

“...the rabbis proved afterward to be the greatest stumbling block for the Christian mission to the Jews.”¹ Jacob Neusner, an unbelieving Jewish scholar

INTRODUCTION

The main theme of our title, *The End of History—Messiah Conspiracy*, is intended to illustrate that the rabbis, from the first century to the present day, have been engaged in a plot—a plot against the Jewish Messiah. You may ask, “How dare you make an allegation like that?” My answer is that for a group of religious leaders who are supposed to know the prophecies of their sacred writings, passed down from the Old Testament, to deny that Jesus is the Messiah, is not just a fib that can be taken lightly. Neither can we say that the rabbis are searching for another Messiah or an alternate faith!

The crystal-clear Jewish prophecies pointed to one Messiah who would come twice: once as a suffering Joseph figure and, after His rejection, as a David kingly personage to bring world freedom and peace. Yet the rabbis deny that Jesus is the Messiah, despite the hundreds of prophecies—a clear sign of an ongoing conspiracy.²

The Messiahship of Jesus has been proven by hundreds of Messianic prophecies throughout the Old Testament and even the ancient rabbinical commentaries on those prophecies. I have reproduced many of those commentaries in this work to show how the modern rabbinical leadership changed the established interpretation of these predictions in order to deliberately mislead young Jewish people who are searching for the Messiah.

What motive would this leadership have for taking their own people away from the only one in their history who could save them?

¹Jacob Neusner, *First-Century Judaism in Crisis, Yohanan Ben Zakkai and the Renaissance of Torah*. New York: Abingdon Press, © 1975, p. 40, used by permission. We use the word unbelieving because he does not believe in Jesus as his Messiah, as we do in the Messianic and evangelical communities.

²Conspiracy has an evil element to its meaning. *The Oxford English Dictionary* says: “...conspire...*conspirare* lit. ‘to breath together’, whence, ‘to accord, harmonize, agree, combine or unite in a purpose, plot mischief together secretly’.] 1. *intr.* To combine privily for an evil or unlawful purpose; to agree together to do something criminal, illegal, or reprehensible...” *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Vol. III. Oxford: Clarendon Press, © 1989, p. 783, used by permission. *The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology* further notes: “...Before 1376 *conspire*, in *Piers Plowman*; borrowed from Old French *conspirer*, learned borrowing from Latin *conspirare* accord, agree, combine for a purpose, plot together....**conspiracy** n. 1357, borrowed from Anglo-French *conspiracie*, Old French *conspiratie*, replacing earlier *conspiration*...borrowed from Old French *conspiration*, from Latin *conspiratiōnem* (nominative *conspiratiō*) act of plotting, conspiracy....” *The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology*. Bronx, NY: The H.W. Wilson Company, © 1988, p. 210, used by permission. If Jesus is the Messiah of the Jews, and the rabbis from their Yavne hideaway attempted to cover it up from the first century until the twentieth century, what could be more evil or sinister? Nothing, since He (Messiah Jesus) is the answer to our eternal salvation, well-being and security.

We have a good explanation based on what occurred in the first century—fear of assimilation!

Many non-Jews were accepting Jesus as Messiah. These believers were not brought up to understand and practice Jewish traditions and holy days. When the first century rabbis realized that Gentiles were flocking into the faith in large numbers, they feared that the Jews who believed in Jesus would give up their heritage and tradition, melt into the Gentile world and disappear as a special race of people.³

God intended to eventually bring peace to the earth through their great leader, Messiah (in the Second Advent), but the rabbis tried, at all costs, to separate first century Jewish believers in Jesus from those Jews who did not believe. They taught that no trade relations or religious discussions were permitted. They introduced new prayers against Jewish believers who were still attending the synagogues, so as to isolate and ostracize them from other Jews. The first century Jewish leader Bar Kochba, who was proclaimed Messiah by Rabbi Akiva, even required that they be killed if they would not renounce their faith in Jesus as Messiah.⁴

This was just as inexcusable then as it is today, and this book is intended to expose and rectify the account of the most controversial person Judaism ever knew—Jesus. He is controversial because there has been such a tremendous amount of propaganda and prejudice against Him and His claim that He was **the Jewish Messiah**.

Some may say this book or its title offends them. If it takes an offense to cause people to see the truth, as Jesus said, “I am the truth” (John 14:6), then may the offense be ever greater, as millions see who the truth is!

3David Berger and Michael Wyschogrod ask this of Jewish Christians: “...do they believe that it is the will of God that the seed of Abraham remain in the world as an identifiable people chosen by God? There is very little reason to think that they do...if it can be expected that Jews in this group will gradually be absorbed into the larger, gentile Christian community, then such a Jew is opting for the dissolution of the people God wants to remain his eternal people.” David Berger and Michael Wyschogrod, *Jews and Jewish Christianity*. New York: KTAV Publishing House, Inc., © 1978, pp. 65-66, used by permission.

4Johannes Weiss documents this from the ancient sources of Eusebius and Orosius, which reveal: “ ‘And indeed in the recent Jewish war, Bar-Kokhba, the leader of the uprising of the Jews, condemned the Christians alone to be led away to dreadful torture if they would not deny Jesus was Christ and blaspheme him;’ Eusebius, *Chron*.....‘Kokhba, who was leader of the rebellion of the Jews, inflicted various penalties on many of the Christians, since they would not go out to battle with him against the Romans;’ Orosius 7:13.” Johannes Weiss, *Earliest Christianity, A History of the Period A.D. 30-150*, Vol. II, p. 723.

INTRODUCTION

**MODERN CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY
IS NOTHING LESS THAN YESTERDAY'S
ANCIENT JEWISH INTERPRETATION**

When Messianic prophecy is mentioned to contemporary rabbis, there is the common and familiar outcry, “You are reading into it your Christian interpretation.”⁵ This book disproves that statement, once and for all!

