

## Jesus Was Not A Christian He Was Jewish

'To us a Child is born. To us a Son is given and the government will be on His shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6). 'A Shoot will come out of the stock (bloodline) of Jesse and a Branch (a Nazarene) out of his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of God will rest on Him and the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord' (Isaiah 11:1 & 2).

The above verses are translated from the Hebrew/Jewish Bible, revealing to the world our Messiah would be born to us from God's chosen people, the Jewish people. There are hundreds of ancient prophecies giving us all the information we need to know and understand, our Messiah Jesus (Hebrew name, Yeshua meaning, Yah is Salvation) was born on earth as a Jewish male. The Bible said He would be born in Bethlehem in Israel. 'You Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small among the clans of Judah, out of you One will come forth to Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel' (Micah 5:2). 'When Jesus/Yeshua was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He Who is born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod heard it he was troubled ... Gathering together the chief priests and scribes of the Jewish people, he asked them where the Messiah would be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for it is written through the prophet, 'You Bethlehem, land of Judah are in no way least among the princes of Judah for out of you will come forth a Governor Who will shepherd My people, Israel.'" Herod called the wise men and learned from them exactly what time the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child. When you have found Him bring me word so I may come and worship Him." ... They went their way and behold, the star they saw in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. They went into the house and saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Opening their treasures they offered to Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh' (Matthew 2:1 to 11). These gifts made Mary and Joseph very wealthy indeed. The 'star' the wise men saw was a supernatural event created by God and cannot be understood or explained with our earthly knowledge. God is able to work way beyond our finite reality. God would only have worked the supernatural miracles regarding the birth of our Messiah with His chosen people, living in God's chosen land, Israel. That is why God chose the Jewish people and the Land of Israel in the first place ... to bring forth our Jewish Messiah, born in the holy land.

Jesus was never a 'Christian' He was an orthodox Jewish man. He was not openly revealed as being the Son of God until He started His ministry (John 1:31) at about thirty years old (Luke 3:23). 'Give thanks to the Father Who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love in Whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins, Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation ... He is the Head of the Body (of believers), Head of the assembly (church), Who is the beginning the Firstborn from the dead (after His resurrection) so in all things He might have the pre-eminence (excelling above all others) ... having made peace through the blood of His cross' (Colossians 1:12 to 15, 18 & 20).

Jesus was called a 'Nazarene' which means 'Branch'. He was born into the Jewish bloodline of Jesse, the father of King David and just fourteen generations from Abraham the Hebrew (Genesis 14:13; Isaiah 11:1; Matthew 1:17; Luke 3:31 to 34). "Behold, the days will come," says God, "When I will raise to David a righteous Branch, and He will (one day) reign as King ... At that time, I will cause a Branch of Righteousness to grow up to David" (Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15). 'They (Joseph, Mary and Jesus) lived in a city called Nazareth so it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophets, "He will be called a Nazarene," meaning 'Branch' (Matthew 2:23). God chose only the Jewish nation to usher in our Messiah. Salvation comes only from the Jews (John 4:22) and Israel, from no one and nowhere else (Romans 3:2). Jesus was and still is the Son of God. The Lord God prophetically acknowledged Jesus as His Son long before Jesus came to earth. 'Yahweh said to Me, "You (Jesus) are My Son. Today I have begotten You"' (Psalm 2:7). 'He (Jesus) will call to Me, "You are My Father, My God and the Rock of My Salvation!" I (God) will appoint Him (Jesus) My Firstborn' (Psalm 89:26 & 27). 'God said, "You are My Son. Today I have begotten You," and, "I will be to Him a Father and He will be to Me a Son" (Hebrews 1:5). 'Jesus did not glorify Himself to be made a high priest, but it was God Who said to Him, "You are My Son. Today I have begotten You" (Hebrews 5:5). The close relationship Jesus had with God the Father started in childhood. Jesus knew He was the Messiah from a young age. At just twelve years old Jesus said He had to be in His Father's house (Luke 2:42 & 49). About forty times Jesus used the words, "My Father," or, "The Father," when He referred to God.

