeshua (Jesus) said the Jews transgressed God's commandments because their man-made traditions prevented them from keeping God' law properly. Hence the disagreements about how the sabbath was to be kept and even their rituals about exactly how to wash hands.

### **THE VEIL covering the Jews today**

There's another big reason Jews can't "see" Christ". For the time being, Rabbi Shaul (Paul) says that God himself has chosen to cover the eyes of Jews from seeing Yeshua.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

**14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.**

**15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17** Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

The very Jewish Paul alluded to this spiritual blindness a few times. Here's what he said to the mostly-Gentile Roman church brethren:

#### **Romans 11:24-27**

**24** For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches [the Jews], be grafted into their own olive tree?

**25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** **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."

Yeshua himself said he spoke in parables partly to HIDE the meaning of his message - - except to the few whose minds were being opened to understand. (**Matthew 13:10-17**). He said this spiritual insight had been hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed to spiritual babes (Matthew 11:25).

Paul even says that had they known who Jesus (Yeshua) was, they would not have killed him! So we can hardly be too angry at Jews for their part in killing Yeshua. It was foreordained. It had to be. He had to be executed for our sins. Don't forget that even Yeshua cried out – "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (**Luke 23:34**).

**1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

"But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 **which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**"

Even Peter said "I know you did it (crucified him) in ignorance...." – **Acts 3:17**.

How often do you hear *those* verses read? And yet it's also true that the Jewish leaders demanded his unlawful death and even pronounced a curse on themselves and their children. All that's part of the record. That curse certainly did come upon them in 70 AD and ever since.

**Matthew 27:24-26**

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

**25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."**

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

And so sure enough, in 70 AD, 100,000 or more Jews were crucified and slaughtered in and around Jerusalem as the Roman soldiers almost wiped them out. Many more became sex slaves or household slaves to the Romans and wherever the Jewish slaves were sold.

So – what we have so far:

- The early leaders and the early brethren were all Jews.
- Later on Gentiles came into the mix as well, and that was not easy for the Jewish leaders to swallow at first, as they claimed the one true God as THEIR God. Maybe they found it hard to "share" the living God with others.
- And we know that God was putting a veil over the eyes of the Jews for NOW – as they will have their time again in the end times where they WILL have their eyes opened and thousands of Jews will be converted and accept Yeshua in the last days. It's already starting to happen. Be ready and get ready for it.

So how did the early church—composed mostly of Jews – change into a church (at least the visible “Church” that came to be “Christianity”) that persecuted Jews and did not welcome Jews. And why do Jews today find it so hard to accept that Yeshua is their Messiah?

**But we also have to admit that SOMETHING dramatic happened back then that made thousands of strict Jews and even a strict Pharisee named Shaul (Greek name Paul), who had studied at the feet of Gamliel (Gamaliel)— to start believing, following and teaching about this Yeshua ! They taught he was the Son of God and the promised Messiah**

I’m just saying: something dramatic happened to lead thousands of JEWS to be willing to be persecuted, tortured and even killed for their conviction that this Yeshua was for REAL; that he was the Messiah, and that he had risen! Something happened that allowed them to get past Judaism’s roadblocks to accepting Yeshua – and they did!

Please understand this: would YOU have given up everything, for a hoax? Would you have been willing to be crucified or tortured for someone unless you later saw, felt, talked to, and spent time with someone you SAW had been executed on a cross – and then days later he’s alive again! That’s what happened back then. Over 500 saw him alive and well – and watched him rise to heaven. These were people who had seen him crucified and killed before that.

Now if you had talked to, had seen, the risen Yeshua and watched him ascend to the clouds, maybe even you – with all your Jewish heritage – even you might have decided this man was for real deal; he really was the real Messiah! And that’s what happened 2000 years ago.

**But then true Christianity got hijacked into a religion that started persecuting Jews!** What is called “Christianity” today bears little semblance to the teachings of Yeshua the Messiah and his followers.

So, what are the problems that are keeping Jews from accepting Yeshua? I’ve already mentioned a couple points, but let’s move on to what the Jews themselves say.

