

'So What's the Difference?' (Comparing Biblical Christianity with Other Religions) Session 3 – Judaism

Course theme memory verse: (*any good translation – memorize over next 3 weeks*)

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God but under law toward Christ) that I might win those who are without law; to the weak, I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake ..."

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Jewish people only accept the Old Testament, therefore a basic familiarity with passages from the OT that relate to Jesus as being the long-anticipated Messiah are important:

Isaiah 53 (used in Acts 8:30-35),

Psalm 22:1, 16-18 (true of Messiah, not David),

Micah 5:2 (birthplace of Messiah).

Jewish people as a whole are in temporary spiritual darkness that Jesus Christ was/is their Messiah (Romans 11:25). But individually, God does call many of them to receive the Savior (the disciples, the early church, and many during the Church Age - Romans 10:9-13). Generally, when a Jewish person receives Jesus as Messiah Savior ('Yesuah, ha Meshiah') they face intense rejection and ostracism from family and the Jewish community – thus the need for a good Christian church home to be a part of.

Discussion Group Questions:

- Even if you never get to witness to a Jewish person, we Christians should pray for them and see them as the original *covenant people of God*. We should pray for them and the nation of Israel (**Romans 10:1-4**), support and contribute to ministries trying to reach Jewish people (**Romans 10:14-17**) and look forward to their eventual prophetic restoration (**Romans 11:28-29**).
 - How does seeing Jewish people as our ancient spiritual ancestors (**Romans 9:1-5**) help you feel caring and compassionate about them?
- When Jewish people come to faith in Jesus as Savior, Messiah and Lord, they call themselves '**completed Jews**'.
 - Discuss how biblical Christianity is the fulfillment of biblical Judaism.
- Jewish people tend to *stick to themselves* and not mix in with other cultures or religious groups, so they are particularly difficult to reach with the gospel. Throughout the Church Age they have been hated (anti-semitism) and killed, so many have a bit of a *chip on their shoulder*.
 - Knowing this, what is the best way to try to share the gospel with a Jewish person?
 - If you do get a hostile reaction, how should you respond in order to keep the door of witness open to them?