

“Understanding Judaism”

1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV
 Tony Toth, July 28, 2024

I. WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

A) The Claims of JESUS

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

B) The Claims of THE TALMUD and RABBINIC Teachings

II. TRADITIONAL JUDAISM

A) A Religious Way of LIFE Not Just LAWS

- A Life of Worship
- “Fences” to minimize evil and provide maximum for good

B) Common Foundational DOCTRINES

- 1) **The Unity of God** – Monotheistic
- 2) **The World and Humanity** – The world is good, no inherent sinfulness in humanity and therefore capable of perfection
- 3) **The Future of Mankind and Israel** – The ultimate aim of history is the perfection of humanity through the unfolding of the divine power in man.
- 4) Beliefs summed up by Rabbi Maimonides in the 12th Cent. In 13 Articles

C) Zionism

- 1) A Political Movement
- 2) A Religious Movement
- 3) Current Affairs in the Middle East

III. COMPARING JUDAISM & CHRISTIANITY

JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY
ABOUT GOD	
- Adonai, El ... Name never spoken out loud -There is only one God <i>“I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God.” (Is 44:3)</i>	-Yahweh <i>“I am, I am”</i> -Christians believe God can be called upon by name through Jesus -God has revealed himself in the Trinity (<i>The Father Gen 17:1, The Son John 14:6, The Holy Spirit John 16:13</i>), who are Co-eternal & Co-equal (<i>Matt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14, Deut 6:4</i>)
ABOUT THE MESSIAH	
-The OT prophets claim a messiah -Jesus was not the Messiah -Some Jews are still waiting for the “Servant of the Lord” -At least 34 Jews claimed to be the Messiah, all of which claimed political, economic, and/or cultural salvation. Not spiritual salvation. Some believe the “Servant of the Lord” is an “age” or “event” that will change the world -For some Jews, he is synonymous with Crusades and centuries of Christian anti-Semitism (<i>blaming Jews for Jesus’ death</i>) -For some Jews, he was a Jewish teacher and Rabbi	-Jesus is the Messiah that the OT prophesized about (<i>John 4:25-26</i>) -Jesus suffered and died to deliver his people from sin (<i>Acts 2:38</i>) <i>“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)</i> -The “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (<i>John 1:29</i>) -“I am not ashamed of the gospel, it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (<i>Romans 1:16</i>)
ABOUT SALVATION	
-Works-righteousness -Acts of sin can be atoned through acts of righteousness: repentance, prayer, good deeds -No need for a spiritual savior. Soul is taken care of through ritual and obedience to the law.	-All have sinned (<i>Rom 3:23</i>) -Saved by grace alone through faith not by works of any kind (<i>Eph 2:8</i>) -Jesus died for our sins, was buried, raised on 3 rd day (<i>1 Cor 15</i>) - <i>Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)</i>
ABOUT AUTHORITY FOR LIFE AND FAITH	
-Tanakh = Old Testament: Torah (Law), Prophets, and Writings -Talmud = Oral Law and Interpretation -More recently the Zohar = “Kabala”	-Both Old and New Testaments -NT is the fulfillment of the OT through Jesus -“Do not think that I [Jesus] have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (<i>Matt 5:17</i>)