### **WHY Orthodox JEWS SAY YESHUA CAN’T BE THE PROMISED Messiah**

As we go through these points, I hope it will help you be more understanding of why Jews today and through the past 2000 years, have found it so difficult to accept Yeshua – a fellow Jew – as their Messiah. I have spoken at length with various rabbis who were not Christians, and I tried to understand their points of view, much of which will be voiced here.

*JEWS: please write or call me to let me know if I represented your “side” correctly.*

The points I’ll mention now are not exhaustive. There are many more. But you’ll begin to get an idea of why it is so hard for Jews to accept Yeshua. And unless you have a strong knowledge of the Bible, if I’m not careful, some of you could even begin to wonder!

**1. There have been several really bad false messiahs – so Jews do have to be careful.**

- Jews were hungering for a political leader and king who would free them from the Romans. Even the apostles in **Acts 1:5-6** asked the risen Yeshua if he would, at this time, restore the kingdom. It was what many scriptures seem to indicate: that the descendant of David would reign, would save them from their enemies and restore the kingdom of Israel. (Jeremiah 23:5-6).
- **Bar Kochba** and his revolt in **135 AD**. The famous Rabbi Akiva even proclaimed him as “King Messiah”. But what happened? The Romans ended up killing them all.
- Then in **1666** another self-proclaimed Messiah named **Shabbetai Zevi** was arrested by the Sultan of Turkey. They gave Zevi a choice: convert to Islam or die. He converted to Islam. There goes another “Messiah”.
- So to the Jews, “Yeshua was just another impostor claiming to be Messiah” (that’s what they say, not what I say). Judaism believes there were many who claimed to be Messiah, and Yeshua was just one of them. Since Yeshua changed the world, he is actually seen as the most damaging of what they feel were the false messiahs. (Messiah means “anointed one”. The Greek form of that word is “Christ” – anointed one, christened one) To Jews, Yeshua is simply a fraud – so to them, case closed.

**2. The Jewish understanding is that Yeshua (Jesus) did not fulfill the events of the prophesied Messiah in the correct order or process. So therefore they see him as a fraud.**

**Jews believe the Messiah will come after certain things happen first: like the return of Jews to their homeland, the rebuilding of the Temple, restore the Torah in Israel, fight God’s wars, gather the dispersed Jews, and a time when the worship and knowledge of YHVH fills the earth... and that he would be of the House of David and set up the throne of David when he came. THAT’S what they read in the Messianic prophecies like Isaiah 11 and Jeremiah 23:5-6**

But Yeshua died a criminal’s death (Crucifixion) and never set up the throne of David. So in the Jewish mind, end of story!

The highly esteemed Rabbi **Maimonides** taught that.

*Yeshua, or any other professing Messiah, who either did not succeed in doing all the Messianic roles, or died before he could do them all, simply could not have been the Moshiach (Messiah) promised in the Torah*

Yeshua lived during the standing 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple and no new temple needed to be built. He never reigned as their king. Instead of Jews being gathered back, after Yeshua’s death there was a great *dispersing* of the Jews by the Romans!

So – they think there’s no way Yeshua could have been the real Messiah.

PLUS, it’s not clear that they require their Messiah to be a Savior from one’s sins. Yeshua came to save people from their sins. Much of that is new ground for Jews. It’s not the kind of Messiah they’re looking for.



**3. Another reason: From the teaching they received for centuries, they saw the coming Messiah as coming ONLY ONCE and making all things right in that one coming. They did not see in scripture about 2 comings.**

Even the early apostles had bought into that at first.

Remember in Acts 1:6, after the resurrection, we find the apostles still asking Christ if he at this time would establish his kingdom. ALL their teaching had been that when Messiah comes, once, everything is made right.

So when Christ came as a man – but then was crucified and died – the idea of a “2<sup>nd</sup> coming” was foreign. When you read the Messianic prophecies, it’s NOT always clear that there were to be two comings. Sure, we understand that in retrospect, but at the time it wasn’t clear. So that’s yet again another reason (in their minds, not mine) to dismiss Yeshua as the real thing!

**4. Jews do not believe the Messiah was, or has to be –divine (of GOD, in other words).** But Yeshua clearly claimed to be God’s son, and that he came down from heaven. And certainly Christians teach that. You can read the account in John 8 where Jews of his day understood that if God is your literal father, then you must be the same kind of being as the one who is your father. They wanted to stone Yeshua even back then! Study John 8:37-59 some time on your own, slowly – and I’ll capture a few hi-lites now.