We will show that the modern “Christian interpretation” is nothing less than the ancient **Jewish interpretation**, unchanged and unbiased. We will prove this by quoting and reproducing the actual ancient rabbinical text of the interpretive passages which comment on the particular Messianic Scriptures in question. We will also reproduce the Hebrew text of the Scriptures along with the rabbinic interpretation, to remove any suspicion of fraud to the non-Hebrew speaking reader. Using these two mediums, we will illustrate that the New Testament agrees with the ancient Jewish beliefs on the Scriptures in question.

Modern rabbis, in an effort to protect the Jewish people from evangelical truth, which they fear might lead to the greatest Holocaust yet—assimilation, have forsaken these once cherished beliefs. Thus we believe our work will make evident the greatest fraud in the history of mankind—the claim that Jesus was not the Jewish Messiah and that He did not walk on Earth or fulfill many ancient Hebrew prophecies. (Such prophecies include Deut. 18:15; Lev. 17:11; Isa. 53; Dan. 9:26, and; Hos. 3:3-4).

⁵In a June 1983 seminar entitled, “Jewish Answers to Christian Questions,” conducted by Rabbi Shalom Lewis of the Atlanta Rabbinic Association, when this topic was being discussed, he told me adamantly: “At any rate, let me just again put to rest some of these things and, that is, that obviously, we are speaking different languages here. I will make a statement that I will stand by and I don’t care what kind of statements are directed at me. The fact of the matter is that the Bible, the Tora, Nevim Ketuvim...the fact of the matter is that there is nothing there that refers to Jesus, that refers to Christianity whatsoever....The Bible is strictly, purely and absolutely a Jewish text. There is no statement there....what Judaism says....” Who says Rabbi Lewis can speak for or has a monopoly on all of Judaism? I know many Jews who are interested in and some who are believers in Jesus as Messiah! The rabbi continues: “...what Judaism says...is a very simple fact...Christianity came along and created a new religion. Not the continuation of Judaism, not a New Testament because I don’t call it the New Testament....There’s one Bible, the Jewish Bible, the Tanack [T.N.K. is an acronym for *Tora* “law,” *Nevim* “the prophets,” and *Ketuvim* “the writings,” which are the three divisions into which Jews divide the Old Testament]. The New Testament is a s-document [we believe he meant to say document, while thinking of the word statement] put together by the early Christian fathers and the purpose was very simple...it was propaganda, propaganda. It was to make the Jews look bad and it was to make the Romans look good....When somebody starts to interpret my faith for me, my Bible for me, and starts to tell me what Judaism really means and what the Jewish attitude towards the Messiah really is, then I tell them they don’t know what they’re talking about. If you say that Christianity is the completion of Jud-

We charge modern rabbis and many of those of the past 2000 years with a Messiah Conspiracy—an attempt to isolate the Jewish soul from its only opportunity for salvation through the acceptance of the Messiah and His blood atonement for sin. The Scriptures we will quote are from the authoritative Jewish document known to the world as the Old Testament, which avows to be the Word of God. Any Bible believing individual who reads these Old Testament proofs and facts about the Messiah and denies his fellow Jewish friend the knowledge of these incredible truths of life and death, commits anti-Semitism,⁶ in its most subtle, yet heinous form.

baism, then I say to you that is utter garbage, that is not true. I respect Christianity, when Christianity stays in the church and when Christianity does what they do, but the moment Christianity tries to invade the synagogue and tries to say to Judaism, 'This is what you really mean, this is what you really mean by the Messiah,' quoting our books—that's when I have to say, 'You guys don't know...what you're talking about. You're not talking about Judaism. You are talking about the bastardization of Judaism through Christian eyes'....I will gladly send you pages, documents of a different analysis, the correct analysis of Isaiah 53, sections in the book of Daniel, sections in Deuteronomy where there's all sorts of Christian misinterpretations and fundamentalists' misinterpretations of what the text truly means." Rabbi Shalom Lewis, "Jewish Answers to Christian Questions," author's personal tape from lecture at the Atlanta Jewish Community Center, Zaban Park branch in Dunwoody, GA, June 1983. The book the rabbi mentioned was *You Take Jesus, I'll Take God*. We will be quoting this book to illustrate that his claims concerning the Tanack (Old Testament) cannot possibly stand, in light of true scholarship and honesty. We believe that after you read this text and hear the facts, you will discover there is plenty of evidence to support Jesus as the Messiah in the Old Testament portion of the Bible, as the New Testament and history claims, contrary to what this rabbi and many others presently assert!

Anti-Semitism is a set of beliefs that are negative and often hostile prejudices toward Jews. However, the term is inaccurate, as the word Semite indicates any person who is of Semitic origin—this includes Arabs. The word Semitic is derived from the name of Noah's son Shem, from whom the Jewish people are descended. All three races on earth—caucasoid, negroid and Oriental/Asiatic—are directly descended from Noah's three sons, "Shem and Ham and Japheth" mentioned in Genesis 7:13 (see Gen. 9:18-19). Anti-Semitism developed from fear based on religious differences. The Nazi Holocaust—the extermination of millions of Jews during World War II—was a direct result of Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitism.

IF YOU TRULY LOVE YOUR JEWISH FRIENDS, YOU WILL TELL THEM!

All believers in Messiah, both Jew and Gentile/evangelical, should be aware of the consequences to all Jews and Gentiles of slipping through this life without a saving knowledge of Messiah, who Himself said: "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6 KJV).

If you read these words and truly believe this statement, you should, at all costs, seek to share the knowledge you possess with your Jewish friends. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt. 19:19 KJV). If you truly love them, as the New Testament commands, you are duty-bound to overcome your shyness and let them in on the facts regarding their Messiah, so they will share eternal life with you. To deny them the truth, out of fear of offending them or to avoid rabbinical opposition, is to condemn them.

