



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Salvation and the Jews

Believing something is true and it actually being true are two different things. Wanting something to be true is the same. **We can want, or believe something to be true, but it may not be.** Sometimes we believe things because we choose to. Other times we believe things out of ignorance. Whether we choose to believe something or believe it out of ignorance, however, is not the real issue. The real issue is, “What is true?” And, are we willing to accept it?

There is a lot of confusion within Christian circles and among Christians in general regarding the position of the Jewish people before God apart from Jesus. There are those who believe that Jewish people, being “God’s Chosen People” have a special in with God and can go to heaven because of their specialness. There are others who believe that because of the Abrahamic covenant Jewish people have a relationship with God apart from Jesus. Still others read the Apostle Paul’s words in Romans chapter 11 where he says, “...all Israel will be saved” and see a future time when all Jewish people will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus or get a second chance after they die.

The issue has been raised to me several times recently so I thought it appropriate to answer the questions and alleviate any misunderstandings.

The truth of Jesus alone, the Gospel, is central to our faith as believers.



The Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, foretold of One who would come as the Anointed One to carry on Himself the sins of humanity (Isaiah 53). He was prophesied to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), that He would be crucified (Psalm 22), that none of His bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20), and that He would rise from the dead (Isaiah 53). These are only a few of the prophecies which Jesus fulfilled.

When Jesus walked on this earth most of His time was spent ministering to His Jewish people and teaching His disciples. In Matthew 15:24 He tells the woman that He was sent “only to the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel”. And in Matthew 10:5 He sent His disciples out telling them “not to go in the way of the Gentiles...”. All of His miracles were performed in order to give validity to His office...the Mes-

siah, the One sent by the Father, to the Jewish people first, the Savior of the world. **There is no question that the bulk, if not all, of Jesus’ earthly ministry was spent amongst His own people proclaiming His truth to the Jewish community first.** He wept over Jerusalem.

During the Passover meal the night before His death, Jesus not only proclaimed His messiahship, but He also instructed His disciples regarding His death and departure. He told them who He was.

Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’” John 14:5-7

Jesus made it clear to His disciples that in order to know God the Father one must know the Son!

Later on in the New Testament we read the account of Peter before the Sanhedrin. **Peter and John had been filled with the Spirit at the Festival of Shavuot (Pentecost), healed a blind man at the entrance to the Temple, and gathered quite a following. In fact, several thousand Jewish people accepted Jesus that day!** Due to the disturbance they were arrested by the Jewish leaders for teaching and healing in

the name of Jesus. Then they were brought before the Jewish Supreme Court of their day...the Sanhedrin.

Peter stood up before the Sanhedrin and boldly proclaimed his faith and allegiance to Jesus, his Messiah. With courage, confidence, and conviction, he stood in front of those who held his life in their hands and declared the truth of Messiah.

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

There is not any wiggle room in this statement. **Peter boldly tells the Jewish Supreme Court of his day that they cannot go to heaven or be saved except through the name of Jesus!**

Very few people consider the historical context of the words of Jesus and the words of Peter. Think about it. When Jesus said that He is the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but through Him, were there any non-Jewish people there to hear Him? Certainly not. **He was speaking to His Jewish disciples at a private Passover meal, His Last Supper.**

When Peter said that there is no other name by which we must be saved, were there any non-Jewish people there to hear his words? Certainly not. **He was speaking to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court.**

The New Testament was written in a Jewish context. The message of salvation was given to the Jewish people first. The struggle was an internal struggle within Judaism between Jesus and the rabbis of His day. **These truths in no way lessens the message to the Gentiles and to the world. It is a mere historical and Biblical fact.**



Jewish people, like all people, must know Jesus to go to heaven.

These are not easy words to hear. Nor is the message comfortable. There are those who believe that Jewish people “get in” because they are the Jewish people.

They are God’s Chosen People...but chosen for what? **Their chosenness does not include with it eternal salvation.** They were chosen to be God’s instruments through which His truth was proclaimed in the Old Testament; and they still continue in their chosenness as He promised to be glorified through the Jewish people and Israel as we get closer to the culmination of His redemptive plan for the world.

My people are not “saved” through the covenant God made with Abraham. The covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 17 did not include salvation. It included His blessing on the descendents and the promise that the nations would be blessed through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The ultimate fulfillment of this

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blessing came in the person of Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. A Jew.

Jewish people do not get a second chance at heaven. In the book of Hebrews we are told that it is appointed for a man to die once, and then comes the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). **If Jewish people got a second chance then why shouldn't everyone get a second chance? If everyone got a second chance, why would anyone refuse it?**

One day “all Israel will be saved”. Those words do not reflect a present reality, or a universal salvation of Jewish people past, present and future. The Apostle Paul is looking ahead, as Zechariah did, to the time when Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom. After the world attacks Jerusalem and the great battle is waged over the City of David, Jesus will return. On that day, Zechariah says, *“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”* Zech. 12:10

Until that day we say, as Paul said, *“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they might be saved.”* Romans 10:1

My people need Jesus.

Thank You!

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Rejoicing in Him,


 Murray Tillés
 Light of Messiah Ministries