**John 8:37-59**

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father."

Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father – God."

**42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.**

**47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."**

48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

**56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."**

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**"

**59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him;** but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

What Yeshua said in these verses almost got him stoned way back then. What he said are as difficult to believe even today, for the typical Orthodox Jew.

A divine Messiah is a Christian idea, not a Jewish one. We'll try to tackle that one when I give the sermon on the Messianic prophecies showing why Christians believe Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah. I might wait until closer to Passover 2016 however.

When **Yeshua claimed to be the Son of God, and therefore to be God, to the Jewish mind, this makes TWO gods, and the Shema is clear: YHVH is ONE** (Deut. 6:4 ) "Hear o Israel, YHVH is our God, YHVH is one." The Jerusalem Talmud clearly states "If a man claims to be God, he is a liar." (Ta'anit 2:1).

I've addressed the topic of the oneness of God – and how the Hebrew word *echad* used for "one", the word used in **Deut 6:4** – was also the same word used of Adam and Eve being "one" (**Genesis 2:24**). It was also used for the people of Babylon who were as "one" (**Gen 11:5-6, same word used in verse 1**). So there is BIBLICAL precedent and usage to show that the word for "one" (*echad*) as in YHVH being "one" – can be used of many people acting totally as one. It is possible therefore, from these examples, that there could be more than one personality in a God who says He is ONE. This was one of the hardest things for the early Christians to grasp as well.

**Also scripture uses a plural word for God – Elohim.** It's the same word translated into the plural when YHVH said he would destroy the "*elohim*" – the gods – of Egypt with the 10 plagues. So when we read the word "God" with a capital G in our English Bibles, remember that the Hebrew word is PLURAL, and translated as "gods" when referring to pagan multiple gods.

So Elohim says, "Let US make man in OUR image..." and yet it also goes on to say that "Elohim created man in HIS image" (not "their"). So from the very outset, we have Genesis hinting at plurality who were acting so unified, they were as one as one can be.

So the belief that Yeshua could be God, or the son of God, or as many Christians teach – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person member of the Trinity – are all concepts that are anathema to Jews. It's impossible for them to accept this unless they accept what I said above about "*echad*" and have their minds opened to this.

Jews rightly believe the promised Messiah was to be of the House of David, a king, a leader – but (and here's where I differ) not necessarily God – and certainly not a "son of God" as that makes him a 2<sup>nd</sup> God, as they view it. Christians, to the revulsion of Jews, teach that Jesus was fully God and fully man while on earth. That is repugnant to the Jewish mind. So they feel they have to reject Yeshua outright.

**So with this teaching – that Yeshua was God, and that HE created all things (John 1:1-3) with the One we know as "God the Father" -- all that is simply too much for them to accept.**

**Now add to that, that Yeshua allowed himself to be WORSHIPPED** – and that is just way too much for Jews. To them, that would be a terrible sin. And they have a point! It *would* be, unless that human was of divine origin.

Remember, at his birth – angels worshiped. The shepherds worshiped. The Magi –later on – worshiped. The healed blind man of John 9 worshiped. Thomas, after his resurrection calls him “My Lord, and my God” (**John 20:28**). To the Jewish mind, this is the worst kind of sin and heresy of the worst sort and to them, Yeshua must be rejected outright.

AM I explaining your viewpoint correctly, Jews? I'd love to hear from you.

Of course, if the One who came and was crucified WAS the son of God, was the Creator, was who we say he was – then of course he should be worshipped. But getting to that point is just a bridge too far for so many Jews.

## **5. MANY MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DON'T GET READ IN SYNAGOGUE ANYMORE**

Let's shift gears a bit: **There is another good reason Jews have a hard time recognizing Yeshua came as their Messiah: many of the strongest Messianic prophecies just never get read in the synagogues nowadays!**

I'll cover the messianic scriptures in a future coming sermon on this subject. But if the clearest scriptures about their Messiah are no longer read in synagogue, who will they see Christ?

In Jewish synagogues each week, they read a portion from the Torah – which for them means the first 5 books of Moses (Genesis-Deuteronomy) and then they read selected passages from the rest of scripture, which they call the Haftarah readings. These are all the same readings year after year and they're all laid out on a weekly reading schedule.

When Yeshua got up to read from scripture while in the synagogue in Nazareth, he also read, for example – a well-known Messianic scripture: **Isaiah 61:1-2**. He ended by saying basically that he was fulfilling that very scripture, that day. Guess what? That scripture reading is NO LONGER READ in synagogues. They've stopped reading that one! If they don't hear the Messianic scriptures, how will they recognize their Messiah?

### **Luke 4:16-22**

“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Isa 61:1-2a)  
20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

**Someone made the decision "we're not reading that passage in the synagogues anymore". But it doesn't stop there.** Many of the other "messianic scriptures" which I'll discuss in full detail in the future sermon have also been removed from their hearing. They're never read anymore.

**Isaiah 7:14 about the virgin conceiving ... It's never read.**

**Isaiah 52:13 through Isaiah 53:12 – ALL ABOUT the Suffering Servant and his scourging, crucifixion and death of the Messiah – all of that is not read. It's been removed from their hearing. Did you realize that?**

**So if the Messiah dies – and other scriptures say he reigns – now you're beginning to see the opening of a possibility of 2 comings!**

**We're not done!**

**Micah 5:2 about the coming ruler over Israel being born in Bethlehem –** someone "whose origins are from old, from ancient times" – **GONE, not read ever, in their weekly synagogue readings called the Haftarah.** Yet the Jews in Yeshua's day knew about this prophecy and that is how they were able to confirm for Herod where the new born king would be born.

My Jewish friends: how will you see your Messiah if you're not allowing the Messianic scriptures to be read? I hope this is opening the eyes of some of you. And I hope YOU will start searching out the Messianic scriptures on your own and reading them on your own, and asking Adonai to open your minds to see who his Moshiach (Messiah) is.

Malachi 3:1 is also seen as a Messianic scripture, identifying that the Messenger of the new covenant is their Lord.... All this is gone from the weekly reading schedule!

**Malachi 3:1**

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And Adonai (the Lord), whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight.  
Behold, He is coming," says YHVH of hosts.

Gone from the Haftarah readings. It's in their scriptures – but not in their weekly readings.

**Zechariah 9:9** – how their king "will come to Mt Zion righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on the foal of a donkey." **GONE** from their reading!

**Zech 11:13** is also never read in their synagogues how their king would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver and that money would be used on a potter, and the money would be thrown down in the God's House – the temple. That's gone now too.

*Isn't this shocking?*

You can check the Haftarah reading assignments each week – and these Messianic scriptures are GONE. I'm not sure about **Psalm 22**, but I'd be surprised if anything from Psalm 22 is being read in the scheduled readings – and it's also a prophecy fulfilled to the dot by Yeshua. It's all about his crucifixion, written a thousand years before there were crucifixions!

Now are you beginning to see why they find it so hard to “see” their Messiah? And daily they will betray him and refuse him as they tell their youngsters to have nothing to do with this “Jesus fellow”. Remember the disciple who betrayed Yeshua? His Greek name was Judas. The Hebrew version of that is, are you ready – Judah! JUDAH betrayed his very own friend with a kiss. And Judas/Judah – represented the whole tribe.

But Judah will have their veil covering their eyes of their understanding removed and they will come to see Yeshua, I'm very sure of that. In fact, I think it's happening right now.

Any of you in Israel who are reading this or hearing this sermon, I'd love to hear your comments and feedback on this sermon, good or bad. Without all of those scriptures, you would never understand that the coming Messiah at first would find it hard going – and end up being beaten, flogged, crucified and killed!

## **HAVE WE MADE TRUE CHRISTIANITY ATTRACTIVE?**

### **6. Frankly, Traditional CHRISTIANITY HAS NOT made Christianity” attractive in any way for Jews who might decide to look into this “Christianity”.**

In the name of Jesus, thousands of Christians have tortured, burned, killed Jews, enslaved, raped Jewish girls and women, pillaged and done everything possible to wipe out the Jewish race. If you were Jewish, why would you be attracted to that religion or their Messiah leader? Jews, I tell you confidently right now: those are NOT the actions that would flow from the heart and spirit of Yeshua.