If you do not know where to begin, we suggest you show your love for them by giving them this book or a similar one. If you do not tell them, they may never hear. They certainly deserve to hear. They have endured enough persecution over the past 2000 years to last throughout eternity.

THE JEWS' TIME TO HEAR IS UPON US, AS NEVER BEFORE

It is time we see to it that the Jews hear and witness the life we share in their Messiah, and the peace, security and fulfillment, we as believers, have found in their Bible. So that they, themselves, can have a fair chance to learn the facts and make a free choice for their Messiah, based on the ancient teaching of Judaism. To make the choice easier, we have printed all the sources in sequence.

The Old and New Testament verses are printed alongside the ancient rabbinical texts and their negation by contemporary rabbis. Never before have these texts been arranged in this way, which shows that the rabbis distorted the previously held Messianic interpretations after the death of Jesus. Apparently, His death prejudiced them against their former beliefs about the Messiah.

HOW, WHEN AND WHERE DID THE RABBIS CHANGE THE ANCIENT MESSIANIC BELIEFS? YAVNE! THIS WILL MAKE JEWS VULNERABLE TO THE FUTURE ANTICHRIST

In the years 70-110 AD, in Yavne, on the coast of Israel, the rabbis reconstructed Judaism with the central goal of isolating the Jew from Messiah. The consequences of this action were great, not only for the Jews in the Diaspora of the past 2000 years, but the quality of life in the world to come; the greater, more applicable consequence for our

time (the last days) is the coming of the Antichrist.

The Jews, because they have been deprived of their true Messiah through this reconstruction, will be ever more vulnerable to the soon-coming false Messiah. Bible scholars and teachers know this anti-Messiah by his New Testament name, “Antichrist.”

The ancient rabbis knew of the coming of Antichrist and wrote much about him. They attempted to warn the Jewish people about him. However, much of the apocalyptic Jewish material about the Antichrist was apparently destroyed by later rabbis after the time of Jesus.⁷

In this book, we have recovered some of their writings regarding the Antichrist (see our chapter 23, “The False Messiah Armilus Equals Antichrist”). If we do not tell the Jewish people about the true Messiah, they will accept the Antichrist as their Messiah. He will make the claim that he is the Messiah (II Thes. 2:4; Dan. 8:24). This time we must tell them what the Scriptures predict. When we tell them, they may not believe right away, but of those who are still around when the Antichrist arrives in a few years—after the Rapture⁸—many will be able to recognize him. Thus you will receive the blessing promised in Genesis 12:3: “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee [the Jews]....” (KJV).

After the seven-year reign of Antichrist, when Messiah returns with you and all other believers to put a halt to Armageddon (Rev. 19:20-21; Dan. 7:13; Matt. 24:29-30; Mark 14:62) and begin the 1000-year Messianic Kingdom of peace on Earth (Rev. 20:4-6; Isa. 2), you will be able to look forward to living in that kingdom with your friends with whom you took the time to share God’s word. Shalom!

**A HISTORICAL PHENOMENON OF WHICH VERY FEW
LAYMEN ARE AWARE—A SHORT, SECRET SPAN OF
HISTORY WHEN JESUS WAS LOCKED OUT OF JUDAISM**

Few are currently aware that Judaism underwent profound changes when it was reconstructed at Yavne by a select group of intellectual rabbis, headed by Yohanan ben Zakkai and Rabbi Gamaliel.

7D.S. Russell informs us: “L. Ginzberg has pointed out that in the entire rabbinic literature of the first six centuries there is not a single quotation from the extant apocalyptic literature; because of this it has sometimes been too readily assumed that rabbinic Judaism would have nothing whatever to do with the teaching and ideals contained in these books. C. C. Torrey, for example, affirms that from AD 70 onwards, so great was the devotion of the Jewish leaders to the Law and the sacred Scriptures, the decision was taken to destroy as undesirable all the Semitic originals of the ‘outside books’, including the apocalyptic writings, and so effect ‘the sudden and complete abandonment by the Jews of their popular literature’. Thus, this once-popular literature was discontinued and the ideas which it perpetuated were rejected as dangerous and heretical.” D.S. Russell, *The Method & Message of Jewish Apocalyptic, 200 BC - AD 100*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, © 1964, p. 30, used by permission.

8This will probably occur before the last half of the twenty-first century, as time parameters indicate, in conjunction with certain Bible verses we will discuss later.

The changes that were made—to create a new religion which would be called by the same name, Judaism, commonly known as Rabbinic Judaism—were sharp and abrupt. The rabbis felt it absolutely necessary to make these alterations so that Judaism could survive after its anticipated worldwide dispersion.⁹ However, the changes at Yavne obliterated the Messianic interpretation of the Old Testament that existed for almost 1500 years.

As you read the latter pages of this book, you will be able to see just how this has reshaped Jewish beliefs and precious Hebrew hopes that the Messiah will redeem both the Jewish race and millions of Gentiles. This cover-up is nothing short of an intellectual crime against the Jewish people.

Some Jewish scholars are aware of these ancient sacred Jewish understandings of the Messianic prophecies. However, the majority of Jewish teachers and students are unfamiliar with the interpretative commentaries which we will reproduce for you. One of our purposes in writing this book is to inform the layperson of these long “lost”¹⁰ secret commentaries, which demonstrate that the beliefs of Messianic Jews and born-again Christians, as pertaining to a Messiah, were wholeheartedly accepted by Jews over 2000 years ago. Today, however, in many cases, these Scriptures and commentaries are categorically denied by many rabbis and “scholars” as ever having been Messianically interpreted by the rabbis of Jesus’ day. We believe the purpose of this denial is to stifle Jewish curiosity about the Messianic credentials of Jesus and this is horrible!

A MODERN JEWISH SCHOLAR ADMITS ISAIAH 53 HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY OMITTED FROM HAFTAROT BECAUSE OF JESUS

All of the subsequent reinterpretations of the Scriptures are a frantic effort to seclude the Jew from understanding the true nature of the Messianic prophecies. To prove our point, we note that the famed literary work, *A Rabbinic Anthology*, written by two Jewish scholars, C. G. Montefiore and H. Loewe, admits: “Quotations from the famous 53rd chapter of Isaiah are rare in the Rabbinic literature. [Because of

⁹This dispersion began in 70 AD under Roman General Titus, and became complete in 135 AD, when Rome defeated the Bar Kochba Rebellion. From that time until 1948, there was no Jewish state with any sizable Jewish population. The biblically predicted rebirth of Israel in 1948 marks the official end of the forced Roman dispersion between 70 and 135 AD, and the beginning of a new Messianic Age, which will culminate in the return of Jesus to save us and preserve Israel forever! Hallelujah!

¹⁰We say “lost” because these are not emphasized, studied or made reference to in the Jewish lay community. Indeed, most of the commentaries have not even been translated from their original Hebrew. Some of the rarer commentaries which we have quoted were only recently translated in 1979 by Dr. Raphael Patai. We thank Dr. Patai for this often unrecognized yet great service to humanity. We are eternally grateful to him.

the christological interpretation given to the chapter by Christians, it is omitted from the series of prophetic lessons (*Haftarot*) for the Deuteronomy Sabbaths....the *omission is deliberate and striking.* (H.L.)”¹¹

We agree with the comments of F. F. Bruce, author of the scholarly book *The Spreading Flame*, on this publication. Bruce writes: “It is a distinguished orthodox Jewish scholar who tells us that the reason why the prophecy of the suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) is not included in the synagogue lectionary, although the passages immediately preceding and following it are found there, is the Christian application of that prophecy to Jesus.”¹²

THOUGH THE PROPHETS PERSIST, THE RABBIS DENY JEWS A FREE CHOICE BY USING ASSIMILATION AS A SCARE TACTIC

It is clear that many rabbis want to isolate the Jewish people from Messianic expectations, especially those of His Second Advent to Earth to redeem Israel from an all-out Russian/Arab invasion. If you examine Zechariah 12-14 and Ezekiel 38-39 of the Old Testament, you will see that the Messiah that returns to save Israel has pierced hands, thus identifying Him as the Messiah of which the prophecies speak. This is the Messiah long rejected by the rabbis.

Why then have the rabbis kept these formerly held Messianic truths hidden? The *answer* is they want to guard against any possible vehicle that might induce assimilation. From the first century, they have not felt that Jews could be entrusted with a faith which has been embraced by millions of non-Jews (born-again believers). They fear that if the Jews are allowed the liberty to make a free choice for Messiah, based on ancient rabbinic interpretations and the New Testament, the obvious would take place—a faith in Jesus.¹³ In turn, they feel that this would cause the Jews to give up their Jewish culture. After all, most Gentiles who have professed a faith in Jesus have not adhered to Jewish customs. Thus the rabbis fear an extinction (so to speak) of the Jewish race by virtue of the Messiah.

Since the major task entrusted to the rabbis is to preserve the Jewish race through the perpetuation of Jewish culture and the observance of Jewish traditions, the rabbis feel that they must anticipate¹⁴ any possible assimilation and, in turn, fight anything which

11C.G. Montefiore and H. Loewe, *A Rabbinic Anthology*. New York: Schocken Books Inc., © 1974, p. 554, used by permission. Italics outside () mine.

12F.F. Bruce, *The Spreading Flame*. Grand Rapids, MI:William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, © 1958, pp. 267, used by permission.

13Currently, many rabbis imply that if you are a Jew and you accept Jesus, you have left Judaism. Thus, as a Jew you do not have the choice of faith in Jesus—that is, if you want to remain a Jew. That, my friends, is a lie right out of the pit of Hell! We will address this later in further detail.

14An example of this fear, which we believe is without foundation, along with the use of

could precipitate any threat of a Jewish “melt-down” into the ways of the non-Jewish nations. However, we state here that these rabbinical fears are unfounded in a historical and contemporary context.

Messianic congregations and even the worldwide *Jews for Jesus* movement are faithful to Jewish tradition in many ways and maintain a distinct Jewish identity. In fact, many Jewish Christians (*Christ* means “Messiah” and *ian* means “one that follows”) state that they became more zealous in their Jewishness, and more committed to Israel and their Zionist causes, than before they embraced Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.¹⁵

IF ALL ELSE SHOULD FAIL, THE RABBIS WILL EMPLOY THEIR FINAL SCARE TACTIC—IDOLATRY

It is our firm conviction that all who desire to accept or reject faith in the Messiah should have a right to do so without being coerced in either direction! In America and most non-communist countries, we are afforded freedom of religion. We would appreciate it if all were permitted to check out the facts and accept what they feel is in their best interest. We feel the right to believe as one wishes, free of harrassment, is presently being obstructed by many rabbis in their battle against Messianic Judaism and the *Jews for Jesus* movement.

The rabbis say it is fine for Gentiles to accept Jesus as Messiah, but it is idolatry¹⁶ for Jews to accept Him. This is a double standard according to the Old Testament portion of the Bible, which both Jews

the assimilation scare tactic and guilt trip of not being loyal to your race trick, is found in the book, *Jews and “Jewish Christianity,”* where Berger and Wyschogrod state: “In recent years various groups have come into being that consider themselves ‘Jewish Christians.’ They preach Jesus as their savior, yet seem intent on maintaining a form of Jewish identity. What is the Jewish reaction to such groups?...Some of them practice various Jewish customs, such as wearing *tsitsit* (fringes) and lighting candles on Friday nights....In fact, their primary identification seems to be with gentile, evangelical Christianity. As such, it is to be expected that the traditional pattern will be repeated. The descendants of Jews who come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah will disappear as Jews within two or three generations....every form of ‘Jewish Christianity’ in existence today teaches Jesus as God and not only as the Messiah. Any Jew who embraces this belief **commits idolatry**....he commits one of the gravest sins of which a Jew is capable.” David Berger and Michael Wyschogrod, *Jews and “Jewish Christianity,”* pp. 65-66. Bold mine.

¹⁵See our chapter 16, “Was Christopher Columbus a Messianic Jew?”, where we show he was both Jewish and a believer in Jesus. Though he was fearful of Catholic persecution, in secret he still used the B.H. Hebrew greeting in letters to his family. He also treasured a book that proved Jesus the Messiah from a Jewish viewpoint!

¹⁶Idolatry is defined as the worship of a false god or statue of stone or gold. The film *Raiders of the Lost Ark* clearly illustrates the ridiculousness of idolatry. In the movie, we see natives bowing to a “golden head,” which Belak took from Indiana Jones. Comparing believers’ behavior to the natives’ behavior is the sort of ridicule we must contend with when the rabbis accuse Jewish Christians of being idolaters. This is serious, insipid, a lie and disgusting—will they apologize?

and Christians use as their standard for what constitutes idolatry. What would be idolatrous for one should also be idolatrous for the other. This double standard can be seen in the book by David Berger and Michael Wyschogrod, *Jews and “Jewish Christianity,”* where they say: “In Jewish literature, the term that came to be used for the trinitarian concept of God was *shittuf* (partnership). The accepted Jewish view is that belief in *shittuf* does not constitute idolatry for gentiles but does so for Jews. The reason for this is that the definition of what constitutes idolatry is different for Jews and gentiles. Belief in *shittuf*, the belief that God shares his being in equal partnership with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is not idolatry by the standard of idolatry demanded of gentiles. But the very same belief held by a Jew constitutes idolatry by the standard applicable to Jews. It is for this reason that Judaism does not condemn Christian trinitarianism as idolatry unless those holding the belief are Jews...for a Jew to believe that Jesus was God constitutes idolatry, while the same trinitarian belief is not idolatry when held by a gentile.”¹⁷

**IF WE ALLOW THE SCARE TACTICS OF THE
RABBIS TO GO UNCHALLENGED, ANTICHRIST WILL
DECEIVE MORE OF OUR BELOVED JEWISH FRIENDS**

Many of the quotes we list under the heading “Modern Rabbinic Comment/Refutation” are from a half-dozen books, written by rabbis and others, for the sole purpose of interfering with the beliefs of Messianic Jews.

One of the other changes accomplished by the rabbis at Yavne was to downplay the reading of apocalyptic literature,¹⁸ as we will see later in our chapter 8, “The Messiah Conspiracy Continues in the *New Old Testament.*” Apocalyptic literature in the Bible foretells the future

¹⁷David Berger and Michael Wyschogrod, *Jews and “Jewish Christianity,”* pp. 30, 60. We wish to emphasize that it was never Israel’s place to mislead the rest of mankind into thinking that it is permissible to commit idolatry while they worshipped the one true God, as many modern rabbis state in their polemical books against Messianic Jews! Abraham is clearly said to be a father of many nations (Gen.17:4), a fact which was borne out when many individuals in these nations accepted the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through the sacrifice and atonement of Jesus the Messiah. Genesis 12:3 teaches of Israel’s importance through Him: “...in thee shall **all** families of the earth be blessed” (KJV; bold mine). The purpose of Israel was to teach the whole world how to know the one true God through the Messiah, who is God Incarnate. Today, rabbis who cannot bring themselves to accept Jesus as their Messiah are, in a very real sense, attempting to spiritually denigrate the non-Jewish world by telling them that there are two different standards for idolatry. They maintain that if you are not Jewish you automatically fall into the lower one. This never was, nor is it today, Israel’s purpose. In fact, it is a categorical denial of the truth of and purpose for the creation of the Jewish people. When I read statements like these, I cringe. These ridiculous statements are pitiful examples of what most rabbis try to sell non-Jews who believe in Jesus, in their feeble attempt to discourage non-Jews from sharing Jesus’ Messianic claims with interested Jews who would like to have God’s purpose fulfilled within their lives.

¹⁸D.S. Russell wrote, “the Jews abandoned this once popular literature.” D.S. Russell, *Method & Message of Jewish Apocalyptic*, p. 30.

events concerning final redemption and the Messiah's ruling kingdom at the end of time. The rabbis also successfully scrapped the ancient teaching about the coming of the Antichrist (a false Messiah), known to them in rabbinic lingo as the Armilus.¹⁹

Judaism once²⁰ taught that a suffering Messiah would appear, then disappear for a long period of time. This redeemer was known as the Messiah ben Joseph, because he suffered just as Joseph did when he was sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers.

The teaching was that the suffering son (*ben*) of Joseph Messiah would die and be resurrected. Thereafter, he would disappear, and return as Messiah ben David, to defeat Gog and Magog along with their Arab counterparts. Seven years before the Messiah ben David appears to save Israel,²¹ the Antichrist (Armilus) will appear on Earth and deceive the Israelis into believing he is the promised Messiah. However, the Israelis will later discover that he is not. They will begin to study the Bible to see exactly what it teaches concerning Messiah. The Messiah ben David will come, defeat these invading powers and set up his kingdom, which will last 1000 years. This *true* Messiah will be Jesus in His Second Advent.²²

CAN WE BE SURE THAT JESUS IS THE JEWISH MESSIAH DESPITE MOST RABBIS RAILING AGAINST HIM? YES!

How can we be sure that Jesus is the long awaited Jewish Messiah promised to Israel and ultimately the world? By studying His identity, which the Hebrew prophets earmarked so clearly in their hundreds of predictions throughout the Old Testament. This is sufficient proof that no other event in history can match!

The entire life of the Messiah was foretold hundreds of years prior to His birth in Bethlehem, Israel, 2000 years ago. That is proof enough for most individuals. However, those of you who are Jewish may sometimes wonder how we can know that these prophecies are

¹⁹Along with a few Midrashic commentaries quoted in encyclopedias, nearly all that remains of the Jewish teachings of the end time Antichrist/Armilus, are found in Saadia Gaon's work of over 1000 years ago (see our chapter 23, "The False Messiah, Armilus Equals Antichrist").

²⁰Raphael Patai, an Orthodox Jewish scholar and author of *The Messiah Texts*, a detailed account of 3000 years of Jewish legend, tells us: "...Messiah ben Joseph...would fall victim....The other, Messiah ben David, will come after him (in some legends will bring him back to life, which psychologically hints at the identity of the two), and will lead Israel to the ultimate victory, the triumph, and the Messianic era of bliss....According to an old tradition, the Messiah was perfectly prefigured in Moses. But Moses died before he could lead the Children of Israel into the land of promise. Consequently, for the parallel to be complete, the Messiah, too, had to die before accomplishing his great task of ultimate redemption." Raphael Patai, *The Messiah Texts*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, © 1979, pp. 166-167, used by permission.

²¹To more fully understand the teaching of the two Messianic visits—one to suffer and a subsequent return to save the world from the apocalypse—see our chapters 23, 25-30 on the Second Coming, and our chapter 3, "Two Messiahs."

²²See our chapter 28, "The Second Coming Event—Will He Yet Be Sent?"

being interpreted correctly in the Messianic sense. After all, modern rabbis apply many of these prophecies to the nation of Israel and her people.

Most Bible students would have difficulty answering this. However, there were many Jewish scholars and rabbis who wrote commentaries on these verses, some prior to the Coming of Jesus. These commentaries show conclusively that all prophecies in question were understood to apply to Messiah.

We have unearthed these commentaries from the Talmud, Targumim and Midrashim and aligned them beside their Old and New Testament parallels to illustrate to the average (layman) reader these proofs, which have for so long been limited to a handful of scholars. We have also placed a ready-made rabbinical refutation of the Messianic prophecies at the end of each one to highlight what most *current* Judaic authorities have done with these prophecies. We are sure you will see our point in showing these ancient rabbinical commentaries, which clearly legitimize the claim of Christians and Jews for Jesus that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, as recorded in the New Testament.

**SINCE JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, MESSIANIC
JEWS ARE, IN FACT, THE TRUEST AND BEST JEWS,
NO MATTER WHAT THE RABBIS SAY!**

Most rabbis have tried to tell the Jewish people they cannot believe in Jesus and remain Jewish.²³ This notion was born from prejudice and intolerance, because the rabbis thought that if they could convince the Jewish people of this, most would forsake Jesus, even if He is the Messiah, rather than give up their rich national heritage.

The fact is that when Jews become believers in the Jewish Messiah, their Judaism, their holy days and their customs become all the more real and enjoyable to them. They become Jews in the truest sense of the word.

The Hebrew word for Jew means “a praiser of God.” That is why Abraham, nearly 4000 years ago, was named the first Jew by God.

23Ruth Fleischer, Ph.D., noted of the Jewish community and the Messianic movement: “The real issue is over who is a Jew, isn’t it? Isn’t that the real issue? Can you be a Jew and believe *Yeshua* [Jesus] is the Messiah? Yes, you can and you should...the traditional answer has been no. The amazing thing about that is the fact that there are other people who have believed in Messiahs who weren’t accepted by the establishment and yet they’re not anathematizing [a curse] to Judaism. I’ll name you one—Rabbi Akiba. He believed that Bar Kochba was the Messiah. Now we know that Bar Kochba was not the Messiah. It’s pretty obvious from history, and yet Akiba is acclaimed as one of the greatest rabbis of Judaism. So why is it that he can believe in a false Messiah, but our believing that *Yeshua* is the Messiah puts us in a different category? *Yeshua* is the issue. The Talmud says that even if you are a bad Jew, you are still a Jew. You cannot stop being a Jew...It’s from Sanhedrin 44.” This passage reads: “R. Abba b. Zabda said: ‘Even though [the people] have sinned, they are still [called] Israel.’ R. Abba said: ‘Thus people say, A myrtle, though it stands among reeds, is still a myrtle, and it is so called.’ ” Ruth also correctly observes: “We’ve seen a very interesting Jewish response in the last few years, and that’s visible by the truck that’s down over the hill over there. *Jews for Judaism*, yeah, you know why they’re here? [parked just off of the campus of Messiah College at the ‘93 Messiah Conference.] Cause we’re a threat to them. We are antagonists. The Lubavitch and the Messianic movement are antagonists....They know it, do you know it? What we are talking about is Lubavitch Judaism. They recognize us as an intrinsic threat to them and they know that, with us, they face their greatest challenge. Why? Well, we have the truth and the truth is always going to reach people. What they have is a system but not a personal relationship with the Lord. We need to pray for them....The greatest positive statement about the Messianic movement today is being made by the fact that they are seriously confronting us....Today, they see very clearly that we are a threat. We are a threat to the [religious Jewish] establishment because we offer our people something they don’t have. And we are a growing movement and God has blessed us, and He is moving among us in a powerful way. And because of that, there are books being written that attack us. There are books being written that challenge what we believe because they know that God is working. He’s moving among us. They may not see it that way, but that is what’s happening and they can see clearly that something, something is there challenging them.” Ruth Fleischer, Ph.D., Tape 30 cf179, *The Reemergence of Messianic Judaism*. Grantham, PA: 1993 Messiah Conference at Messiah College, © 1993, used by permission. [] mine.

He was the first man to leave the pagan and idolatrous customs, which had crept into man's history a few hundred years after the creation of Adam, and follow the true God of mankind. Thus, when a Jew by heritage begins to follow this Messiah predicted in his Bible, he has accepted the promises made by his forefathers, the prophets of the Bible, which the God of the Hebrews swore to provide from the beginning of creation. This does not make a Jew less Jewish; rather, according to the New Testament, it makes a non-Jew or Gentile an adopted Jew, giving those who were not born Jewish the promise of the Jewish people concerning atonement and forgiveness (Gal. 3:6-9, 16).²⁴

We read in the first book of the Hebrew Bible that God originally intended to bless all nations of the earth through the Hebrew race (Gen. 12:1-3)! This began with the promise of the Messiah and will realize its full potential at Jesus' Second Advent to set up the Messianic Kingdom.



The *Jews for Judaism* truck, which Ruth Fleischer mentioned. *Jews for Judaism* is an organization dedicated to convincing Jews who believe in Jesus that they are wrong.

²⁴“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham....Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal. 3:6-9, 16 KJV).

DO PRESENT DAY POLITICAL EVENTS THAT WERE PREDICTED IN THE BIBLE, INDICATE JESUS' RETURN AS MESSIAH WITHIN OUR GENERATION?

What is even more exciting about examining the prophecies and their ancient commentaries, is that they indicate that Jesus the Messiah is about to return to Earth to set up His kingdom of peace. Many recent political events, such as the rebirth of Israel in 1948, the establishment of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1958, the existence of China's two hundred million-man army since the 1970's, the Russian/Arab abhorrence of the new State of Israel, the advent of nuclear power and its present proliferation, and so on, were all foretold by these very same Hebrew prophets. These prophets give us a hope of life, liberty and paradise that has not been known to man since the Garden of Eden.

Many scoff at us and our claim that the Bible is true and modern political events verify and fulfill what these prophets claim would occur just prior to the coming of the Antichrist,²⁵ and subsequently, the Messiah, who will destroy the evil plot of the Antichrist to wipe out world Jewry and renew Israel as the capital of the world (Deut. 28:13).²⁶ However, the account of how the Messiah will recreate this former state of paradise promised to the Jewish race in the Bible, and ultimately to all who accept Him, is also a major subject of this book. Need we mention that we do not mind giving such a scoffer a hard

25While on a trip to the Holy Land with the popular Christian author, Hal Lindsey, I gave him some of my research on the Antichrist. He lectured to our group, as even he was amazed at what the rabbis are publishing in their lack of Messianic knowledge. He said: "...And he will show no regard for the God of his fathers [Daniel 11:37]—now this is a Hebrew prophet speaking from a Hebrew point of view, so when he says he will show no regard for the God of his fathers, what kind of a person must he be speaking about—A Jew, *Elohim*? He will show no regard for the God of his fathers, this king of the end times...You know who this is? In the New Testament he's called the false prophet, he will be a pseudo-Messiah. My hair stood on end as I read some things that Philip—you know Philip's been doing some research for me and uh, he's done a good job. He found some very interesting things, but one of the things he found is a recent piece of literature written by several rabbinical writers. And what I read made my hair stand on end as we were driving on the bus because it was describing, from their point of view, the minimal requirements for a Messiah to be identified, and they said anyone who can come back and negotiate a peace between the Arabs and Israelis, can somehow bring about a settlement so that they can rebuild their temple and see that it's built, and will be able to deal in a wise way with the rest of the world, will be certainly the Messiah. Well, that's exactly what the false Messiah will do. I tell ya, they are primed to receive him because they really are not looking at their own prophets and seeing what kind of a person he was supposed to be." [] mine, transcribed from this author's personal tape made on location in Israel.

26"“And the LORD shall make thee the **head** and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*....” (Deut. 28:13 KJV).

time! Maybe some of them will believe after they have seen our evidence.

**DESPITE ALL THE PAST RABBINIC AND
ECUMENICAL FORCES BLINDING JEWS TO
THE MESSIAH, JEWS MUST HEAR, BECAUSE
JESUS IS AT THE PROPHETIC DOORSTEP²⁷**

We do not believe that the rabbinical writings were inspired by God, as is the Bible. The Talmud and other rabbinical writings do not make this claim as the Bible does. In the Bible, God, personally speaking through the prophet Isaiah, reverberates into our century: "...I am God....Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...." (Isa. 46:9-10 KJV).

The New Testament portion of the Bible also makes this claim in II Timothy 3:16: "All scripture *is* given by **inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...." (KJV). However, the rabbinical writings do illustrate that the ancient rabbis reached the same interpretations of their Holy Scriptures, as have modern Evangelical Christians!²⁸ This, of course, puts them in sharp contrast with later rabbis whose works we will also quote.

This work will prove conclusively that there has been a **cover-up** of the true Jewish view of Scripture, to isolate the Jew from the truth about Jesus. As we already stated, at the core of this deliberate conspiracy was the fear that Jews would be lost to the Gentile culture, as they accepted Jesus with so many more non-Jews. This certainly was not a serious possibility, since Gentiles who accepted Messiah also adopted Jewish custom, such as Passover (I Cor. 5:7-8), because they understood that the Messiah represents the Passover lamb and that He fulfilled this role (Isa. 53:7).

It was not until the age of Constantine in the fourth century that the Messianic and non-Jewish believers were forced out of the visible body of believers²⁹ known as the church. Even then they remained loyal to the Scriptures. The great majority of pagan Gentiles who were forced to convert to Catholicism by the Catholic Church, which began to develop around the time of Constantinople. They were not interested

²⁷Jesus asked us to realize, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors" (Matt. 24:33 KJV). The *things* Jesus is speaking of are prophecies of the end times, many of which are occurring today.

²⁸In relation to prophecies said to be predictive of the Messiah, His birthplace, suffering and sacrifice, all of which, by no coincidence, actually realized fulfillment in Jesus' life!

²⁹By this time, there were not very many believers in what had become the Christian body—the true church was already retreating underground. See chapter 10, "Early Christian History Versus Catholicism."

INTRODUCTION

in the Bible and those few who might have been interested, were not permitted to study the Bible. They continued their pagan practices, which Roman Catholicism adopted.

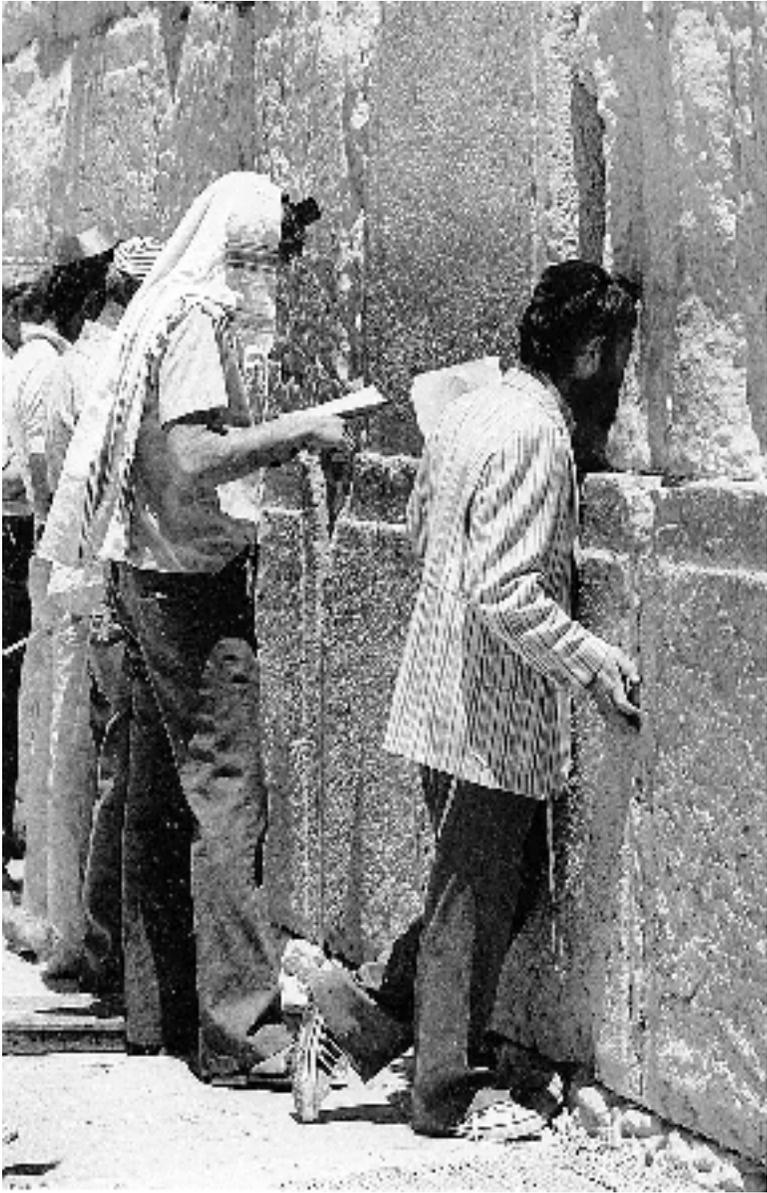
Today, Messianic Jewish believers and Gentile born-again Christians stand with the first true believers regarding the fact that the visible “churches” of the Middle Ages were not Christian then, any more than most of the ecumenical and liberal theological organizations³⁰ are today!

This book will also present, in layman’s terms, the ancient biblical hope of the return of the Messiah, which has been a Christian hope since the first century. All of the predicted signs of the Coming of Messiah are currently in place. Chief among them is the rebirth of Israel. The ancient rabbis held the same belief about these signs as we do, and their opinions on them (usually only known to unbelieving scholars) will be quoted in the context of the Bible. The only difference between them and us is that we have waited 2000 years longer and the signs of the times are now before us. We stand on the brink of this great promise while they stood thousands of years away from it.

While we study the words of Jesus and the prophets with excitement in relation to our near future and His promises, many so-called Christian churches remain in the dark regarding prophecy. If you truly love your Jewish friends, you owe them the opportunity to see what their prophets wrote about their future. It is our prayer that you might loan them this book to read.

Thank you and bless you!
Sincerely and lovingly, Philip Moore

³⁰One telltale sign of a true believing Christian is a zealous desire to tell his friends about Jesus, so that they become fellow believers. This was commanded by Jesus (Acts 1:8) and emphasized by Paul, the apostle who wrote more than half of the New Testament. In his letter to the Roman congregations, he emphasized that the message of Jesus should be to the Jew first! Thus, those of us who are true believers, who are often scornfully called “fundamentalists” or “evangelicals” by liberal theologians and others who claim some sort of faith in Jesus, follow this New Testament teaching because we love our Jewish brothers and sisters. However, there are those who apparently do not believe that this biblical message applies. For example, in a publication entitled “Backgrounder,” the question was asked, “Do all Christians support the efforts of ‘Jews For Jesus’ and other groups like them?” Part of the answer read: “Professor Tommaso Federici, a consultant to the Vatican, has called for an outright end to proselytism of the Jews, as has Dr. Krister Stendahl, dean of the Harvard Divinity School.” “Backgrounder,” June 1980, p. 3. From the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, a constituent of the Federation of Jewish Agencies. Proselytism is a word used to describe the kindness of evangelism in sharing the good news of Jesus’ love. Obviously, these two individuals fall short of the standards set by Jesus and Paul. To separate the Jewish person from Jesus is a slap in the face to God, and if He is the Messiah for Israel as He claims, it is unusually cruel to call “for an outright end to the proselytism [sharing of Jesus—conversion to true Messianic Judaism] of the Jews.” Ibid. [] mine. Isn’t it? Yes!



Orthodox Jews pray fervently at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.