

The History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 1

The New Testament

Intro: What is a Messianic Jew?

Jewish Christian
Christian Jew
Jewish believer in Jesus
Hebrew Christian

Where do Messianic Jews fit in Jewish-Christian Relations?

Who were the first 'Messianic Jews?'

TNK

Moses

Genesis 3:15 - redeemer
Genesis 12:1-3 – bless the whole world
Genesis 49:10 – tribe of Judah
Deuteronomy 18:15, “a prophet like me”

Other prophets

Isaiah 53 – die for sins, etc
Micah 5:2 (1) – born in Bethlehem
etc

The Gospels:

Zacharias (father of JTB)

Gabriel: *Your son will be a forerunner, before HIM...*(Luke 1:17)

Miriam (Mary)

Gabriel: "you will conceive and bear a son.....Yeshua" (Luke 1:31)

Joseph

An Angel of the Lord: "*...do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*" (Matt 1:20)

Elizabeth (mother of JTB)

To Miriam: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42)

Shepherds

Luke 2:15, "*Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.*"

Simeon

"righteous and devout...Holy Spirit was upon him" (Luke 2:35)

In Temple, took into his arms:

"My eyes have seen your salvation...a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 232)

Anna

"a prophetess" (Luke 2:36), 84, waiting in the Temple

At birth:

"began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of him...to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem."

(Luke 2:38)

REMNANT

John the Baptist

Luke 1:44: the baby (JTB) "leaped for joy" in Elizabeth's womb

John 1:29: *"Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"*

Call of first disciples:

John 1:41, "We have found Messiah,"

John 1:45, "one of whom Moses [and prophets] wrote"

John 1:49 "the King of Israel"

Ministry of Yeshua

Went to 'lost sheep of house of Israel' (Matt 10:6, 15:24)

[Later – broadened to ‘all the nations.’ (Matt 28:19)]

Hints of Gentile inclusion:

Samaritan woman (John 4)

Syro-Phoenician woman (Mark 7:24, Luke 18:1-8)

Roman Centurion (Luke 7)

‘Man from the tombs’ (“Legion”), (Mark 5:2)

Why does John frequently refer to “the Jews?”

70 times in 21 chapters

Yeshua and disciples clearly presented as Jews

“the Jews”

1. Judaens
2. The leadership
3. Ironical – those who think they are the real (good) Jews

How do the Gospels present Jews and Gentiles? (ecclesiology)

Yeshua vs leaders (Pharisees etc) was ‘in-house debate’

[Not the same as later ‘Jewish-Christian’ schism]

Inclusion of Gentiles, not same as replacement of Jews

Matt 21:43:

“...the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.”

Matt 21:45:

“When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they understood that he was speaking about them.” (Leaders)

Book of Acts

Jewish Disciples so far:

From Yeshua’s ministry: Nicodemus, lepers etc

120 in upper room (Acts 1:15)

3,000 new believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:41)

“a great many of the priests” became believers (Acts 6:7)

Cornelius – first Gentile Convert? – (Acts 10)

Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

Paul

Biography

Circumcised, Tribe of Benjamin, Pharisee (Phil 3:5)

Born in Tarsus, Disciple of Gamliel (Acts 22:3)

Former persecutor / “blasphemer” (1 Tim 1:13)

[Was he *called* or *converted*?]

View of Israel

Passionate about their salvation (Romans 9:3, 10:1)

Sees a future for the nation (Romans 11:26)

Relationship to the Law? (Rom 7:12 / Gal 3:10)

God's plan for Jews and Gentiles: salvation

Blindness of Israel (Isaiah 6:9-10, Romans 11:7-10)

Leads to Gentile inclusion (Romans 11:11)

God will be faithful to Israel (Rom 11:1-4, 26)

Book of Hebrews

Unknown author

Sermon in Hellenistic synagogue?

Saturated with quotes and allusions from TNK

'rabbinic' techniques:

String of pearls (1:5-14)

Encouragement by example (ch 11)

Midrash (running commentary), (3:7-19)

Verbal analogy (2 texts compared, similar word), (1:5, "son")

Argument from lesser to greater (1:5-14, 2:1-4)

Old Covenant (not Old Testament!) vs New Testament (8:8-10)

1 Peter

Apostle to “the circumcised” (Galatians 2:8)

Until modern period, commentators thought he wrote to Jews

Evidence that this is correct:

- Receipients “former way of life” (1:14,18)
Pagan or Jewish? (traditions of men, Mark 7:3, Isaiah)
- Change in status (2:10)
Allusion to Hosea 1-2 (“not my people”)
- *“chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...”* (2:9)
Church never referred to as “race” or “nation”

James

2:2 “If anyone comes into your assembly / meeting.....”

Synagogue

Revelation

69% of verses – quotes or illusions from TNK

7 churches (Christian = Jewish in 1st century)

144,000 from each of 12 tribes (Rev 14:1-5)

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 2

The Parting of the ways

Second Temple Judaism(s)

586 BC to 70 AD

Many groups:

Pharisees, Essenes, Sadducees, Hellenistic, followers of Yeshua

70 – 325

“Parting of the ways”

Earliest Followers of Jesus:

After resurrection, still a Jewish movement

“Followers of the way” (Acts 9:2)

“Christians” (Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16)

Nazarenes (Acts 24:5, Isa 11:1?)

Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

Paul always went to Jews first

Temple destroyed in 70 CE

Definitions:

Jew

Gentile

Christian

How did the parting of the ways happen?

