

## Rediscovering Your Roots . . .

Since everyone wants to be fulfilled in life, why are so many people living unfulfilled? Many begin their search for fulfillment by discovering their roots—their heritage. And that is exactly what every Jewish person should do. . . . If you are Jewish, that should be your beginning point. Long ago, when the people of Israel were searching for direction, the God of Israel said,

*“Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah  
who bore you; for he was but one when  
I called him, that I might bless him  
and multiply him.”*  
(Isaiah 51:1–2)

**Q:** “Why are the Jewish people called the Chosen People?”

The Jewish people are called *chosen* because of their unique relationship with God. God chose to call one man, Abraham, and through Abraham comes the chosen nation of Israel.

*“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers . . . . Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”*  
(Deuteronomy 7:7–9)

**Q:** “Is the Jewish nation still important to God, even today?”

Absolutely! The Jewish apostle Paul, in speaking about the people of Israel, adds,

*“They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.”*  
(Romans 9:4)

# The Three Major Branches

## 1. Orthodox Judaism . . .

- Has a strict adherence to the Jewish laws, tradition, and liturgy
- Has primary emphasis on teachings from the Torah and the Talmud
- Has definite emphasis on the supernatural attributes of God
- Has almost all prayers chanted in Hebrew

## 2. Conservative Judaism . . .

- Has a balance between emphasizing the Law and living an ethical life
- Has less emphasis on the supernatural attributes of God
- Has the greatest variance from traditional to nontraditional within its own branch
- Has portions of the service read in the common vernacular

## 3. Reform Judaism . . .

- Has little adherence to tradition and liturgy
- Has minimum emphasis on teachings of the Torah
- Has primary emphasis on living according to ethics and self-realization
- Has synagogue services almost entirely in the common vernacular

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”*  
(Jeremiah 23:5)

## Have a Heart for All Jewish People

- They have a great zeal for God. (Romans 10:2)
- The Jewish heritage is their spiritual heritage. (Romans 9:4–5)
- Their right to the land of Israel was promised in Scripture. (Deuteronomy 30:3–5)
- Their rejection of Christ the Messiah was prophesied. (Romans 10:16)
- God has an everlasting love for Jewish people. (Jeremiah 31:3)
- God will turn their hearts toward Christ. (Isaiah 59:20–21)
- God will bless those who bless the Jewish people. (Genesis 12:3)

*“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”*  
(Romans 10:1)

## Key Verse to Memorize

*“He [Abraham] believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”*  
(Genesis 15:6)

## Key Passage to Read and Reread

### Isaiah chapter 53

## Many Jewish Hearts Are Hardened Because of . . .

- H**istorical persecutions such as the Holocaust
- A**nti-Semitic attitudes of many cultures
- R**esistance to exchange the Law for faith
- D**ependence on Jewish traditions and liturgy
- E**mbacing the New Testament considered disloyal to Judaism
- N**ational Jewish pride and independence
- E**xercising of spiritual pride
- D**enial of Messiah Yeshua because prophecies of anticipated world peace not yet fulfilled
- H**umiliation of being considered a Gentile if Jesus is accepted as Messiah
- E**rroneous use of Scripture by some Christians
- A**bandonment by family and friends feared
- R**eluctance to study Scripture
- T**rite expressions of concern by others
- S**elf-identity as a Jew threatened

# How to Share Jesus with a Jewish Friend

**Pray** that the heart of your friend will be open to the Messiah Yeshua. (Hebrews 3:8)

**Phrase** your wording carefully with sensitivity, but realize that the gospel of God will offend some. (Some offense cannot be entirely avoided.) (Proverbs 15:23)

**Point** to the Jewish Scriptures. Your friend will be surprised at the Messianic nature of the Old Testament. The Old Testament says much about Jesus. The New Testament says much about Judaism. (Psalm 119:160)

**Plan** to share fulfilled prophecy about the Messiah. (Isaiah chapter 53)

**Propose** that they read the Gospel of Matthew to see how Matthew used Old Testament passages to show that Jesus is the prophesied Messiah.

**Present** Messiah Yeshua as the only way to find fulfillment in life. (John 14:6)

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## Related Topics . . .

- Assurance of Salvation:  
*Safe, Sealed, and Secure*
- Atheism & Agnosticism:  
*The Great Debate*
- The Bible: Is It Reliable?  
*Truth on Trial*
- Evil & Suffering . . . Why?  
*Is God Fair?*
- God: Who Is He?  
*Who Do You Say That He Is?*
- The Holy Spirit:  
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