

THE WAY OF A JEW

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I was born in Brooklyn, NY on May 24th 1951 and circumcised into the Covenant of Father Abraham eight days later. My parents divorced when I was five years old and I grew up thinking I was the only kid who did not have his father living at home. At 13 years old I had an Orthodox *bar mitzva*, but it didn't mean anything to me. I was into basketball and baseball. By 20 I was attending Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ, but I made my living shooting pool. I would eventually graduate from Ramapo State College in Mahwah, NJ with a BA in Political Science, with no distinctions. My heart was into shooting pool and my real education came from the pool hall.

My life was one where I did whatever I wanted to do. Leaving home at 18 I made the pool hall my new home where I could be found 60 hours a week. I smoked grass, did hash and some LSD, and learned what sex was all about. I also saw that I wasn't as ethical as I had imagined myself to be, but lately, something was stirring inside me. As I drove onto Rt. 17 to go to the pool hall that day, I looked up into the sky and said:

“God, if You're real, I want to know. If You're not real then Heaven and Hell don't mean anything, but if You are then You're wise enough and strong enough to get in onto a guy like me.”

That began my spiritual journey at 20 years old. Oh, I 'knew' God existed. I had heard about Him in one way or another all my Jewish life, but God meant no more to me than Abraham Lincoln. I knew he existed, too, but Mr. Lincoln didn't effect my life, as I could see it, in 1971, and neither did God. Where was real Life and Truth? I searched for God in Transcendental Meditation. I found something there that I thought was pretty good. I looked into Zen Buddhism and I loved it. I thought it was the perfect answer to reality, but I would come to see that God wasn't in either of them—just 'self' at a heightened level of awareness. I would wander down that spiritual lane for four years and then I moved from New Jersey to Tampa, Florida.

I had played pool for five years and I could have turned professional, but my heart wasn't into hustling people. I had come to see that in order to excel I'd have to become insensitive to people and to any morals that I might have had left. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I didn't want to shoot pool for the rest of it. To be the best you have to give your soul to the game, which I had done, but the game had run its course in my life and it was growing old. I was ready to move on.

I had to leave the pool hall where all my friends were or I'd be drawn back to it. I wanted to go to California, but I didn't think my 1967 Buick Skylark would make it. So, Tommy Vince, a friend of mine, and I decided to head to Florida. It was Sept 1975. I only brought a couple of books with me, but one of them would radically change my life. I had heard good things about it over the last few years and as I began reading it in Oct 1975 I thought it was going to be like the other self-help books that I had read before. I was into 'pulling myself up by my own belt loops' philosophy and I thought that *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale would be similar. It wasn't. It was my time to meet the God of Israel.

God drew me to Himself through the book. It had stories of people who were searching for Reality, searching for hope or for real peace with God. Each one found their answer in the Messiah. I was deeply impressed. I had never read anything like that before. Halfway through the book I could see that Messiah Jesus was everything I had always wanted, but could never put my finger on. I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and to come into my heart, as the book spoke of, and the most incredible thing happened—*He did! I felt a Living Peace come over me.* It wasn't the 'peace of nothingness' that the gurus teach, but a heavenly Peace. The two are as different as night and day. I knew I had made the right decision. The God of Israel was affirming it. I now had an experiential awareness of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), God the Son, for He come to me and I was Born Again (New Testament: John 3:3, 5). One journey came to an end while another one began.

Our God created inside us Jews a desire to know Him, as Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did. Most of the

time our hearts get covered over with ‘making a living’ and trying ‘to be somebody.’ Other times that divine spark within us is snafued by witchcraft, ‘New Age,’ or Buddhism, etc., because we look at Orthodox and Hasidic Judaism and see a lot of rigid rules and unhappy people. What other alternative is there? Most of us don’t want to give Yeshua ‘a chance’ because we know that ‘Jews don’t believe in Jesus.’

