



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 26 Issue 3

SAVE THE DATES ISRAEL TOUR 2019, MAY 18th-28th!!



March 2018

Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus Part 2

Last month I presented the arguments against Jesus from a Jewish man who is a friend of a friend. When my friend, who is Jewish and a believer in Jesus told his friend about his faith, he received an email explaining why one cannot be Jewish and believe in Jesus. My friend, who is new to the faith, asked me to help him write a response.

Following is my response. **I've written these letters to help you understand my people, pray more effectively, equip you, and to share these letters with others. If you have a Jewish friend this letter might be especially helpful.**

Dear friend,

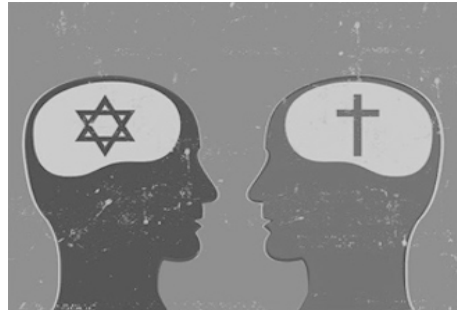
I enjoyed our lunch and thank you for not only listening to my personal story but sending me your thoughts. I think that as we live in a world full of conflict and hatred, it is good we can share ideas together in peace and understanding.

As I said to you at lunch, I am a Jew who believes in Jesus. So, to say that Jews do not believe in Jesus is interesting. I am one.

All of the writers of the New Testament were Jews who believed that Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Messiah. They, I think, had some reason to believe what they did. And they all died for what they believed about Jesus.

There are Jews who believe all kinds of things. Even Jews who do not believe in God! Jewish people today do not define themselves as being Jewish because they know Tanach (the Jewish scriptures) or follow the religion of the rabbis.

As you know most Jewish people around the world are secular, know little about



the scriptures, and do not follow the religion of Judaism as defined by the rabbis. Being Jewish for most of our people involves connection to Jewish culture, heritage, family, and nationhood. I have not denied any of that.

I agree that the requirements of the Messiah are to bring peace, rebuild the Temple, gather Jewish people back to Israel, reestablish the sacrificial system, inaugurate the messianic kingdom, and come from the line of David.

I believe Jesus will return to do all of the above.

You said, "Whenever these things are described in the Tanach (the Jewish scriptures), the description says that the messiah will come and do these things—once."

I have a question...where does it say this? Nowhere I can think of does it say all of the requirements have to be fulfilled in "one coming." Nor does it say there will be two. But I think there are more things messiah is to do than just bring peace and establish the messianic kingdom.

There are other requirements of Messiah:

- *He is to be born in Bethlehem. The prophet Micah said that.*

- *He is to suffer, die, be buried, and live again. Isaiah said that.*
- *He is to be of divine nature. Jeremiah and Isaiah.*
- *He is to carry on himself the sins of the nation of Israel. Isaiah chapter 53.*
- *He is to die of crucifixion. David said that centuries before crucifixion was a method of capital punishment. Psalm 22.*
- *He has to die before the destruction of the 2nd Temple. Daniel said that.*

I'm guessing you also would know that in Tanach, in a Jewish family system, the lineage always goes through the father and that lineage can be passed through an adoptive father or relative as well (see Ruth and Boaz).

But Jesus' lineage is given through both Miriam (Mary) and Joseph. That's not a huge issue for me.

It's interesting that you said "Jesus contradicts the Torah and states its commandments are no longer applicable. (John 1:45 and 9:16, Acts 3:22 and 7:37)"

Did you actually read the verses quoted here and look at the context? Jesus never contradicted the Torah (he did contradict the religious leaders traditions... for good reason I think) and never stated that its commandments are no longer applicable. He did say this in the book of Matthew,

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth

pass away, not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. So then, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do likewise will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-19

I am guessing that since you shared with me about “almah” you would also know that the more accurate Hebrew word for “virgin” is “betulah.”

However, everyone would know that in the days of the bible an “almah” (young maiden) was also a virgin, or she would be stoned to death. And when the Jewish scriptures were translated into Greek for Hellenistic (Greek speaking) Jewish people, 70 rabbis (its called the Septuagint) translated that verse in Isaiah 7:14 with the only Greek word possible for virgin. I am guessing those 70 rabbis knew what they were talking about.

So all I am saying is that though there are some who say “Jews just don’t believe in Jesus” its not an accurate statement, since I am one. And there are reasons why there are those Jews who do believe and many more who are thinking about the issue.

I believe what I believe about Jesus, as a Jew, not only because of how my life has been bettered and changed, but because I think that there is a true reason to believe He is the/our Messiah. I don’t believe something just because I am told “real Jews don’t believe in Jesus”. That doesn’t seem a reason to not believe.

Jewish people value questions and thinking through issues. It seems to me that perhaps you are just accepting the “Jewish answer” without critically thinking through the issue. My faith is not “blind faith” but is based on my sincere evaluation of history, archaeology, and the Jewish scriptures.

We agree, as Jews, that we should all strive for goodness, peace, doing what is right, and making the world a better place in which to live. If being a “real Jew” is defined by not believing in Jesus, that seems a very shallow definition of “being a real Jew”.



As I said and as you know, a majority within the Jewish community define themselves as Jews based on heritage and culture, not on adherence to the religion of Judaism. Most (80%) reject what the religious rabbis say about Judaism.

I define myself as a Jew the same way you do and most Jews do. It’s who I am. My culture. My family. My heritage. My people. And my land.

I reject the rabbi’s rejection of Jesus as Messiah. I think they missed it/him 2000 years ago. I’m just saying I think the religion of the rabbis (Judaism) is wrong about Jesus. My identity as a Jew is secure. My faith, as a Jewish person, is rooted in the reality that Jesus is our Messiah.

So finally I’m wondering if you just copied and pasted someone else’s arguments against Jesus or have actually explored them for yourself? I think there’s more to life than just accepting what others say or believing it just because “that’s what I was told or taught growing up.”

I look forward to talking to you soon and thank you for sending me your perspective on why some Jewish people reject Jesus. It made me think and I am grateful for the conversation. Until later...

How to Contact Us

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I am continuing to help my friend grow in his walk with Jesus. Not only is he growing, but so is his family. He and his wife are sharing with their children, growing as a couple, are settled in church, and becoming stronger followers of Messiah Jesus.

Though everyone will remain nameless in this prayer letter, the Lord knows who they are. Please lift their family up as well as his friend who is a sceptic. Perhaps he will too, become a follower of Jesus.

Israel Tour May 18th-28th, 2019

Were going back to Israel and would love you to join us for a tour of, in my opinion, the most amazing country in the world. Words cannot communicate how one’s understand of the scriptures is deepened by walking where it all happened. **As a Jewish believer in Jesus, and as a ministry engaged with the land and people on a regular basis, we will bring a unique perspective to the tour.**

We will be staying at a beautiful resort on the Sea of Gallilee and at one of the nicest hotels in Jerusalem. Please see the enclosed registration form and visit our website for a more detailed itinerary at www.lightofmessiah.org. You may also call our office at 770-642-4706 for more information.

Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Messiah Jesus!

In His service,


Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries

