



What Is Judaism?

Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people who share ...

- **Belief in one Almighty God**, who revealed Himself to Abraham, Moses, and the prophets
- **Biblical teachings** based on the Jewish Scriptures
- **Rabbinic traditions** emphasizing moral teachings and humanitarian efforts

*"You are a people holy to the LORD your God.
Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth,
the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession."
(Deuteronomy 14:2)*

What Is Zionism?

Zionism is an international political movement—not a religion—that stresses the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the national rights of Israel, rather than emphasizing redemptive or moral teachings.

- **"Zion"** was initially a term that referred to the entire western ridge of early Jerusalem and later to the whole city of Jerusalem.
- **"Zion"** is sometimes used interchangeably with Jerusalem.
- **Zionists** believe their actions help fulfill the following prophecy:

*"I will take you out of the nations;
I will gather you from all the countries
and bring you back into your own land."
(Ezekiel 36:24)*

Who Is a Gentile?

- A **Gentile** is a non-Jewish person.
- The English word **"Gentile"** comes from the Hebrew word *goyim*, which means "nations," indicating nations other than Israel.

Three Major Branches

1. *Orthodox* Judaism ...

- Has the reputation of being the most traditional branch
- 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 the reputation of being the moderate branch of Judaism (between the traditional and liberal branches)
- Has a balance between emphasizing the Law and living an ethical life
- Has less emphasis on the supernatural attributes of God
- Has the fastest growth of the three branches of Judaism
- Has the greatest variance from traditional to nontraditional within its own branch
- Has (in many synagogues) portions of the service read in the common vernacular

3. *Reform* Judaism ...

- Has the reputation of being the most liberal branch
- 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

Hardened Hearts

Jewish people are fiercely proud of their heritage, beliefs, and customs. However, numerous events in history have occurred in which Gentiles persecuted the Jews. Some mistakenly assume that all Gentiles are Christians. But *authentic* Christians who have the heart of Christ condemn such calloused and cruel atrocities.

Many Jewish hearts are hardened against Christianity because of ...

Historical persecutions such as the Holocaust

Anti-Semitic attitudes of many cultures

Resistance to exchange the Law for faith

Dependence on Jewish traditions and liturgy

Embracing the New Testament considered disloyal to Judaism

National Jewish pride and independence

Exercising of spiritual pride

Denial of Messiah Yeshua because prophecies of anticipated world peace not yet fulfilled

Humiliation of being considered a Gentile if Jesus is accepted as Messiah

Erroneous use of Scripture by some Christians

Abandonment by family and friends feared

Reluctance to study Scripture

Trite expressions of concern by others

Self-identity as a Jew threatened

“The people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate.”
(Ezekiel 3:7)

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 unfailing 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)

Did You Know ...

- That the first Christians were Jewish?
- That the disciples were Jewish?
- That Jesus was Jewish?

Yes! All the above statements are substantiated in the Scriptures. Any and all prejudice against the Jewish people is unbiblical. In fact, the apostle Paul, whose lineage was the tribe of Benjamin, made this significant statement . . .

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”
(Romans 1:16)

Key Verse to Memorize

“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”
(Genesis 15:6)

Key Passage to Read

Isaiah chapter 53

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. (Proverbs 15:23)
- **Prepare** to speak or ask about current Middle East situations. (Proverbs 16:23)
- **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. (Read 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. Of the four biographies about Jesus, Matthew is written from the most Jewish perspective. Additionally, the Gospel of John includes discussions with Jewish religious leaders in chapters 9 and 10.
- **Present** Messiah Yeshua as the only way to find fulfillment in life. (John 14:6)

*“Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone who asks you to give the reason
for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect,
keeping a clear conscience,
so that those who speak maliciously
against your good behavior in Christ
may be ashamed of their slander.”*

(1 Peter 3:15–16)

Present Clear Terminology

- **Don't Say:** Christ (Greek, “The Anointed One”)
Do Say: Messiah (Hebrew, “The Anointed One”)
- **Don't Say:** Christian
Do Say: believer or Messianic believer
- **Don't Say:** church
Do Say: congregation, assembly, fellowship, a meeting of Bible believers
- **Don't Say:** converted Jew
Do Say: completed or fulfilled Jew
- **Don't Say:** the cross
Do Say: the tree
- **Don't Say:** gospel of salvation
Do Say: plan of atonement

- **Don't Say:** Holy Ghost
Do Say: Spirit of God
- **Don't Say:** Jesus (Greek, “salvation”)
Do Say: Yeshua (Hebrew, “salvation”)
- **Don't Say:** Jew
Do Say: Jewish person
- **Don't Say:** Jewish Christians
Do Say: Messianic Jews
- **Don't Say:** Messianic synagogue
Do Say: Messianic congregation
- **Don't Say:** New Testament
Do Say: New Covenant
- **Don't Say:** Old Testament or “my KJV”
Do Say: Tanakh, Jewish Scriptures, or Hebrew Scriptures
- **Don't Say:** relationship with Christ
Do Say: relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- **Don't Say:** testimony
Do Say: story

*“The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*
(Proverbs 12:18)

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