



Why Don't the Jews Believe in Jesus?

“OK, so if Jesus was a Jew, how come Jewish people aren't Christians? I mean, didn't they have a front row seat to His life? Weren't they the ones that wrote the Scriptures and were God's chosen people?”

Christianity is Jewish! In fact, without Judaism, Christianity wouldn't exist. Exploring the Jewish faith will open a Christian's eyes to the faithfulness of God and fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy found in the person of Jesus Christ. Truth is that many Jews are coming to believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah! Others have not accepted Christ for a variety of reasons. Perhaps they have not been taught the truth, maybe they are stilled through pride, religious traditions and fear of what would happen to them if they do believe. Some are worried that when they become a Christian, they will have to give up their Jewishness. This is not true, in fact, believing Jews are called “completed” or Messianic Jews. Many Jews who do become believers in Jesus Christ are considered traitors and are kicked out of their families and forever seen as outcasts. The cost is often great for them but, for those who do believe, the blessings of being a believer far outweigh any persecution they might receive.

Tradition says, once a Jew always a Jew, but not all Jews in the United States are the same in the way they live out their faith. Orthodox Jews (20%) keep the dietary laws (keeping kosher) and believe the Torah (the first five books of the Bible written by Moses) and the Prophets are the Word of God. The Conservative Jews (35%) are more of an American development. They keep kosher but are not as strict in keeping laws as are the Orthodox Jews. Reformed Jews (35%) started in Europe as a result of Jews being persecuted. To avoid persecution, they became more like those who were persecuting them. Their theology is liberal. Reconstructionist Jews (<10%) are very American. Most observances are traditional and services will appear almost conservative, though their theology is reformed. They believe in keeping the Jewish people together. Non-observant Jews (<10%) don't belong to a synagogue. They may support Jewish social causes but they are not religious. It is common today for many Jews to be agnostics, but have a deep desire in maintaining Jewish culture.

The Old Testament records that God loved the Jews, His chosen people. In the Old Testament, God lived in their midst through the pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). Through His covenants, God promised to be faithful and to show loving compassion forever. In the New Testament, Jesus walked among the Jews and was one of their own. Yet, to the great sorrow of our Lord, many did not believe. Their eyes were, and still are, blinded to the truth and they are lost.

We, who have seen and believe the Good News of the gospel, must share God's love and compassion to the Jews. If given the opportunity to talk with a Jewish friend about Jesus, share with them the bibliographic and internal evidence tests for the reliability of the Scriptures. Many Jews have come to Christ by hearing about the prophecies of the coming Messiah! Pray that God might give you such an opportunity! Shalom.