The lineage of Jesus shows His Jewishness and His real name 'Yeshua' is fully Hebrew. Mary (in Hebrew, Miriam), the mother of Jesus and daughter of Heli was born to both the priestly tribe of Levi and royal tribe of Judah (Luke 1:5; 3:23 to 33). Joseph, son of a different Jacob (Matthew 1:16) was from the tribe of Judah and was a descendent of David (Matthew 1:2, 3, 16 & 20). They were a family who obeyed the Laws of

Moses (Luke 2:27). Every year the family attended Passover in Jerusalem according to the instructions given to the Jewish people via Moses (Exodus 12:14; Luke 2:41). As an adult, Jesus enjoyed Passover in Jerusalem. 'The Passover of the Jews was at hand so Jesus went up to Jerusalem' (John 2:13). 'There was a feast of the Jews so Jesus went up to Jerusalem' (John 5:1). 'Passover, the feast of the Jews was at hand' (John 6:4). It was at Passover when a male lamb without blemish was sacrificed (Exodus 12:3 to 5) as a forerunner to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Baptist John declared Jesus to be the sacrificial Lamb of God. 'John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world"' (John 1:29 & 36). Only Jewish people obey the Laws of Moses. Only Jewish people celebrate Passover. Only Jewish people worshipped in the Temple and synagogues. Only Jewish people celebrate their holy feasts, holidays and observe the Hebrew calendar given to them by God Himself after the Exodus from Egypt and it is still used in Israel today. Only Jewish people have their native language of Hebrew, spoken by Hebrews for thousands of years. 'Jesus taught these things (the Gospel) and many believed in Him. Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you remain in My Word you are truly My disciples. You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free"' (John 8:30 to 32). 'Many of the Jews who came to Mary (sister of Martha and Lazarus) and saw what Jesus did (He had raised Lazarus from the dead) believed in Him ... A large crowd of Jews learned He was there and they came, not for Jesus' sake only but so they might see Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead ... and because of Lazarus many Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude came to the feast. When they heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord the King of Israel"' (John 11:45; 12:9 to 13).

There is absolutely no doubt Jesus was Jewish. He spoke Hebrew but was also able to speak Aramaic, Latin and Greek, the languages spoken in Israel when Jesus was on earth (John 19:20) but Hebrew was His first and main language. When He was on the cross suffering pure agony He cried out in Hebrew, "El i, El i, I Me, azbth ni," Or, "El of Me, El of Me, for what You forsook Me?" That is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46). Crying out in such an extreme situation proves Hebrew was Jesus' main spoken language. Jesus was never called 'Christ' when He was on earth, He was called Messiah. 'Christ' was a title given to Him by Greek speaking pagan Gentiles and continued by Bible translators who then erroneously wrote it into the Gospels. The Hebrew equivalent is Anointed One (Psalm 89:51; Daniel 9:25 & 26). Jewish people and Christians are eagerly waiting for our Messiah to come. The topic of the Messiah has caused some contention between Jews and Christians. Genuine Christians know without any doubt, Jesus our Messiah, or in Hebrew, Yeshua HaMashiach is the Messiah Who was to come and had hundreds of prophecies written about Him. He is the only begotten Son of God. However, some Jewish people are just as adamant Jesus is not the Messiah. The word, 'Messiah' or Mashiach means 'Anointed One'. Mashiach comes from the Hebrew root word, 'mashach' which means, 'to anoint with oil'. Messiah is not our Saviour's name, it is His title. His name would have been Yeshua Ben Joseph, or Jesus Son of Joseph. "Is this Jesus, Son of Joseph, Whose father and mother we know?" (John 6:42). When we use His name with His title we are affirming our faith by saying, Jesus our Anointed One, or Yeshua HaMashiach.

Israel was where Jesus was born, lived, conducted His ministry, died, was resurrected and where He founded the 'Way' which became the Assemblies and later became the church. We must keep in mind when reading the New Testament, the Epistles preserve the nuances, words, parables, examples and ideas, all originally spoken in Hebrew within the culture and laws of the Jewish people. Hidden within the written text of the entire Bible are words and concepts that are uniquely Hebraic. When these words were spoken in Hebrew during the first century they were not hidden but were clearly expressed by the writers. If we want to know more about Jesus, His life, His ministry and His teachings, we need to learn more about the Hebrew language He spoke and the environment in which He lived. When we read the New Testament we must remember it was written entirely in the pure language of Hebrew and not in any other language because every other language is corrupted and God would never allow His holy Word, statutes, oracles and ordinances to be written in a corrupted pagan language (Psalm 147:19 & 20; Daniel 2:44; Zephaniah 3:9). There were no assemblies or churches until after Jesus died. The early church was initially made up of mostly Jews so the Hebrew language was natural to them but in our modern world it seems very foreign because of anti-Semitic attitudes stating the New Testament was written in Greek, which only serves to diminish the depth of the Scriptures and the remarkable job the Jewish early church did to bring the Gospel to the entire Gentile earth, just as Jesus told them to do (Matthew 28:19 & 20; Mark 16:15). The purpose of Yeshua's first coming was to bring salvation to the earth for Jews first then Gentiles. Since the rule was 'Jews first' then it is natural it would have been the Jewish language first before any Gentile language. Jesus first came for the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24) before He told the disciples to go out into the entire Gentile world to take His salvation message. The purpose of His second coming will be to rule the earth from the holy city of Jerusalem.

