

THE JEWS apple of God's eye

The Jews were selected as a special race of people when God chose Abraham and took him out of Ur around 1876 BC, promising him that he would be the father of countless descendants. Since then, nation upon nation has come to ruin attempting to subdue them, as God has rescued His people by miraculous means and methods.

We'll look at the beliefs of Judaism against 5 headings and what the KJV Bible says about these beliefs:

1. Who is God?
2. Who is man?
3. Salvation
4. Behaviour
5. Worship

"I (God) have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there ...For now have I chosen and sanctified this house (the Temple), that my name may be there forever, and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually ... In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen ... will I put my name forever." 2 Chronicles 6:6; 7:16; 33:7

"The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" Zechariah 3:2

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning." Psalm 137:5

BACKGROUND

The Jews have been repeatedly conquered throughout history and dispersed into other nations. They are the most multinational of all races but have maintained their identity in spite of a background of upheaval.

There are basically four groups today: 1. Orthodox - maintain strict adherence to traditional customs and beliefs 2. Reform or liberal - apply Judaic notions to a contemporary culture in a humanistic manner 3. Conservatives - try to forge a middle way between the previous but hold onto a strong Jewish identity 4. Hasidic - follow a mystical path and are seen to be the right wing of the Orthodox.

WHO IS GOD?

A powerful and just ruler while being a merciful and loving deliverer. To the Jew God is Lord even in the midst of a painful and evil world. God is not a force but a person with emotions with whom the Jew can have a relationship. To the Jew, God may seem remote at times leading to passionate appeals by them for communication with Him.

The Jews don't see that God came in the flesh as the man, Jesus Christ, and are still awaiting for Him to come. They rejected Jesus the first time as they were looking for a man of war - a deliverer from the oppression of the Romans. Now they are looking for a man of peace to bring security and comfort in the Middle East. Jesus is coming again but as a man of war - at Armageddon.

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WHAT'S GOD GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS? *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."* 1 John 5: 7
"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" Titus 2:13

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36

"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also." 1 John 2:23

Comment: It's a package deal folks! You can't have the chook without the vegies! Gotta have the complete meal deal - entree, main course, dessert and then coffee. Not allowed to pick and choose. God says, if you don't have Jesus, you don't have Him. Imagine that - all their crying and pleas at the wailing wall are falling on God's deaf ears. He won't hear them at the moment.

WHO IS MAN?

The Jews know most of the Old Testament, particularly the first five books (The Torah). They know that God made them, they are answerable to him, to have right standing with him they must blood sacrifice (but not the blood of Jesus), they are a people steeped in signs and wonders and God has delivered them time and again. They look for signs of God's approval or judgment in historical events. They believe in sin against God and for repentance to God.

WHAT'S GOD GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS?

Comment: The Bible wouldn't disagree with what the Jew says man is, simply because they use the Old Testament as their Scriptures. Man is sinful and needs forgiveness & acceptance by God. Where the rub comes is their disagreement with the New Testament and how they see atonement with God since Jesus died. It's not a question that blood must be spilt but who's blood - bulls and goats or Jesus Christ's?

SALVATION

For the Jew there is a heaven and hell. One's eternal existence is determined by faith in God and obedience to His laws, the summary of which are the Ten Commandments. Their salvation depends on the combination of faith + works.

The Jews still hope for the coming of the Messiah who will hand out justice, eternal judgment and reward. The moral life hereon earth is most important for the Jew.

WHAT'S GOD GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS? *"Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."* Hebrews 10:38 *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."* Hebrews 10:4 *"...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* 1 John 1: 7 **Comment:** Unfortunately, *"...Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for...and the rest were blinded."* Romans 11:7. *"Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. God hath not cast away his people..."* Romans 11:1-2. Israel's eyes have been temporarily blinded as a nation but not as individuals, and today, some are saved trusting in the Lamb of God (Jesus) not their own animal variety of lambs' blood. Their eyes will be opened when *"...the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."* Romans 11:25

BEHAVIOUR

The first five books of the Old Testament (the Torah) give the Jew the total pattern of behaviour - rituals, ceremonies, stories and practices. In addition they have the Talmud

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which gives the commentary and the “fleshing out” to the Torah i.e. filling in the gaps. Gigantic amounts of literature on conduct has developed as the Jews have mixed with other nations. Legalism is the perennial problem for the Jew. Morality centers around the good of the community and the Jewish prophets were the first proponents for social and economic justice in the ancient world. Material wealth isn’t frowned upon and marriage and children are held in high regard. Singleness is looked down on and much time and effort is spent indoctrinating children in the precepts of their faith.

WHAT’S GOD GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS? *“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, Touch not; taste not; handle not...” Colossians 2:20-21 “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:4-5*

Comment: Since the blood of Jesus paid the price for sin, all other attempts at getting in God’s good books have failed - to be rewarded with an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Galatians 3:24 says *“the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...”* The law is necessary to show that we are sinners and that only Christ can save us. The Ten Commandments will keep the Jew (and everybody else) out of heaven not get him in for the Bible says that if you’ve broken the least of the laws, you may as well have broken the lot in God’s eyes (*James 2:10*). Sin is sin - no big ones or little ones.

WORSHIP

The purpose is to hallow all life and share one’s life with God to whom they worship. The Jews have a full calendar of daily, weekly, monthly and yearly celebrations. Ritual and ceremony are important in their remembrance of sacred history, with Biblical and non-Biblical stories told repeatedly of God’s deliverances from the hands of their enemies.

WHAT’S GOD GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS? *“...to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” 1 Peter 2:5 “...worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.” Philippians 3:3*

Comment: God revealed Himself to the Jews over time in various ways, however they’ve fallen at the last hurdle - the most important one - Jesus Christ.

Everything they do is in vain and they may as well be sacrificing babies as singing hymns, because they’ve rejected God’s Son.

But the stage is being set for the final act. Jerusalem is mentioned 800 times in the Bible and one only has to look at where the world’s focus is. The whole world waits for a settlement of peace. Scores of Biblical prophecies have come to pass with many to be fulfilled in the coming days.

The most staggering history is yet to be written about the Jews with their most massive suffering yet to occur. The climax of this will be at Armageddon and the return of Jesus Christ to rescue them from near extinction.

The second coming of Christ will occur in two stages: 1. His coming in the air to take His church (faith alone Christians) and this will conclude this Gentile Age. 2. After 7 years of God’s wrath upon the earth (The Tribulation) He will return to reign over the world from His throne in Jerusalem.

There is no doubt that we are living in the last days with Europe coming together to provide a kingdom for the Anti-Christ. Other signs include earthquakes, disease, wars, famine, increased knowledge and apostasy in the churches.

ARE YOU READY TO MEET GOD?

If you are willing right now to turn from your sin of unbelief and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who bore full punishment for sin on the cross, you can know the blessedness of forgiveness and you will receive God’s gift of eternal life. If Jesus came today, you then would be caught up with all the saved to meet the Lord in the air.

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