66-70 Jewish Revolt / destruction of Temple

66-70 “Flight to Pella?” (Eusebius Hist 3.5.3), based on Luke 21:20

Eusebius: “*The people of the church in Jerusalem were commanded, according to an oracle given by revelation to trustworthy persons there before the war, to leave the city and to live in one of the cities of Perea, which they call Pella*” (Hist. eccle 3.5.3)

66-70 Yohanon ben Zakkai – school in Yavneh
(roots of Rabbibic Judaism – life without a Temple)

90 *Birkat Haminim*: Blessing of the Heretics
(See John 9:22)

130? Hadrian conquers and renames Jerusalem: Colonia Aelia Capitolina
(After 15 Jewish Bishops, non-Jewish “Bishop” installed)

132-135 Second Jewish Revolt
Bar Kochba Revolt (Justin Martyr, 1 Apol 31.6)

200 Judah HaNasi codifies the Mishnah

Judaism and Christianity, as they were forming, became a bitter rivalry:

Which group is heir to TNK?

How do we live without a Temple?

Judaism: TNK and Oral Law [Mishnah, Talmud(s), etc]

Christianity: TNK and NT

312 / 325 Constantine – new laws permanently separate Jews and Christians

Before Constantine:

Jews, Christians / **ROMAN EMPIRE**

After Constantine:

Jews / **Rome and Christianity**

Jewish followers of Jesus (Groups) during this time:

2 specific known groups

The Ebionites “poor ones”

According to Irenaeus, the Ebionites:
Did circumcision, followed the law (Passover)
Worshipped in Jerusalem
Preferred Matthew’s Gospel
Repudiated Paul
Denied virgin birth, said Joseph was biological father
“Jesus *became* Messiah / son of God” at baptism (based on law)
(Believers) are justified according to the law

Notzrim / Nazarines / Nazoraens

Mentioned only by Epiphanius and Jerome (commentary on Isaiah)
Acts 24:5 (“sect of the Nazarenes”)

They were:

critical of oral law, understood OT literally, law not necessary for salvation, law not required for Gentiles, believed in endtime resurrection

See: *Nazarene Jewish Christianity* by Ray Pritz

After “parting of the ways:”

“Gentiles” equated with “Christians”

“Jews” equated with Non-believing in Jesus

(Jewish believers in Jesus dwindle but never fully die)

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 3

Parting of the Ways, part 2

So far:

Jewish believers separated from Jewish community:

66-70	(First) Jewish Revolt – Flight to Pella
90	New liturgy (<i>Birkat HaMinim</i>)
132-135	Second Jewish revolt – Bar Kochba

New factor:

Replacement theology: “The Church replaces Israel”
Supersessionism
‘Fulfillment theology’

God’s plan for the Jewish people

Genesis 12:1-7	Abrahamic Covenant – Land, Seed Blessing
Exodus 19:6	Mosaic Covenant – “Kingdom of Priests” (“If you obey...”)
[Galatians 3:17	
“...the law which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.”]	

Jeremiah 31:31-33	New Covenant – (law written on hearts)
	Luke 22:20
	Hebrews 8:13 – first Cov obsolete?

Early Church (since 2nd century) – assumed Replacement Theology

The origins of replacement Theology

Based on rivalry, not scripture

Epistle of Barnabas (early 2nd century)

The Covenant is *not* “both theirs and ours, it is ours.”

Circumcision has been abolished

Acknowledges that Jesus loved Israel, but says they were “abandoned”
because of their disbelief

Jesus has “a new people” who are “heirs of the covenant of the Lord”

Justin Martyr (mid Second century)

Dialogue with Trypho

“For the true spiritual Israel, and descendants of Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham,...are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ.” (*Dial* 11:5)

Interestingly: no reference of “Israel of God” (Gal 6:16)

Justin’s debate with Trypho begins long history of polemics, debate:

Issues include: virgin birth, LXX, divinity of Messiah

Tertullian (late 2nd, early 3rd c)

Adversus Iudaeos

Chapter 1: 2 nations (Jews, Gentiles), Israel divorced from divine favor

Chapter 2: God gave law for all people, those who obey are his people

Chapter 3-6 circumcision, Sabbath, sacrifices, law

Chapter 7-12 Is Jesus the Messiah? (prophecy, history)

Chapter 13 Destruction of Jerusalem, why Jewish suffering etc?

Chapter 14 “Clue to the error of the Jews,” (two advents)

Replacement theology dominant in “Christianity”

Jews as “Christ-Killers”

Now, Jews are not only wrong for rejecting Jesus, they are guilty of the greatest sin imaginable:

Deicide (Jews – all Jews – are guilty of murdering God)

Mileto of Sardis (late 1st c)

On the Passover

94. *Pay attention, all families of the nations, and observe! An extraordinary murder has taken place in the center of Jerusalem, in the city devoted to God's law, in the city of the Hebrews, in the city of the prophets, in the city thought of as just. And who has been murdered? And who is the murderer? I am ashamed to give the answer, but give it I must. For if this murder had taken place at night, or if he had been slain in a desert place, it would be well to keep silent; but it was in the middle of the main street, even in the center of the city, while all were looking on, that the unjust murder of this just person took place.*

95. *And thus he was lifted up upon the tree, and an inscription was affixed identifying the one who had been murdered. Who was he? It is painful to tell, but it is more dreadful not to tell. Therefore, hear and tremble because of him for whom the earth trembled.*

96. *The one who hung the earth in space, is himself hanged; the one who fixed the heavens in place, is himself impaled; the one who firmly fixed all things, is himself firmly fixed to the tree. The Lord is insulted, **God has been murdered**, the King of Israel has been destroyed **by the right hand of Israel**.*

Origin (early 3rd c)
Commenting on Matthew 27:25

*[The Jews] were not only unwilling to clean themselves from the blood of Christ but even incurred it upon themselves...therefore they are accused not only of the blood of the prophets but, filling up the measure of their fathers, they are accused also of the blood of Christ, so that they hear God saying to them, "When you stretch out your hands to me, I will hide my eyes from you; for your hands are full of blood" (Isa 1:15). Therefore **the blood of Jesus** came not only on those who lived at those times but also **on all subsequent generations of Jews** until the consummation (of the world). Therefore until now their house is desolate (Matt 23:38).*

Religious rivalry gets personal

Chrysostom (4th c)

“Homilies against the Jews”

“The Jews sacrifice their children to Satan... They are worse than wild beasts. The synagogue is a brothel, a den of scoundrels, the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults, a criminal assembly of Jews, a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ, a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, a gulf and abyss of perdition...”