Jesus is the most famous and influential person of all people who have ever lived on earth. The disciples and the followers of Jesus while He was on earth were at a great advantage. They saw Him face-to-face, heard His voice as He taught them, they ate with Him, walked with Him, prayed with Him and embraced Him. All Christians need to understand the absolute Jewishness of Jesus/Yeshua and not rely on Hellenistic attitudes and anti-Semitic teaching. Jesus was never a Christian. Our Saviour Jesus/Yeshua was born and lived as an Orthodox Jewish Man, spoke Hebrew and taught in Hebrew, was raised and lived fully within the Torah and all of the Laws of Moses, attended Synagogues and preached in them, He honoured His Jewish parents, lived wholly within the Jewish culture, prayed to the Lord God regularly and died in Jerusalem. To accept Jesus as our Saviour, we need to embrace His Jewishness and not attempt to minimise it. Jesus had a close and loving relationship with God our Creator without any false religiosity, for which He rebuked the Pharisees. Jesus had a very strong identification with His blood family, the Jewish people. The restoration of Israel and Jerusalem as the capital is the fulfilment of promises made by God centuries ago to the Jewish people and what God wants to achieve on earth cannot be stopped by anyone. Jesus will return to Israel as King of all kings.

Christianity is not a religion of its own making, it is the extension of Judaism and Judaism is the foundation of Christianity. That is one reality all people need to accept. If an individual person is not linked with the Messianic redemption of Israel, that is Yeshua, and accepts Judaism as the original religious belief, that person will only know the incompleteness or a diminished personal salvation and weakened individual holiness, because Judaism affirms Christian beliefs. The redemption of Israel is God's will. Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is also God's will. If a Christian opposes God's will and stands against Israel, their walk with God, their salvation, their personal holiness is incomplete and questionable. Christianity is the daughter of Judaism. Without Judaism, Christianity could not exist. Without Christianity, Judaism existed and thrived for centuries. All Christians need to fully accept the spiritual roots of their salvation, which is Judaism. Christianity is not a religion of itself, it was borne out of the Laws of Moses and brought to light by Jesus' divine birth, ministry, death and divine resurrection.

Jesus did not directly use the words, "I AM the Messiah." What He did do was claim His holy anointing using other words. When Jesus declared, "I AM," He was rightfully claiming to be God on earth. It is the same phrase God used when He spoke to Moses. God said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell the Children of Israel this, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:13 & 14). Jesus stated, "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me" (John 14:6). Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman at the well, He was the Messiah (John 4:25 & 26). 'Andrew found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). Jesus did not correct Peter when he said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16). He did not correct John the Baptist when he proclaimed Him as the Lamb of God (John 1:29 & 36). Jesus did validate His identity using the Hebraic way, by His actions, His miracles, His speech, using Messianic quotes from the Bible and He referred to Himself as the, "Son of Man," which is a quote directly from the Bible. 'I (Daniel) saw in the night visions (dreams) and behold, there came with the clouds of the sky One like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days (God the Father and Creator) and they brought Him (Jesus) near before Him (God)' (Daniel 7:13). This reveals very strongly, the close relationship between Father and Son before Jesus had been revealed on earth. When Jesus used the title, 'Son of Man' He was proclaiming both His humanity and His Deity. A high priest asked Jesus directly if He was the Messiah the Son of The Blessed (God) to which Jesus replied, "I AM, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:61 & 62). When Jesus said, "I AM," He was claiming His Deity and when He said, "Son of Man," He was proving His humanity. "Thomas said, "My Lord and my God," when he spoke to Jesus after His resurrection (John 20:28). When Stephen was being stoned to death he also had a vision of the, 'Son of Man' standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). Every time Jesus used the phrase, 'Son of Man' He was making it very clear, He is the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of Man through His divine birth to Mary.

