

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#60)
The Jewish rejection of the Good News

THE JEWISH REJECTION OF THE GOOD NEWS

> Jesus told the woman from Samaria...

You worship that which you don't know. We worship that which we know; for **salvation is from the Jews.**
John 4:22 (WEB)

> Paul told the people at Rome...

... the people of Israel. Theirs is the **adoption** as sons; theirs the **divine glory**, the **covenants**, the receiving of the **law**, the **temple worship** and the **promises**. Theirs are the **patriarchs**, and from them is traced the **human ancestry of Christ**, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.
Romans 9:4-5 (NIV)

With all these blessings and benefits...
WHY DIDN'T ALL JEWS BECOME FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

**AFTER ALL,
THEY HAD ALL THE PROOF THEY NEEDED!**

- ✓ By examining the Bible (Old Testament), it could be **proved** what the "Messiah" or "Christ" would be like.

[Paul] reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and **proving** that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead.
Act 17:2b-3a (NIV)
- ✓ It could be **proved** that **Jesus** was the one it referred to.

[Apollos] **proved** by the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.
Act 18:28b (ISV)

Saul [= Paul] ... **proving** that Jesus is the Messiah.
Act 9:22b (CSB)

- ✓ Jesus himself made this **proof** possible – and many witnesses were present to verify it.

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many **proofs**, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
Act 1:3 (ESV)
- ✓ All this **proves** that Jesus will someday be our judge.

For [God] has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man [Jesus] he has appointed, and he **proved** to everyone who this is by raising him [Jesus] from the dead.
Acts 17:31 (NLT)
- ✓ Certain changes will **prove** we are ready for that judgment.

... all must turn from their sins and turn to God—and **prove** they have changed by the good things they do.
Acts 26:20b (NLT)

MANY JEWS DID TURN TO JESUS! (AND MANY STILL DO.)

[The leaders of the Jerusalem church] said to Paul, "You see, brother, how many **thousands of Jews** are now believers, ...
Acts 21:20b (GW)

BUT AS A NATION, THE JEWS REJECTED JESUS.
NOT for **lack of evidence**, but (like **all** who reject Jesus) because of a **stubborn refusal** to accept the evidence.

These people have **exchanged** God's truth for a lie.
Romans 1:25a (GW)

[They] **refused** to love the truth that would save them.
2 Thes. 2:10b (GW)

[They] **reject** the truth and follow evil, ...
Romans 2:8b (NIV)

HOW STUBBORN? Those NOT willing to accept what the Scriptures say will NOT accept the truth... even if someone rises from the dead!

"If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."
Luke 16:31b (NIV)

This quote is from a passage commonly called "The rich man and Lazarus" (who, in this story, was a beggar). It may have been a story intended to teach truth (instead of a real event).

But later, there was a Lazarus (a rich man) who **did** come back from the dead. How did the religious leaders respond? Not with repentance! Instead, they wanted to get rid of the evidence!

The chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too.
John 12:10 (GW)

SOME OF THE REASONS THEY REJECTED THE TRUTH ARE:

✓ **SUBSTITUTES** – They had replaced Scripture with their own teachings (which included the writings of past leaders).

Jesus quoting Isaiah – "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me is pointless, because their teachings are rules made by humans."
Matthew 15:8-9 (GW)

✓ **HYPOCRISY** – When they *did* talk about Scripture, they didn't "practice what they preach."

So practice and obey whatever they say to you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach.
Matthew 23:3 (NLT)

✓ **PEOPLE-PLEASING** – They were more interested in impressing *people*, than *God*.

They do everything to attract people's attention. They make their headbands large and the tassels on their shawls long.
Matthew 23:5 (GW)

They were more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them.
John 12:43 (GW)

✓ **WRONG PRIORITIES** – They had a greater focus on things that were of lesser importance.

You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.
Matthew 23:23b (NIV)

✓ **ATTENTION-LOVING** – They didn't like it when people paid more attention to *Jesus* than to *them!*

Pilate knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him [to be killed] because they were jealous.
Mark 15:10 (GW)

✓ **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES** – They attempted to gain God's approval through the practice of religious activities.

"The Pharisee stood up and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people! ... I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my entire income.'

"But the tax collector was standing at a distance. He wouldn't even look up to heaven. Instead, he became very upset, and he said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

"I can guarantee that this tax collector went home with God's approval, but the Pharisee didn't."
Luke 18:11a, 12-14a (GW)

THE RESULT: Modern-day Judaism is *not* the Judaism of the Bible.

Those who accept the message of Moses and the prophets continue to turn to Jesus. *The others do not belong to God.*

BIOLOGICALLY, THEY MIGHT BE JEWISH; BUT SPIRITUALLY, THEY ARE NOT!

