



WHY JEWS DON'T BELIEVE IN JESUS

The Old Testament prophesied that Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced a thousand years before He was born (Psalm 22:16 and Zechariah 2:10). This is a clear prophecy of crucifixion before crucifixion was a form of punishment.

In combination with about 350 other prophecies, it makes one wonder how anyone could not believe in Jesus.

Turns out there is a way. When Psalm and Zechariah were written, Webster had not written a dictionary and no one else had either. Biblical interpretation is as much an art as it is a science. If we read the various translations which we carry to church, we will see the differences.

The Jewish answer to Christ's hands and feet being pierced is simply that we have mistranslated the passage. A more proper translation would be that "the lions are at his hands and feet".

Functionally, every passage we would say is a prophecy of Jesus, they would simply say is a mistranslation.

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EVENING AND MORNING AND AT NOON I WILL PRAY

Kirk H. Castleman, Houston, Texas

The Psalmist said, "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice," Psalm 55:17. Is prayer a daily experience, a life or is it simply a Sunday exercise?

It is possible to be outwardly doctrinally correct and still be lost. No doubt the Pharisee who stood and prayed with himself was in the eyes of the religious leaders one of the faithful, Luke 18:9. Apparently, he knew all the regulations but did not know God. He might have been able to quote many passages from both the Old Testament and the books of traditions, but his life ultimately was a spiritual void.

It was easy for them and equally so for us to neglect the weightier matters of the law. Excuses such as a lack of time become our reason for not maintaining a prayer time.

Daniel was a man of prayer. Even being close to the top of the Persian government, he still found time to pray. When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for his prayer life, the Bible says: "And in his upper room with his windows open toward Jerusalem he knelt down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days," Daniel 6:19.

Imagine an important dignitary taking time off three times a day to pray on his knees. Daniel was not too busy to maintain this special time throughout his life. He had his priorities correctly oriented. Where is prayer oriented in our priorities?

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Being neither Greek or Hebrew scholars we are not going to tackle that. We are instead going to discuss what the Jews actually believe.

The Jews do expect a Messiah to come, however, the word "messiah" is so associated with Jesus that they use the word "Mashiach" instead. Mashiach means "the anointed one".

The Mashiach will be:

1. Well versed in the Jewish Law,
2. A descendant of David on his father's side,
3. Observant of all commandments of the Jewish law,
4. A charismatic leader,
5. A great military leader,
6. A great judge who makes righteous decisions, and
7. A human being, not a demi-god or supernatural being.

"It has been said that in every generation, a person is born with the potential to be the Mashiach. If the time is right for the messianic age within that person's lifetime, then that person will be the Mashiach. But if that person dies before he completes the mission of the Mashiach, then that person was not the Mashiach" (<http://www.jewfaq.org/mashiach.htm>)

Likely times for the Mashiach to come:

1. If all Israel repented in a day,
2. If Israel observed a single Shabbat (Sabbath) properly,
3. If Israel observed two Shabbats in a row properly,
4. In a generation which is totally innocent or totally guilty,
5. In a generation which loses hope, or

6. In a generation where children are totally disrespectful towards their parents and elders.

What the Mashiach will do:

1. Bring about the political redemption of the Jewish people,
2. Bring about the spiritual redemption of the Jewish people,
3. Restore Jerusalem,
4. Establish a government in Israel that will be the center of all world government,
5. Rebuild the temple,
6. Re-establish temple worship, and
7. Restore the religious court system of Israel and establish Jewish law as the law of the land (remember the "land" is the whole world now).

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

ABRAHAM, YOU KNOW HOW GOD SAID YOUR DESCENDANTS WOULD BE AS NUMEROUS AS THE STARS? WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALL SENT YOU FATHER'S DAY CARDS...



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Olam Ha-Ba

The world after the Mashiach is often referred to in Jewish literature as Olam Ha-Ba. It will be characterized by:

1. Peaceful coexistence of all people,
2. Hatred, intolerance, and wars will cease to exist,
3. Laws of nature will change so predatory beast will no longer seek prey, i.e. lions will become vegetarians,
4. Agriculture will bring about supernatural abundance,
5. All Jewish people will return to their home in Israel (may be crowded),
6. Law of Jubilee will be reinstated,
7. No murder, robbery, competition, or jealousy,
8. No sin, and
9. Sacrifices will be brought to the Temple as thanksgiving offerings only, as no one can sin anymore.

MASHIACH SUMMARY:

In case you didn't put that all together, the Mashiach will be a regular human being just like you and me, and within his one generation mortal lifetime he will:

1. Be a great military leader who conquers the whole world and moves the center of world government to Israel,
2. Establish the Jewish court system as the law of the land for the entire world,
3. Re-establish sacrifices in the Temple,
4. Eliminate free moral agency from all mankind (i.e. you cannot chose to sin anymore), and
5. Change the laws of nature, i.e. will cause predatory animals to no longer be predatory.