It is sad but the fact is for many Christians, the Jews and Judaism seem to be the last place to learn anything about Christianity and in their misguided eyes, Judaism and Christianity appear to be almost opposites. Most of the New Testament is taken from the Old Testament. For many Christians, even to suggest the New Testament was written in Hebrew and the fact, Jesus and all of the original apostles and disciples were Jewish is almost heresy. The fact is they were all Jewish and expanded Judaism into a belief Gentiles could accept then the translations were written. 'The Way' began in Israel the rightful home of the Jews. It was called 'The Way' after Jesus said, "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me." 'The Way' was the beginning of the 'Age of Grace' when righteousness could only be obtained by repentance, baptism and obedience to God's commandments. Righteousness could no longer be obtained by animal sacrifice because Jesus was the ultimate Sacrifice and the death of animals could not appease God. 'It is impossible for the blood of animals to take away sins ... You (God) had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin' (Hebrews 10:4 & 6). Jesus became the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of anyone who genuinely repents and is therefore forgiven (Revelation 5:6 & 22:3). Jesus is

the only Way to the Father and heaven. Jesus and the disciples all spoke Hebrew, they read and taught from the Hebrew Scriptures, observed the Jewish Laws of Moses, attended the Jewish Synagogues and the Temple and they taught people by using the teaching techniques of the Jewish leaders. Only the ancient Jewish prophets and the apostles of Jesus wrote the Bible. No Gentile wrote any of the Bible. God chose the Jewish people and only the Jewish people to bring the oracles of God to the world (Acts 7:38; Romans 3:2).

It is important for all Christians to recognise the importance of following our Jewish roots. Without Judaism there would be no Christianity. There was no Christianity before Jesus came. Exactly when did Christianity begin? Christianity as the new Messianic belief was started by Jesus on the Sunday evening after His miraculous resurrection. That was when He held the very first meeting with His disciples and Christianity grew from that initial night. 'When it was evening on the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled for fear of the (orthodox) Jews, Jesus/Yeshua came and stood in the midst of them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them (the nail injuries in) His hands and (the spear gash in) His side. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" (John 20:19 to 22). After that first night, the new group was called The Way and as the numbers grew it became known as The Assemblies. 'The Way' increased with the dedication of the Jewish disciples and early Jewish missionaries. The Lord's policy is always, Jewish people first then Gentiles. The first 'Assembly' was initially made up of Jewish believers. Gentiles listened to the preaching, attended synagogues and were converted from their paganism to the new belief to the point where entire cities were being converted, but this happened because of the Jewish preachers. They preached to Gentiles in the Jewish synagogues (Acts 13:5). 'When the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles asked for these words to be preached to them the next Sabbath ... The next Sabbath almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God ... The Lord commanded us saying, "I have set you as a light for the Gentiles so you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth." As the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the Word of God (the Hebrew Scriptures)' (Acts 13:42 to 48).

The Gentiles were 'grafted' into the 'holy vine' of salvation. We need to understand our Jewish roots because it is the roots that support the growth of the spiritual vine and the branches (Romans 11:16 & 17). Jesus said, "Remain in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine. You are the branches. Those who remain in Me and I in you will produce much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4 & 5). Failing to understand the depth of our Jewish roots means we cannot understand our Bibles correctly and that will cause us to misunderstand a lot of what Christianity is all about, which is, the sacrifice Jesus made by willingly shedding His blood on the wooden cross opening the Way for Gentiles to receive forgiveness, reconciling us with God our Creator so we can enter into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3 & 5). By rejecting Jewish people, Gentiles are rejecting the blood family of Jesus and that is unacceptable to Him (Matthew 25:40 & 45).

Many Christians reject their Jewish spiritual roots. In the early years of Christianity, every believer in Jesus was Jewish who shared the Gospel with Gentiles, allowing them into synagogues and teaching them. The Messianic Jewish missionaries continued to live as Jewish people had for centuries. The Jewish people did not become 'Christians' but remained Jewish as they preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. The new Christians did not have to become Jewish but they did have to observe four things. 'They must abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from eating animals that were strangled and from eating blood' (Acts 15:20). We can see by following the Scriptures, Jesus was Jewish, obeyed the Laws of Moses, read and taught from the holy Jewish Scriptures and practiced Judaism. His disciples were Jewish, obeyed the Laws of Moses and grew up with the Jewish Scriptures. Those same disciples then went on to preach to Gentiles, teaching from the same Scriptures, extending Judaism into the new belief later called Christianity. Abraham was a Hebrew man and Jesus Who was Jewish, was a direct descendent of Abraham. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, by faith we are adopted into the family of Abraham. 'As Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness, know therefore, those who are of faith (in Jesus) the same are children of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed." So those who are of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham' (Galatians 3:6 to 9).

Amen and God bless you.

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