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MINISTRIES

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Why Do Most Jews Reject Jesus?

As followers of Jesus, his Hebrew name being Yeshua, it’s often a wonder why it is that most Jews today do not accept Yeshua as the Messiah. After all, Jews and Christians share the same Scriptures—the *TANAKH*, or the Old Testament. And since the *Brit Hadashah*—that is, the New Testament—clearly teaches that this person named Yeshua is the anticipated Messiah talked about in the *TANAKH*, shouldn’t we therefore expect the Jewish people to have received Him? Furthermore, since most Jews haven’t received Him, does that somehow call into question the *Brit Hadashah*’s claims about Yeshua?

While on the surface this might seem like a reasonable concern and perhaps cause for second-guessing our faith in Messiah Yeshua, we have to keep in mind that many Jews, like many non-Jews, are not especially religious and therefore have not truly considered this issue. Many Jews, even religious Jews, simply have not thoroughly tested the claims of the *Brit Chadashah* in light of Messianic Prophecy in the *TANAKH*. Therefore, we cannot use a general Jewish rejection of Yeshua as a basis for doubting Yeshua as Messiah.

Much in the same way, we cannot use a general Christian rejection of the command to keep the Sabbath as basis for doubting the biblical teaching regarding the Sabbath. If you’ve followed our ministry for long, you know that we differ significantly with mainstream Christian teaching as it concerns some commandments in the Torah. For example, see our teaching [The Sabbath Day](#) and our [Pauline Paradox Series](#).

Ultimately—whether testing a claim from Christianity or Judaism—Scripture must be the final authority, not the majority.

That leads into one of the main reasons why most Jews reject Yeshua: Christianity

Mainstream Christian teaching has distorted Yeshua and His message in some significant ways so that He has become completely foreign to the Jewish people and their Scriptures. Why would a Jew receive Yeshua as the fulfillment of the *TANAKH* when mainstream Christianity’s presentation of Yeshua shows Him to be in conflict with the *TANAKH*? So the problem is not with Yeshua, but with mainstream Christianity’s misrepresentation of Yeshua.

We unpack this much further in our teaching, [The Deuteronomy 13 Test](#), but to give one example: One of the Jewish expectations of the Messiah is that He will lead the people of God into Torah observance. Yet mainstream Christianity teaches that Jesus contradicted the Torah and taught that some of its commands are no longer applicable. Do you see the conflict?

When we simply look at Scripture, this is easily resolved. In Matthew 5:17-19, we see that Yeshua is in perfect harmony with the *TANAKH* and that He affirms the ongoing validity of the Torah:

Matthew 5:17-19

“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 truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We unpack this passage further in our teaching, **Heaven and Earth and the Law of God**, but just looking at the plain text we can determine a few things.

- 1) Yeshua didn't even want people to think that He was against the Torah in any way or that He came to destroy it—that is, render it obsolete.
- 2) Yeshua said that His followers will continue to “do” and “teach” even the least of the commandments in the Torah
- 3) Not even the smallest part of the Torah will pass away until heaven and earth pass away and all is fulfilled (which, according to some scholars, is a reference to the end of our age)

So according to the teaching of the *Brit Hadashah*, Yeshua actually met the Jewish expectation that Messiah would lead the people into Torah Observance. It wasn't until much later, after the time of Yeshua and the apostles, that Christians began to neglect some parts of the Torah and teach that commands like the Sabbath are no longer applicable.

So what can we do to reach out to the Jewish people with the truth of their Messiah? The first step, we think, is to actually do what Yeshua said to do—that is, do and teach the Torah. Through our obedience to His teachings in the *Brit Hadashah*, we can paint a clear picture of who Yeshua really is to our Jewish brothers, rather than the distorted picture that they're used to.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you; and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

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