The synagogue is a curse. Obstinate in her error, she refuses to see or hear; she has deliberately perverted her judgment; she has extinguished within herself the light of the Holy Spirit...

[The Jews] have fallen into a condition lower than the vilest animals. Debauchery and drunkenness have brought them to the level of the lusty goat and the pig. They know only one thing: to satisfy their stomachs, to get drunk, to kill and beat each other up like stage villains and coachmen...

I hate the Jews because they violate the Law. I hate the Synagogue because it hates the Law and the Prophets. It is the duty of all Christians to hate the Jews.”

Jewish Encyclopedia:

“While up to that time the Church aspired merely to attack the dogmas of Judaism, and did that in a manner intended only for the learned, with Chrysostom there began the endeavor, which eventually brought so much suffering upon the Jews, to prejudice the whole of Christendom against the latter, and to erect hitherto unknown barriers between Jews and Christians.”

References to Jewish Believers in early Christian documents

Ignatius (110?)

“...through his resurrection he might eternally lift up the standard for his holy and faithful ones, whether among Jews or Gentiles, in the one body of his church.” (Ign. Smyrna1.1-2)

Justin Martyr (2nd century)

Dialogue with Trypho (46/47)

Q: Can they be saved if still keep Mosaic law?

A: Yes, if they don't persuade (Gentiles) to keep the Law

Origen (early 3rd century)

From Alexandria, later Caesaria

Mentions Jewish Christians / polemics

Epiphanius (310 – 403)

(Jewish believer?) from Israel, became Bishop of Constantia (Cyprus)

Source of some info: Ebionites and Nazarenes

Wrote: *Panarion* – “Medicine Chest for the Cure of all Heresies”

(volume 30 was against the Ebionites)

Told of **Joseph of Tiberias (290 – 370)**

“faithful Jew” (followed the law)

Spoke against Arians (see Skarsaune p. 531)

- Joseph was a *Shaliach* of Jewish Patriarch of Tiberias

- After Patriarch's death: Joseph found:

Hebrew Gospel of Matthew, translations of John and Acts

- Dreams of Jesus (Skarsaune, p. 533)
 - Began reading Gospels
 - Other Jews found out – persecuted
 - “Converted” – told Emperor Constantine
 - Got permission to build churches in (Northern Israel)
 - Told story of Patriarchy’s secret baptism
- Two types of believers (among Jews) – 1. Secret, 2. Nicean

Jewish Believers in Early Rabbinic Literature

Birkat HaMinim

“Blessing of the Heretics”

Bavli (b. Ber. 28b-29a)

Shmuel HaKatan composed it (Skarsaune, p. 673)

Who are the *minim*?

Not specifically Jewish-Christians

Placed under a ban / ostracism

Mishnah

Sanhedrin 10:1:

“All Israel has a share in the world to come....”

Except:

- *“he who says there is no resurrection of the dead prescribed in the Torah”*
- *he who says “the Torah is not from Heaven”*
- (an apostate)
- Also: *“he who reads outside books...”*

Tosefta

t. Hul. 2:24

Rabbi Eleazer was accused of being a [Christian]

Why? He once spoke with Jacob of Kfar Sihnin

(see Skarsaune)

By the early middle ages (325 / 500?), “Judaism” and “Christianity” are two mutually exclusive religions:

Judaism is for Jews

Christianity is for Gentiles

(Jewish believers in Jesus become anathema in both groups)

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 4

Early Middle Ages

Traditional Timeline:

Early Church	30 - 500
Middle Ages	500 – 1500
Modern	1500 – present

Jewish-Christian Relations Timeline:

Parting of the Ways	30 – 325
Middle Ages	325 – 1800
Mending of the Ways	1800 - present

1st – 4 th century	Church Fathers, increasingly anti-Jewish
312 / 325	Constantine
5 th century	Fall of Roman Empire

<u>Augustine of Hippo</u>	354 -430
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Why are Jews still here?

Witnesses of authenticity of OT

(preserved and kept the texts)

Messianic prophecies are important

Proof of prophecy - Jewish rejection (Is 53:1, Ps 69:23, Rom 11)

Therefore: “*slay them not...*” (Psalm 59:11)

Believed in future salvation for the Jews

Malachi 4:5-6 (Hebrews 3:23-24)

Aug: “end time conversion of the Jews”

[also: Rom 11:26]

But, why did they reject Jesus?

Justin martyr:

stiff necked, hard hearted (from OT prophets)

(later) Augustine:

Romans 9:18, “God has mercy on whomever he chooses.” [predestination]

(Pre-Calvinism)

Emperor Theodosian II (408 – 450)

Theodosian Code, regarding Jews:

(building on Constantine)

- upholds previous Roman ruling that Jews had legal protection
- (Rabbis) exempt from holding public office in the Empire
- Circumcision illegal for Gentiles

Pope Gregory I (590 – 604)

First ‘official’ Pope

Laws: Christians to protect and defend Jews
Against: forced or compulsory baptism of Jews
For: “liberty of action” (synagogue worship etc)
Against: Jews having Christian slaves

Jewish Believers in Spain

Bishop Aurasius of Toledo (603 – 615)

“converted” Rabbi Isaac and two others: Joseph and Naphtali, others

This upset synagogue leader, Levi Samuel, who complained to Count of Toledo

The count (Froga) – ordered these new believers to be beaten at their baptism

Bishop excommunicated Froga

Julian of Toledo (b. 642?)