The main reason we don’t believe in Jesus is because ‘in the Name of Jesus,’ more of us Jews have been persecuted and murdered than in all other names combined, and that, by the very people who call themselves Christians—most were not, though. Just as most Jews don’t follow Moses. The second reason is that Christians don’t keep Mosaic Law, which is what we’d expect of our Messiah and His followers. The third reason is that it seems that Christians believe in three gods instead of one. These are three good reasons for a Jew not to even consider Jesus, but as with many things of life, there’s more to this than meets the eye.

Christians murdering us isn’t anymore the fault of Jesus than a Jew robbing a bank in Manhattan is the fault of Moses. *Every Christian* who has murdered a Jew will stand before Jesus the Jew on Judgment Day and give an account for murdering *His brothers and sisters*. Yeshua, says in the last book of the New Covenant (Testament) that He is the Root and the Seed of King David (Rev. 22:16; cf. Isaiah 11:1-2). God is righteous—no one gets away with murder, but how can God have a Son?

The short answer is seen in Psalm 2:2, 6-7; Prov. 30:4 and Micah 5:1-2. A fuller Jewish understanding is found in these articles of mine: *Yeshua—God the Son* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Yeshua-God-the-Son.pdf>, *Messiah’s Deity and Micah 5:2* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Messiahs-Deity-and-Micah-5.2.pdf>, *The Virgin Conception of Messiah and Isaiah 7:14* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Virgin-Conception-Is.-7.14.pdf>, and *Human Sacrifice and Yeshua* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Human-Sacrifice-and-Yeshua.pdf>.

The final point, that Christians don’t observe Mosaic Law, is totally contrary to Yeshua and the New Testament. Christians don’t realize this because the change happened so long ago. In 120 AD the Roman Catholic Church threw out Mosaic Law, created ‘Christian’ anti-Semitism, and brought in “days and ways” that were not of Messiah (e.g. Sunday, Easter and Christmas, as well as the eating of foods that God calls unclean, like bacon; Lev. 11:1f.). Most Christians today don’t realize that Easter and Christmas aren’t even found in the New Testament, let alone commanded to be kept. Christians have been *deceived* about Mosaic Law, just as Jews have been deceived about our own Messiah. Christians should be keeping all the laws and rules of Moses that apply to them (like Sabbath, Feasts of Israel and Mosaic dietary laws), just as Yeshua did. Yeshua wants all Christians to keep Mosaic Law, and not Sunday, etc: See, *Take the Quiz! Five Quick Questions about the New Testament* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Take-the-Quiz.pdf>, *The Feasts of Israel and the Church* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-and-the-Church.pdf>; *Four Simple Points* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Four-Simple-Points.pdf> to know that our Scriptures tell us *when* the Messiah would come—*before* the destruction of the Second Temple, in 70 AD. *In other words, if Yeshua isn’t our Messiah, where is the Messiah that Daniel 7:24-26 speaks of?*

Yeshua is God’s answer to the deepest desire of your heart—a relationship with the God of Israel and the washing way of our sins. It’s only through Yeshua that we have a living relationship with our God. We must be Born Again. Only Yeshua gives us heavenly peace and eternal life. Yeshua your Messiah loves you and died in your place for your sins and guilt so that you might be clean and righteous before Papa God. Ask Yeshua to forgive all your sins, come into your soul, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. When you do this you’ll *know the joy* of your Messiah and you will begin to *know* our God. Isaiah said of our Messiah that,

“He was pierced-through for our open rebellion. He was crushed for our guilt. The punishment for our peace (with Papa God) was upon Him, and by His scourgings we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5; cf. Targum on Isaiah 52:13; Sanhedrin 98a/b; Suka 52a; *Midrash Rabbah* on Ruth 5:6; *Pesikta Rabbati*, *Piska* 36:142)

We all deserve to die and go to Hell for our rebellion and sins against God, but in His great mercy He sent His Son to take our punishment so we could be set free from our sins and dwell with Him in eternity. If you have any questions and/or would like to talk about our beloved Messiah, please contact me via my email address (AvramYeh@Gmail.com).

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