I have **a book by Michael L. Brown “Our hands are stained with Blood”** – that records the tragic history, quotes, statements and actions of the “Christian” church and its dealings with Jews. It's a blood-stained read indeed.

So because of that past, the name “Jesus Christ” is often synonymous with a swear word in many orthodox Jewish homes. Even in the Apostle Paul's day: he wanted to STAMP OUT this stain on Judaism, as he first saw it!

From the Jewish perspective, consider:

--The **Crusades**, which we think of today as being a war against Saladin and Islam in the late 1100's – was also a long protracted period of genocide against Jews! By knights and soldiers who claimed to battle in the name of Jesus. From the Jewish perspective, which surely we might understand a bit if we put ourselves in their shoes, the religion of LOVE – was a religion that ended up in torture, rape, pillaging, death and loss of your land and property. So why would YOU want anything to do with the Leader of that kind of religion? Many Jews were burned alive in their synagogues, by Crusaders! Others were sold into slavery – by men who wore the symbol of the cross on their garments and shields.

And for the record, I do NOT believe that the so-called Christianity of the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition had ANYTHING to do with the true teachings of Christ.

I also know that you and I weren't there for the Crusades. I wasn't there during the Spanish Inquisition. I wasn't a part of the Nazi nightmare either. And in a way it's not fair to US to have all the burden of all of that cast on US, but the fact is – it's in the 2 millennia history that they've had to live with and it was repeated over and over. So I'm just trying to help us Christians all understand where they are coming from when we try to teach them about Jesus. WHY would they have ANY desire to listen to you or me?

SO in terms of the Crusades and Inquisition – the horrors were perpetrated BY Christians.

Then in **the Nazi holocaust**, though SOME few Christians DID stand up for Jews to aid and protect them, they were precious FEW. MOST who called themselves Christian stood idly by and did nothing. The Catholic church, the so-called infallible Pope, Protestantism in America – did precious little, frankly. All this genocide towards Jews was done in the heart of Christian Europe! It was hard for Jews to find countries they could flee to. Let's be honest, even in America, precious few were taken in. We turned back a ship full of thousands of Jewish refugees. We refused them safe harbor.

By the way, what are YOU doing to aid CHRISTIANS this time who are being beheaded, crucified, and tortured, etc – or are you content to sit idly by? Surely we MUST do something, say something, send aid, and send money to those who ARE saving lives. When it was the Jews' turn, we did precious little.

The mass slaughter of Jews during the Dark ages and every age since – largely by Christians. Why would you, if you were Jewish, want to be a Christian?

- Where can you find scripture quoting Yeshua saying that his followers were to go around killing and slaughtering Jews who refused to become a Christian? It's not there! And those are perversions of the simple gospel of Yeshua.
- ANTI-SEMITISM has abounded in "Christianity". **Emperor Constantine** in 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea did all in his power to remove any connection to "Judaism" – so he changed Passover to Easter. He made it illegal to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, on pain of death if you did.
- **In the Middle Ages, if you** – IN FEAR of your life as a JEW -- had to "convert" to Christianity and accept Christ, you had to disavow anything Jewish – all Jewish foods, Jewish customs, and Jewish heritage. All of it! (**Read pages 95-97** of book "Our Hands are stained with Blood").
- Even the famous **Martin Luther** was very, very anti-Jewish in his teachings! He wrote a book called "The Jews and their Lies". Look it up; he calls them "wretched, accursed, stupid fools, miserable, blind and senseless people".

**QUOTING FROM Martin Luther's brochure: "The Jews and their Lies."**

With prayer and the fear of God we must practice a sharp mercy to see whether we might save at least a few from the glowing flames. We dare not avenge ourselves. Vengeance a thousand times worse than we could wish them already has them by the throat. I shall give you my sincere advice:

First to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians.....

Second, I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed. For they pursue in them the same aims as in their synagogues. Instead they might be lodged under a roof or in a barn, like the gypsies....

Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them. (remainder omitted)

Fourth, I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb. For they have justly forfeited the right to such an office by holding the poor [Jews](#) captive with the saying of Moses .....

Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the [Jews](#). For they have no business in the countryside, since they are not lords, officials, tradesmen, or the like. Let they stay at home.....

Sixth, I advise that usury be prohibited to them and that [all cash and treasure of silver and gold](#) be taken from them and put aside for safekeeping. The reason for such a measure is that, as said above, they have no other means of earning a livelihood than usury, and by it they have stolen and robbed from us all they possess....

If you were Jewish, why would you want to become a Christian after reading or discovering all that? All the above was written by Martin Luther. My brothers and sisters in Yeshua, can we have a heart of compassion now as we put all these things together?

**7. MOST OF CHRISTIANITY HAS CORRUPTED THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE. Or put it another way, true beliefs in the risen Christ actually have some things in common with Jewish culture, but you'd never find it in traditional Christianity.**

**Examples:** TRUE believers keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day sabbath, we like keeping God's holydays, we don't eat pork or crab, we keep Passover instead of Easter, we keep the Feast of Tabernacles – and on and on. Why? Because these are God's teachings, not Jewish teachings. And we try to live by the word of God. We don't work on the sabbath.

What Jews have been exposed to as "Christianity" or as "followers of Jesus" – has largely been very, very different from what Yeshua actually taught and practiced. Christianity was hi-jacked by carnal, violent, selfish leaders who changed grace into license and put old pagan ways back into the teachings. Part of that old way was frankly anti-Semitism.

***So – Jews: Most of what you think is Christianity – isn't TRUE Christianity.***



And in fact, *true* believers know that WE must be grafted into Israel – the Israel of God. You were part of the 12 tribes of Israel, the Covenant people of God. Now the Covenant people are those who respond to His calling – whether Jew or Gentile – but they have to become a part of “the Israel of God”, as Romans 11 explains.

I pray for Israel. Many of us pray for your soldiers and your safety in times of war. When the Gaza war was going on and their rockets were being fired into Israel, you had Iron Dome. But more importantly, you need God’s divine protection and I believe you have received a lot of it over the years.

But just before your Messiah shows up again, scripture is clear: there are some very rough times coming for Israel. Almighty God is trying to get your attention. At that time, if your people will seek their Maker and turn to Him with their whole heart, He will not forsake or forget you. He will send Yeshua to be the King of Kings to save you and the whole world. He is going to come this time to set up the Kingdom of David and reign as king. He’s going to come this time to destroy your enemies. He will protect and salvage and restore and rebuild everything. He will teach HIS ways, HIS laws. He will bring people together. He will bring the dispersed of Judah back to the Promised Land. He will bring rest to the land.

Sure, your people called for His crucifixion. But it was the Romans who actually nailed him to the cross and killed him. And really all of us – by our sins—caused his death. And it was God Most High who offered Yeshua as His “Lamb” – as the “lamb of God” and it’s the head of the house, God in this case, who has to slay the lamb for Passover. So we all caused his death – and he was actually offered up by God Himself. All of this is very clear in Isaiah 52 and 53. Take time to read it.

It’s time for all people who are truly seeking the Living God to come together and worship Him – YHVH, God Most High. His name will be known in all the world someday, as waters cover the sea. When you call on Yahweh your merciful God, He will not forget you:

**Deuteronomy 4:30-31**

When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to YHVH your God and obey His voice 31 (for YHVH your God is a merciful God), ***He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.***

**Hosea 3:4-5**

“For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. ***Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek YHVH their God and David their king. They shall fear YHVH (the Lord) and His goodness in the latter days.***

I believe the time is coming soon when Yah will start to work a mighty work in Israel. Many thousands upon thousands of our Jewish brothers and sisters will respond positively and will welcome their returning Messiah. You will be once again one of the blessed covenant people.

In a future sermon I will discuss at length the Messianic prophecies that point to the true Messiah. Those scriptures also will clearly identify him.



I hope you believers have a heart for Jews. Pray God opens their minds and hearts. Pray many of them will come to love and accept their brother Yeshua, a fellow Jew.

Until next time, this is Philip Shields, your brother in our Messiah asking for blessings, peace and shalom to all of you as you walk in *His* light. Until next time.... Shalom and joy!

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