The son of “Jewish converts” he became a beloved Bishop of Toledo

Was he *good for the Jews*?

Debated:

Legislation against the Jews by Erwig

(coup against Wamba king of the Visogaths).

Julian helped in the coup, but involved in anti-Jewish legislation?

Theological Works:

“The Foreknowledge of the Coming Age”

What Church Fathers, specific Augustine, said about eschatology

“Proving the truth about the Sixth Age”

Argues: Jews are wrong in saying Messiah has not yet come
(possibly a response to Talmud, b. Sanhedrin 97 a-b)

“Antikeimenon”

Responded to apparent contradictions in the Bible

Other Historical Factors in Christianity

7th century, Rise of Islam

1054, Great Schism (Eastern Orthodox Church)

1096, Crusades begin

1144, Blood Libel / desecration of the host

1215	Fourth Lateran Council (Pope Innocent the III)
	Jews must wear special clothing, including badges
	Must remain inside last 3 days of holy week
	Jews must not have any public office
	[but, were bankers]
	Baptized Jews must be restrained from ever returning to Judaism
1516	Jews in Ghettos (Venice, etc)

The Jewish Response

200	Mishnah
300?	Toldot Yeshua
250 - 400	Tosefta
6 th / 7 th C	Talmud(s), Jerusaelm and Babylonian

What were Jewish beliefs about Jesus / Christians in the middle ages?

Babylonian Talmud

(As early as 531, Christians began to censor the Talmud. It is difficult to ascertain which passages were originally references to Jesus of Nazareth). The following are almost universally accepted as referring to Jesus.

b. Sanh 43a “Yeshu,” Hanged on Passover, had five disciples

AND A HERALD PRECEDES HIM etc. This implies, only immediately before [the execution], but not previous thereto.³³ [In contradiction to this] it was taught: On the eve of the Passover Yeshu³⁴ was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practised sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favour, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged on the eve of the Passover!³⁵

b. Gittin 57a “Sinners of Israel” = Jesus. Onkelos raised 3 people from the dead to see what happens to those who speak or act against Israel:

What is your punishment [in the other world]? He replied: What I decreed for myself. Every day my ashes are collected and sentence is passed on me and I am burnt and my ashes are scattered over the seven seas. He then went and raised Balaam by incantations. He asked him: Who is in repute in the other world? He replied: Israel. What then, he said, about joining them? He replied: Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.¹ He then asked: What is your punishment? He replied: With boiling hot semen.² He then went and raised by incantations the sinners of Israel.³ He asked them: Who is in repute in the other world? They replied: Israel. What about joining them? They replied: Seek their welfare, seek not their harm. Whoever touches them touches the apple of his eye. He said: What is your punishment? They replied: With boiling hot excrement, since a Master has said: Whoever mocks at the words of the Sages is punished with boiling hot excrement. Observe the difference between the sinners of Israel and the prophets of the other nations who worship idols. It has been taught: Note from this incident how serious a thing it is to put a man to shame, for God espoused the cause of Bar Kamza and destroyed His House and burnt His Temple.

RMBM

THIRTEEN PRINCIPLES OF THE FAITH

1. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is the Author and Guide of everything that has been created, and that he alone has made, does make, and will make all things.
2. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is a Unity, and that there is no unity in any manner like unto his, and that he alone is our God, who was, is, and will be.
3. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is not a body, and that he is free from all the accidents of matter, and that he has not any form whatsoever.
4. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is the first and the last.
5. I believe with perfect faith that to the Creator, blessed be his name, and to him alone, it is right to pray, and that it is not right to pray to any being besides him.
6. I believe with perfect faith that all the words of the prophets are true.
7. I believe with perfect faith that the prophecy of Moses our teacher, peace be unto him, was true, and that he was the chief of the prophets, both of those that preceded and of those that followed him.
8. I believe with perfect faith that the whole Law, now in our possession, is the same that was given to Moses our teacher, peace be unto him.
9. I believe with perfect faith that this Law will not be changed, and that there will never be any other law from the Creator, blessed be his name.
10. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, knows every deed of the children of men, and all their thoughts, as it is said, It is he that fashioneth the hearts of them all, that giveth heed to all their deeds.
11. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, rewards those that keep his commandments, and punishes those that transgress them.
12. I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.

13. I believe with perfect faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator, blessed be his name, and exalted be the remembrance of him for ever and ever.

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 5

Middle Ages (part 2)

Disputations

1300 – 1500s

Formal debates between Jews and Christians

Lose – lose situation for the Jews

1240, Paris

Nicholas Donin

Excommunicated from synagogue

Rabbi Yechiel claimed he was a Kairite

Donin baptized into Catholic Church, became a Franciscan

Donin met Pope Gregory IX, denounced Talmud

Donin: Talmud speaks against Mary, divinity of Jesus

Began to seize all copies of Talmud

Louis IX – ordered the disputation (Paris 1240), Donin vs rabbi(s)

Rabbis were forbidden to speak against Jesus or Christian doctrine

Result: Louis I commanded all Talmuds to be burned

(24 carriage loads of literature burned) – over 10,000 volumes

1263, Barcelona

called by King James I (of Aragorn)

Pablo Christiani (became Dominican, preached missionary sermons)

Vs

Nachmanides (RMBN) (leader of Jewish community in Catalonia, scholar)

According to Nachmanides written synopsis of the debate:

He began with quote from Talmud (Sanh 43a-b), about followers of Jesus in court

Point: he was hoping to get a fair hearing

He agreed to debate providing he had freedom of speech

Free speech was granted, as long as nothing “disrespectful” was said. Agreed.

Only topics specifically relevant to Jews and Christians will be discussed.

Issues:

Has Messiah come?

Is Messiah Divine?

Which faith is correct?

Latin synopsis: goal: prove from the Bible / Talmud that Jesus is the Messiah

Approach:

1. Some Jewish sages said Messiah has already come
2. Bible / some Jewish tradition say Messiah will be divine
3. Messiah’s role is to atone for sins
4. Conclusion: no other Messianic candidate but Jesus

Day 1 of the Disputation

In attendance: King, his counselors, Dominicans and Friars and 2 debaters

Pablo *I will prove (from Talmud) that Messiah has already come*

RMBN

Wait, what? Talmud authors were followers of Jesus? They lived after Year 70, why were they still Jews?

Pablo

changed the subject, since RMBN was not supposed to ask questions
Genesis 49:10 – *sceptor shall not depart from Judah* (until Messiah comes)
Since there is now no Jewish ruler...Messiah *must* have come
(an argument borrowed from Justin Martyr)

RMBN

oh yeah! Prophecy does not say it will be an unbroken rulership (Babylon?)

Pablo

In Babylon - there were exilarchs

Pere of Genova (Franciscan Friar) – sided (surprisingly) with RMBN!

RMBN

See! He agrees with me.

Pere

Babylon was 70 years. Jews now in exile over 1,000 years – sceptor has passed.

Next topic

Pablo

“Messiah has already come” (used Lamentations Raba I.16, 51)

Messiah born the day second temple was destroyed

RMBN

That is not what is meant by this Rabbinic commentary

Pablo

You disagree with Jewish tradition!?

RMBN

Rabbinic literature not always literal (haggadot, midrash)

Debate ensued over years of Jesus / Temple, but King said issue not Jesus but ‘Messiah.’

Another observer mentioned Isaiah 53, RMBN responded it speaks of Israel.

Next argument:

Pablo

Sanhedrin 98a, Rabbi Jopshua ben Levi asked Elijah: “When will Messiah come?”

Reply: Ask him yourself....he is at the gate of Rome with the sick people.

Conclusion: Messiah has come.

RMBN

It says when *will* Messiah come – future tense.

King

If Messiah was born over a 1,000 years ago, how can he be alive to come in future?

RMBN

Adam, Methusalah?

King

And where is Messiah now?

RMBN

“This is irrelevant to the discussion, but perhaps you will find him at the gates of Toledo, if you send a runner to look.”

DAY TWO

RMBN

Review of previous day.

Regarding time of arrival of Messiah:

explains why he rejects (some rabbinic) literature as “literal”

Bible, Talmud, Midrash (“sermons,” not binding)

Back to real question: Difference between Christian and Jewish Messiah

RMBN

Messiah is not central to Judaism...but we disagree Messiah is divine

Jesus not Messiah = Psalm 72:8, “HIS RULE SHALL BE FROM SEA TO SEA”

“swords into plowshares?” (Isaiah 2:4)

Only human, or also divine?

Pablo

Yalkut Isaiah 476, quoting Isaiah 52:13, “my servant shall be exalted”

RMBN

Quotes verse (Talmud) praising righteous people, angels, Moses

Vicarious atonement?

Pablo

Midrash Pesqta Rabbati 36:1

[Messiah said to God: “I accept the sufferings...resurrection of the dead”]

RMBN

But Jesus did none of these things.

Only human: why / how did he pray to God?

Messiah: human or divine?

Pablo

Daniel 9:24

70 weeks, Messiah will: finish transgression, end of sin, forgive iniquity,
everlasting righteousness, seal vision and prophecy, anoint the holy place.

RMBN

But, Jesus did not do any of these things

[technical debate continued]

Day Three

Now in private room, not to large audience

Issue: Coming of the Messiah, but without details

RMBN's account ends

Fourth Day

Back at the Royal palace

RMBN

Said he had enough, wants to stop (at request of Jewish community)
But, agreed to continue

Issue: Again, Messiah human and divine?

RMBN

'At the beginning you said you will prove messiah has come, you didn't
(anything else is irrelevant)'
Forced to answer: Messiah is only human

Final Issues

Psalm 110, divinity of the Messiah
Messiah being the Spirit that hovers over the waters (Gen 1:2)

RMBN's final comments in his synopsis:

King said he never saw someone who was wrong argue his case so well

Although promised freedom of speech – this was only for the debate, not the book (synopsis)

King's decree:

Two years exile

Burn copies of RMBN's book

RMBN fled to Israel

Result: Nach had to flee to land of Israel

Nach established the Ramban synagogue in Jerusalem

King James ordered "censorship of the Talmud"

One of the people who worked on the censoring was:

Raymond Martini

Possibly from a Jewish background, definitely had extensive knowledge of Jewish literature

13th century Dominican theologian,

Concluded that Talmud is not that bad...and even uphold Christian truth

Among other works, he wrote *Pugio Fidei* (*Daggers of Faith*)

Tortosa (Spain), 1413

Disputation called by Pope Benedict the XIII in 1413

Invited [?] Jewish community “for the salvation of your souls” and so “the shadows of Jewish superstition be dissipated.”

Jeranimo de Santa Fe

(Jewish “convert,” Talmudic scholar, Jewish polemicist)

Vs

Jonah de Maestre.....and other Jewish scholars

(grandson of Nachmanides)

Debate lasted more than a year, Latin and Hebrew summaries exist.

“converts” as a result: Alfonso de Santangel of Calatayud, and Alluf family, many others,

Result: 1415 Pope gave permission to turn synagogue into Church

By 1414 hundreds of Jews converted

(note: “numerous rabbis converted, but not one philosopher”)

Post Disputation:

Johannes Pfefferkorn (1469 – 1521)

Jewish “convert” who became German Catholic theologian

Dominican

Preached against the Jews, destroyed copies of Talmud

Wrote against Jews

- Jews should give up usury
- Jews should attend Christian sermons
- “do away with” the Talmud

-

Elsewhere:

- Spoke against persecution of the Jews
- Defended Jews against charges of blood Libel
- Claimed to be a friend (of Jews), wanted to [share] with them

3 obstacles to Jewish “Conversion” :

- Usury
- Not compelled to attend Christian Churches to hear
- Talmud

Because of lack of response, he began to write more strongly against them

- Said Jews think it is good to mock / kill Christians
- Therefore, duty of Christians to expel them from their lands
- Jewish children should be taken from parents, educated by Catholics
- “who afflicts Jews, doing will of God”
- Suggested confiscating, burning copies of Talmud

Led to pamphlet war between Pfefferkorn and (Christian) Johannes Reuchlin

Spanish Inquisition

900 – 1200 Golden Age for Jews under Islam – literature, arts, etc

1478 Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain (with permission from Pope Sixtus VI)

began inquisition:

questioning, imprisonment, torture, death (“relaxation”), 400 burned alive in Seville alone, Castilian Andalusia: 2,000 burned alive, all for “heresy”

Purpose:

1. examine the 'orthodoxy' of converted Muslims and Jews
2. keep Jewish Christians from practicing any parts of Judaism

Conversos – Jewish Converts

Moranos (“pigs”) - Jews who 'converted' but secretly lived as Jews

Torquemada became “grand inquisitor”

1492

decree to Jews: convert or leave

40,000 Jews 'converted' to avoid death

100,000 Jews exiled (see Jeremiah 52:28-30)

Jews who fled the Spanish Inquisition:

“Sephardic Jews,”

Middle East, North Africa, Mediterranean, the new world

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 6

Reformation and Pre-Modernity

Middle Ages

500 – 1500

After the Middle Ages

1492

The New World

USA – post Medieval, without baggage of European Christendom

First Jews – Sephardic, congregation Shearith (Remnant) Israel, 1654

The American Experiment: Enlightenment rationalism / Free church

1400s – 1500s

Renaissance

Humanism (but not yet atheism)

Art: Michaelangelo / DaVinci

Science: Copernicus / Galileo

1454

Printing Press

Gutenberg's Bible

Jewish printing:

(Rashi's commentary, first complete printed Talmud: 1520-23)

Christian Hebraists

Roots in medieval Europe

Renaissance: interest in classics, also OT

Felix Pratensis

Sephardic Jew, became Catholic.

Along with Christian Hebraist, Daniel Blomberg, published:
“The Rabbinic Bible”

Jacob ben Chaim (originally known as Jacob ibn Adonijah)

Edited second edition of the Rabbinic Bible

Edited the *Textus Receptus* - the basis of the (OT) King James Bible.

Immanuel Tremellius (1510 – 1580)

translator and scholar, from Italy

Born Jewish – became Catholic, then a Calvinist

Professor of Hebrew, University of Strasberg, Cambridge, Heidelberg

Most noted for: translating OT to Latin, Aramaic and Syriac grammar

Christian Hebraist movement birthed another movement:

British Restorationist Movement (Later to become **Christian Zionism**)

Thomas Brightman, *Shall They Return to Jerusalem Again?* (1615)

Henry Finch, *The World's Great Restoration* (1621)

Protestant Reformation

Authority:

Catholicism: Bible, Tradition, Popes

Judaism: OT, Oral Law...ultimately: the rabbi

Erasmus of Rotterdam (AD 1467–1536)

“Be either straight Jews, renouncing Christ, or straight Christians, who reject Judaism.”

He had an assistant who was a Jewish believer, **Mattias Adrian**, who was a professor of Hebrew at the *Collegium Trilingue*.

Erasmus and Luther debated on the will (does man have free will?)

1517 **Martin Luther**, 95 theses

Authority: scripture alone

Salvation: (by grace) through faith alone

Catholic vs Protestant wars – Jews were now not the only ‘heretics’

Luther and the Jews

Luther began friendly toward Jews

1523 *That Jesus was born a Jew*

Our fools, the popes, bishops, sophists and monks, these coarse blockheads, dealt with the Jews in such a manner that any Christian would have preferred to be a Jew. Indeed had I been a Jew and had I seen such idiots and dunderheads expound Christianity, I should rather have become a hog than a Christian.

But:

1542 *On The Jews and Their Lies* (65,000 words)

He wrote:

“They are full of the devil’s feces, which they wallow in like swine.”

They are our (Germany’s) *“plague, pestilence, misfortune.”*
Their schools and synagogues should be burned to the ground.

Reason for burning synagogues: *“This is to be done in honor of our Lord and 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.”* (Luther, The Christian in Society IV, Vol 47 of Luther’s Works, 268-293)

Their houses should be “razed and destroyed.”

They should be denied safe passage on the highways.

They should be forbidden to teach on pain of “loss of life and limb.”

Their gold and silver should be taken from them.

They should be subject to harsh labor.

[Hitler specifically cited Luther’s words]

Two other works by Luther:

On the Ineffable Name / On the Lineage of Christ

- Further Equates Jews with the Devil, etc

Q: “Where do the Jews get their wisdom?”

A: ...from the back of a pig

Juden sow

“Jew Pig”

Sculpture on wall of his home church in Wittenberg

(a pig nursing both piglets and ‘Jews’ [beards, hats etc] studying Talmud)

- He used the name of God (Gematria) to deduce this
- Jesus is Messiah, Jews are wrong, must be kept away from Christians

[Today, statue remains – 30 more in Germany and elsewhere,

Ongoing court cases to remove them]

Luther's views:	Aboration or implicit? worse over time? Augustinian. (also spoke harshly against Muslims, Turks, heretics) Justifications: Health problems, difficult circumstances? [deathbed conversion – back to Catholicism / from anti Jewish views? No, Final sermon was still anti – Jewish]. Luther had limited personal knowledge of Jews Heard about Jews from Jewish “Converts” (Margharita and Bernhard)
1500s	Anabaptists (baptism for believers – not infants) Hans Denck preached throughout Germany to Jewish people – arguably the earliest (movement) which advocated preaching the gospel in a loving way.
1500s	Isaac Troki (Karaite) wrote <i>Faith Strengthened</i> First “anti-missionary” book
1515 – 1582	Teresa of Avila (counter reformation) Grandfather convert, condemned by Spanish Inquisition Extremely mystical, wrote books Pope Greg XV, made her first female “doctor of the Church” Influence on Edith Stein
1666	Shabtai Zvi claimed to be the Messiah
1600s	Baruch Spinoza “First Jew to leave Judaism but not become anything else”

Meanwhile, in America.....

Cotton Mather (1663 – 1728)

New England Puritan

Youngest person ever admitted to Harvard (age 12)

Pastor in Boston

Wrote evangelistic works, also to Jews

Evidence that 2 Jewish people (both “Simon”) became believers

Also influenced:

Judah Monis

1683 – 1764

(born in Venice?)

Scholar, rabbi (in Jamaica)

Graduated from Harvard

Wrote first Hebrew grammar book in US (first to use Hebrew fonts)

Began to teach at Harvard.....became a believer in Jesus

Increase Mather (Cotton’s dad) wrote:

“There is no cause to fear that Mr. Monis will Renounce his Christianity, since he did embrace it Voluntarily and Gradually, and with much Consideration, and from Scriptures in the Old-Testament. GOD Grant that he (who is the first Jew that ever I knew Converted in New-England) may prove a Blessing unto many, and especially to some of his own Nation: Which is the Prayer and hearty Desire of, Increase Mather.”

Monis’ epitaph on his tombstone reads:

RESURGAM

Here lies buried the Remains of RABBI
 IUDAH MONIS, M.A. late HEBREW
 Instructor at HARVARD College in
 Cambridge in which Office He continued 40
 Years. He was by Birth and Religion a jew but
 embrac'd the Christian Faith & was publickly
 baptiz'd at Cambridge AD 1722 and
 departed this Life April 25, 1764, Aged
 81 years 2 months and 21 days
 A native branch of Jacob see!
 Which, once from off its olive brok,
 Regrafted, from the living tree Rom. XI. 17-24.
 Of the reviving sap partook
 From teeming Zion's fertile womb, Isai. LXVI. 8.
 As dewy drops in early morn, Psal. CX. 3.
 Or rising bodies from the tomb, Iohn V. 28, 29
 At once be Isr'els nation born! Isai. LXVI. 8.

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 7

Enlightenment / Rise of Modern Jewish Missions

Enlightenment:

Rationalism, humanism, skepticism

1656	Cromwell allows Jews back into England
1776	USA – “ <i>All men are created equal</i> ”
1789	France – “ <i>Liberty, Equality, Fraternity</i> ”
1804	Emancipation , Napoleon grants freedom to Jews in France Jews became “a nation within a nation”

Changes to Judaism and Christianity:

Late 1700s

Skepticism: David Hume

Moses Mendelsohn

Haskallah:

Rationalism, modernity

revival of spoken Hebrew (over Yiddish)

Jewish nationalism

Universities

1800s

Reform Judaism

Modernization of Judaism

Liberal Protestantism

Humanistic view of scripture

Western Europe is Enlightened

Russia still in the dark ages (1882, political Zionism)

Jewish Missions

USA

1819

American Missionaries sent to (Ottoman Empire) Israel

Levi Parsons and Pliny Fisk

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

(Second Great awakening, missionary fervor)

Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, gave them recommendations!

Parsons arrived in Jaffa, January 1821 - distributed Bibles

Briefly in Jerusalem, but left.....they died soon afterwards

But...other missionaries (William Goodell and Isaac Bird) soon followed

“Hebrew Christians” in Europe:

1809

London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews

Joseph Samuel Frey (1771–1850)

(Later: “London Jews’ Society”)

[William Wilberforce was an early enthusiast]

1871

Der Evangelisch-Lutherische Zentralverein

Franz Delitzch (Christian OT scholar, NT in modern Hebrew)

1876 Mildmay Mission to the Jews
John Wilkinson

1891 Hebrew Christian Testimony
David Baron (1857 – 1926)

In the USA:

1887 Chicago Hebrew Mission
(AMF / Life in Messiah)
William E. Blackstone

1895 American Board of Missions to the Jews [Now, Chosen People Ministries]
Joseph Hoffman Cohen

Individuals

Michael Solomon Alexander (1799 – 1845)

Prussia, later London
Orthodox background
Received tract from London Jews' Society
First Protestant Bishop in Middle East (Jerusalem)
(Archbishop of Canterbury consecrated him)
Jerusalem: training center, hospital
CMJ

Benjamin Disraeli (1804 – 1881)

Family originally from Spain
Prime Minister of England, 1868, 1874-80
“Earl of Beaconsfield”

Christian Ginsberg (1821 – 1914)
Warsaw Poland....London
Missionary with the London Society....
Became leading scholar of the Masoretic Texts

Felix Mendelsohn (1809 -1847)

Grandson of Moses Mendelsohn !
Composer - Revitalized Handel and Bach
(*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*)

Alfred Edersheim (1825 – 1889)

Born in Vienna
Became professor at Oxford University
Many books, most notably:
The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah

Joseph Schereschewsky (1831 – 1895)

Russian Lithuania
Studied many languages
Became a believer in Jesus, went to New York
China – translated Bible and prayer book to Mandarin

Bishop of Shanghai

Joseph Rabinowitz (1837 – 1899)

Chassidic family in Russia

Went to Jerusalem, became believer in Jesus

Kishenov – “The Rabinowitz Movement”

Also called: *Israelites of the New Covenant*

(in touch with Hebrew Christians)

“Parable of the Lost wheel”

Forerunner of Messianic Synagogues?

Modern Jewish Missions

Late 60s / early 70s revival: Jesus people, hippies

1967 “summer of love” in SF / Six Day War

1973 *Jews for Jesus*, Moishe Rosen
 “Anti-missionaries”

Congregational Movement

1970s

Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations

Messianic Jewish Alliance of America

(British Messianic Jewish Alliance, etc)

History of Jewish Believers in Jesus

Class 8

Theological Issues

Restoration: God's Plan for Israel (the People and the Land)

People "All Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26)

Land:

Matt 23:39

"For I say to you, from now on you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke 21:24

"Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Restoration of the Jewish People:

(citations from: Micahel Vlach, *Has the Church Replaced Israel*)

Tertulian (155-230)

"It will be fitting for the Christian to rejoice, and not to grieve, at the restoration of Israel, if it be true (and it is), that the whole of our hope is intimately united with the remaining expectation of Israel."

John Chrysostom (349-407)

On Romans 11:26: "If then this has been promised, but has never yet happened in their case, not have they ever enjoyed the remission of sins by baptism, certainly it will come to pass."

Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274)

On Romans 11: “...after the conversion of the pagans, all Israel will be saved.”

Increase Mather (1639 – 1723)

“That there shall be a general conversion of the tribes of Israel, is a truth which in some measure hath been known and believed in all ages of the church of God, since the Apostles days.”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)

“The Jews in all of their dispersions shall cast away their old infidelity, and shall have their hearts wonderfully changed , and abhor themselves for their past un-belief and obstinacy. They shall flow together to the blessed Jesus, penitently, humbly and joyfully owning Him as their glorious King and only Savior, and shall with all their hearts, as one heart and voice , declare His praise unto other nations...Nothing is more certainly foretold than this national conversion of the Jews in Romans 11.”

Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)

“I think we do not attach sufficient importance to the restoration of the Jews. We do not think enough of it. But certainly, if there is anything promised in the Bible it is this.”

Restoration of the Jewish people to the Land:

19th Century: Christian Restorationism / Dispensationalism / Zionism

Charles Spurgeon (19th C)

“We look forward, then, for these two things. I am not going to theorize upon which will come first – whether they shall be restored first, and converted afterwards – or converted first and then restored. They are to be restored and they are to be converted, too.”

[sermon, June 1864, The British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, Pulpit Volume 10)

Ezekiel 36, 37, 38

Herman Melville (1819 – 1891)

(“Clarel: A Poem and pilgrimage in the Holy Land”)

“..the Hebrew seers announce in time the return of Judah to her prime;

Some Christians deemed it then at hand

Here was an object. Up and On.

With seed and tillage help renew – Help reinstate the holy Land”

1839 **Robert Murray McCheyne and Andrew Bonar**

Church of Scotland

Mission trip to the “Jews of Palestine”

1844 book documented this trip:

The Land of Israel According to the Covenant with Abraham,

with Isaac, and with Jacob (by Alexander Keith)

1917 **Balfour Declaration**

“His majesty’s government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”

The Jewish Jesus

The Christian Quest:

Early Church, Middle Ages

19 th century	(First) "Quest for the Historical Jesus"
Early 20 th century	"No quest" era
1930s	Nazi Theology
1950s	(Second / New) Quest
1970s-80s	Third Quest

The Jewish Quest

Jewish "Reclamation" of Jesus

300-700	<u>Toldot Yeshu</u> / Talmud:	polemical, evil
12 th C	Maimonides	
	Jesus is possibly part of God's plan for Gentiles	

"The words of Jesus and of [Mohamed] who came after him were only to prepare the way for the Messiah and to prepare the whole world to serve the Lord in unison" [Zephania 3:9]
(Mishneh Torah Hil.Melakim 11:4)

1600s	Spinoza (all miracles are "mere absurdity")
1800	<i>Haskalah, Reform movement</i>
1860s	Heinrich Gratz, <i>History of the Jews</i>
1909	Claude Montefiore

1922	Joseph Klausner
1969	David Flusser
1973	Geza Vermes
1978	Pinchas Lapide
2000 – present	JANT, Benjamin D. Sommer, Daniel Boyarin

20th Century Issues in Jewish-Christian Relations

1939 – 1945	World War II / Holocaust (see class 9)
1948	Israel becomes a nation (see class 10)
	“After Auschwitz Theology”
1962 – 65	Vatican II (document: “In Our Time”)
	Two Covenant Theology (“Jews have their own covenant”)
	Franz Rosenzweig (book: <i>Star of Redemption</i>)
	Pluralism
1970s	Messianic Jewish explosion (How Jewish Can we be?)
1990s	Russian Jewish Revival
	Noted Messianic Jews: Moishe Rosen, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Michael Brown