You belong to your father, the devil, ...
John 8:44a (NIV)

They say they are Jews, but they really aren't because theirs is a synagogue of Satan.
Rev. 2:9b (NLT)

OUTWARD APPEARANCES DO NOT DEFINE ONE'S SPIRITUAL CONDITION BEFORE GOD.

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.
Romans 2:28 (NIV)

WARNING! Much of modern-day "Christianity" is *not* the Christianity of the Bible... and for many of the same reasons.

IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT JEWISH REJECTION OF JESUS, GOD WILL *STILL* ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.

God will *still* fulfill his promise to bless *all* nations through Abraham (the Jew's forefather)!

⇒ WHAT GOD TOLD ABRAHAM, THE JEW'S FOREFATHER.

"All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."
Genesis 12:3b (ISV)

⇒ THIS INCLUDES THE OFFER OF SALVATION.

[God's] purpose was to make his salvation available to the Gentiles, ...
Romans 11:11b (NLT)

⇒ THE FINAL OUTCOME WILL BE:

"For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea."
Habakkuk 2:14 (NASB)

Since the Jews chose to reject Jesus, God has offered salvation to non-Jews (= Gentiles)!

... the Jews' **rejection** meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, ...
Romans 11:15b (NLT)

At the present, God is turning their rejection into an opportunity to bring Gentiles into his kingdom! (If the Jews *don't* want to be a part of it, God will *still* accomplish his purposes!)

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, "It was necessary that this Good News from God be given first to you Jews. But since **you have rejected it** and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life—well, **we will offer it to Gentiles.**"
Acts 13:46 (NLT)

In the end, God will bring the Jewish nation back to himself.

THEIR REBELLION IS **TEMPORARY**.

IT'S NOT ALL OF THEM! *

Stubbornness has come to part of Israel until the full number of the gentiles comes to faith.

Romans 11:25b (ISV)

THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

[Paul, quoting the Old Testament prophets]
"The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.
This is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."
Romans 11:26b-27 (ISV)

* [Though many are stubborn, the Good News is still available to the Jews – and many do accept Jesus as the Messiah.]

A GLORIOUS TIME IS COMING!

They will repent; and God will take away their sins!

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."
Zech. 12:10 (NIV)

BUT WE AREN'T THERE YET.

The book of Acts is a record of how the Jew's rejection brought about the introduction of the Good News to the Gentiles (non-Jews).

WHEN THE JEWS DO TURN TO JESUS, WHAT WILL BE THE "DIFFERENCE" THAT CAUSES THEM TO CHANGE?

A. They will have the same "witnesses" to the truth that we have today –
1) The Old Testament prophetic writings,
2) The New Testament apostolic testimony,
3) The Holy Spirit's visible work in people's lives.

B. They might be eyewitnesses to the fulfillment of some additional Old Testament prophecies (during the end times).

C. THE BIG DIFFERENCE will be their willingness to accept what is written in Scripture, without adding to, or subtracting from it.

BACK THEN: They had no legitimate excuse for rejecting Jesus.

TODAY: They are still without excuse. If they would accept the Old Testament, they would accept Jesus as the Messiah.

TIME FOR A

REALITY CHECK!

I'M GLAD I'M NOT LIKE THEM!

ARE WE REALLY ANY DIFFERENT?

Are WE better because we call ourselves "Christians"?
Are WE never influenced by the things that influenced THEM?

✓ Bible-substitutes
✓ Hypocrisy
✓ Attention-loving

✓ People-pleasing
✓ Wrong priorities
✓ Religious activities

An attitude of superiority is a common tendency for people!

❖ Even those who killed Jesus thought they were better than their ancestors, who killed the prophets!

Then you say, "If we had lived at the time of our ancestors, we would not have helped to murder the prophets."
Matthew 23:30 (GW)

WARNING! DON'T GET AN ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY!

⇒ Don't be arrogant. You are NOT superior to the Jews, or more "special" than they.

People who have this attitude are in danger of discovering (at the judgment) that their "salvation" was FAKE.

Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches,* he will not spare you either.

Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

Romans 11:20b-22 (NIV)

* [Symbolism that referred to Jews (the physical offspring of Abraham) as being broken off the "tree," because of their unbelief.]

YOUR MISSION!

For the UNSAVED.

👉 DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

FOR THE JEWS:
Take back the opportunity you lost...
Pay attention to Scripture and the Good News!

FOR THE GENTILES:
If you are a non-Jew, you are being offered a salvation that was intended for the Jews.
Use that opportunity while you still have it!

(Right now, the opportunity is being offered to both Jew and Gentile.)

**YOUR
MISSION!**

For the SAVED.

👉 DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY:

For their salvation ... for your faithfulness to Jesus.
(Most likely, you already know specific things
you need to talk to God about.)

OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER YOUR DEPENDENCY ON GOD:

You will never follow Jesus or obey the Scriptures,
unless you admit your weakness and depend on God
for the strength to do what's right.

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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