CANDIDATES TO BE THE MASHIACH

There have been numerous candidates who have claimed to be the Mashiach. Some candidates have been:

Jesus:

Easily disqualified as his followers claim a virgin birth, so no father's lineage back to David. He functionally did not even try to do the other things the Jews expect of the Mashiach.



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Shimeon ben Kosiba (Bar Kokhba, son of a star)
A charismatic, brilliant, brutal warlord who fought the Roman Tenth Legion and retook Jerusalem (AD 132). He resumed sacrifices, had plans to rebuild the temple, and begin issuing coins. However, the Romans crushed his revolt and killed him (AD 135). It turns out he was not the Mashiach as he was disqualified by being killed.

This is discussed as the information regarding Jesus in the New Testament is not what you would expect, but rather indicates the plan of a God with a broader knowledge and broader point of view than we humans have. In no generation are we promised peace and prosperity. All generations are expected to live in the world as it is and look for peace and prosperity in Heaven.

The Jewish interpretation is what you would expect a group of men to come up with. A great physical leader like David with the wisdom of Solomon who ushers in an era of peace and prosperity. It is simply not credible that a single regular man can do any of what the Mashiach must do other than to re-establish sacrifices in the Temple, much less do all of them.

It is interesting that the Jewish interpretation is based upon God's intervention in the Old Law, but excludes God in the work of the Mashiach.

It is important to note here that there are probably as many Jewish points of view on this matter as there are "Christian" points of view about

church subjects. This article is only responding to one of these points of view. If you engage someone of the Jewish faith, you will need to learn what they specifically believe to know how to handle that situation.

The information herein is primarily collected from the following websites:

1. <http://www.jewfaq.org/mashiach.htm>
2. <http://www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/jewsandjesus/#7>



Quotable Quotes

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?
Satchel Paige

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: BLADDER COMPLIANCE

When you need to urinate (such a subject), you feel the urge. It means your bladder is full.

If it is not socially convenient for you to do it right now, an interesting thing happens. Your kidneys continue to produce urine and your “full” bladder continues to accept it. How is this possible? If your bladder is overloaded and stretched, the pressure would build up and become more and more uncomfortable. That is not what happens.

A factor called “bladder compliance” comes into play. It means that your bladder simply relaxes to a larger size. If it is filled again and it is still not socially acceptable to urinate, it happens again. We have not been able to determine how many times this can happen, maybe 2 or 3 times is the limit.

The question is why is this impossible for evolution when no new parts are made to do it, just the same ones operate differently. The reason is that when all the presumed “evolution” was taking place, there was no need for such a capability. It is a contemporary social consideration and not a survival of the fittest consideration. When presumed “evolution” was taking place, if someone or something needed to urinate, they simply did it. They didn’t need to wait for a car to get to a gas station, every place and any place was acceptable.

Whoever designed the characteristic of bladder compliance into our systems was looking forward to the time that the time to urinate had social implications. That designer was Jehovah and this is just one of the many ways His wisdom impacts your daily life. It is amazing how much of it we take for granted.

Benton F. Baugh



A gentleman in Best Buy with his belief on his shirt.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM 1913

The following article was shared by Camellia Jackson. It was true a hundred years ago, now and will always be true. We sometimes fail to emphasize the God given principle of one woman for one man for life because there is so much pain associated with the dissolution of the family. But the pain is all the more reason to teach God's focus on the family-to spare others of this pain. God always has the best interest of each individual in mind when he commands that we be faithful to our spouse.

Jan. 6, 1913: "It is the home that contains the vital principles of human happiness that is the NATIONS STRENGTH, and it is the foundation of private as well as public well being. Relaxation of the marriage tie endangers the integrity of the family and...the social curse of divorce strikes at home life...great injury is done to the husband and wife themselves and to the children. Every child has a right to a mother's heart, to a mother's arms and to a father's love. Every child has a right to a home

with its father and mother. Divorce and dissolution of family deprive and rob the child of that to which every child is entitled, and it works an irreparable injury to a child. Every right thinking man should raise his voice against the growing evil."

The divorce rate is much higher now than in 1913! What can we do to reverse the trend? We begin in preschool teaching our children to love and obey God. We move on to teach primary students that, "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3) We need to *teach* God's commands – honesty, kindness, patience, graciousness, compassion, humility, faithfulness and forgiveness for a start. Jesus said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you..." (John 13:34) Love always seeks the highest good of the other person and love never harms the other person.

Elizabeth Brown

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Stephenville, Texas



AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES — HOUSTON

2nd Tues. Preacher's Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefoster@gmail.com for address.

**9/28/14 Eastern European Missions Million Dollar Sunday
www.milliondollarsunday.org**

5/20/15 Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament—Blackhorse

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to bbaugh@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

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