

The Bible

Distinctions Between Judaism and Christianity

Introduction

Some time ago a young lady asked me: “What is the difference between Judaism and Christianity?” Considering that she was only thirteen years of age it was quite a question! When considering her question, What is the difference between Judaism and Christianity”? Two avenues of thought came to my attention, the similarities and differences.

The failure to distinguish between Judaism and Christianity will result in confusion regarding the prophecies concerning the three groups (Jews, Gentiles and church of God 1 Cor. 10:32). Failure to differentiate results in the teaching that the saints of the church age can expect to go through the tribulation and should be looking for the gospel to be preached in all the world. It is the gospel of the kingdom that is to be preached (Matt. 24:14), not that of the grace of God (Acts 20:24). This confusion results in the false hope that things will get better spiritually so that the Lord can come.

Distinctions between Israel and the Church

This is important because there can be no doubt that Israel is going to go through the tribulation, and if the church and Israel are the same, then the church will go through the tribulation.

Similarities

- 1) Both believe in the one God who is one LORD; yet three persons. (Isa. 61:1; 63:9-10; Acts 2: 32-33; Eph 5: 18-20)
- 2) Both believe in the attributes and decrees of God as being absolute.
 - a) He is absolutely holy, (Josh. 25:19; 1 Pet. 1:156-16); merciful, (Deut.4:31; Heb.8:12); compassionate, (Psa. 86:15; Heb. 5:2); love, (Jer. 31:3; Jn. 3:16), etc. These are His attributes.
 - b) He determines what will be done or permitted to be done, (Jer. 51:29) Christ going to the cross. (Acts 2:23). Such are and you His decrees.
- 3) Both believe there is a life after death in blessing or judgment (Psa. 17:15; Lk. 16:23; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 20:15).
- 4) Both believe in the resurrection (Dan. 12:2; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- 5) Both believe there is a judgment for all humanity (however, they are not all at the one time) (Lk. 10:14; Rom. 14:10).
- 6) Both believe that they are the children of Abraham, but Judaism is the physical seed whereas Christianity is the spiritual seed (Jn. 8:33; Gal. 3:29).
- 7) Both believe in the prophet Moses (Mk. 10:4; Acts 26:22).
- 8) Both believe that humanity has originated from Adam and Eve (Deut. 32:8; 1 Tim. 2:13-14)

Differences

The major difference is on how they view Christ.

Judaism	Christianity
Judaism teaches He was a good teacher and possibly a prophet from God but He is not the Messiah (Jn. 3:2)	Christianity believes He is the Messiah, that is God’s appointed prophet, King and Priest (Deut. 18:15; Psa. 2:6; Heb. 5:6)
Judaism began at Sinai (Ex. 19:1-25)	Christianity began at Jerusalem (Lk. 19:26-28; 23:33)
Its origin is Abraham, a man (Matt. 3:9)	Its originator is Jesus Christ, the man who is God (Matt. 16:18)

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Judaism teaches that He is a false Messiah, a deceiver and a blasphemer (Matt. 27:63; Matt. 9:3)	Christianity believes He is the Messiah and His crucifixion was in the purposes of God for to provide salvation (1 Jn. 4:14)
Judaism does not believe in the virgin birth and His immaculate conception (Jn. 8:41)	Christianity believes He was born of a virgin and was miraculously conceived (Matt. 1:18-25)
Judaism teaches that the death of the Lord was worthless (Heb. 10:29)	Christianity believes that the blood of the Lord is precious and can do that which no animals blood can do (Heb. 9:12-14)
Judaism hopes to gain God's favour and have God's righteousness by keeping the law (there are 630+ laws, not just 10). (Rom. 10:3)	Christianity teaches that it is impossible to keep the law and God's righteousness can only come from God and by acceptance of Christ (Rom. 4:6)
Judaism teaches that the Old Testament prophecies were not fulfilled in Christ and any similarity is coincidence.	Christianity teaching that the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in Christ and by Christ are authentications of who He was. (Lk. 24:44)
Judaism denies the resurrection of Christ (Matt. 28:13)	Christianity believes in the resurrection of Christ (Mk. 16:9)
Judaism teaches that the day set apart for God is the "Sabbath" which is Saturday (Ex. 20:8)	Christianity teaches that the day set aside for God is the "First day of the week," the "Lord's Day," or Sunday (Jn. 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).
Tithing was under the law and Judaism (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:26)	Today people get these things mixed up so they practice tithing which was under the law and Judaism. Today the Lord lets us determine what we give. To tithe demands no exercise of heart just look at what comes in and give the Lord 10%, whereas the New Testament teaches "look at what the Lord has done for you, what can you give to support His work"? And "as the Lord has prospered" (1 Cor. 16:2)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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