

First Words:

A. To be a follower of Judaism is to belong to a small but _____ and _____ religious tradition

1. There are only 15.3 million Jews in the world presently. 8 million of those live in the United States. There are 1.5 million Jews in the NYC Metro area.

2. There is a distinct difference in being Jewish as a nationality and having Judaism as one's religion

3. In terms of a nationality there are two broad categories of the Jewish people – The Ashkenazic Jews are associated with France, Germany and Eastern Europe. The Sephardic Jews are associated with Spain and Portugal

4. In terms of religion there are three branches of Judaism

a. Orthodox Judaism – They see the Jewish Scriptures as the rule for faith and practice. They observe the moral, ceremonial and dietary Laws of those Scriptures.

b. Reformed Judaism – The Jewish Scriptures are not binding. What matters in one's ethnic identity as a Jew.

c. Conservative Judaism – A balance between Orthodox and Reformed Judaism.

d. On either ends of the spectrum are two sects 1) Hasidim – the Ultra-Orthodox Jews and 2) Kabbalah – Mystical Judaism

e. Beyond these is Zionism – It is not religious Judaism. It is a political movement in favor of Israel and a homeland for Israel.

B. To be a follower of Judaism is to belong to one of the _____ religions in the world

- The Jewish faith traces its roots to 2100 BC and Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation.
- The giving of the Law through Moses in 1445 BC is an important benchmark in Judaism

- Conquering the Promised Land through Joshua fulfilled an important promise to the Jewish people
- The reign of David begins the Messianic line for Judaism
- The Dispersion under the Assyrians and the Captivity under the Babylonians mark the chastisement of God in Jewish history.
- Returning from the Captivity to the Promised land is a high mark in Jewish history
- The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Roman General Titus in 70 AD begins a very difficult period in Jewish history
- The Holocaust killing 6 million Jews perpetrated during World War II is one of the darkest times in Jewish History
- The restoration of Israel to its homeland in 1948 began a new day in the history of Israel

C. To be a follower of Judaism is to be _____ the following

1. The Observance of Jewish _____

- a. Purim – Observes the deliverance of the Jewish people by Esther
- b. The Passover (Pessah) – Observes the miraculous deliverance from Egypt with unleavened bread
- c. Shabout – The feast of weeks, 7 weeks after the Passover. Observes the first fruits and the giving of the Ten Commandments
- d. Rosh Hashanah – Literally means “head of the year”. The shofar is blown daily calling the people to repent.
- e. Yom Kippur – Literally “day of atonement”. The holiest day of the year. Observed 10 days after Rosh Hashanah.
- f. Sukkoth – The feast of Tabernacles or booths. Observes ingathering of the Harvest and is a pilgrimage feast.
- g. Hanukkah – Eight days in midwinter – observing the Maccabean revolt and the miracle of the oil.

2. The Observance of the Jewish _____

- a. Circumcision of the sons on the eighth day by a Mohel into the Abrahamic Covenant – Hebrew “brit milah”
- b. Bar mitzvah & bat mitzvah – The son or daughter of the Law at age 13
- c. Jewish Wedding – Ceremony under a canopy called the Chuppah

D. To be a follower of Judaism is to embrace the following _____

1. The Shema – Hear oh Israel the Lord You God is one God – ***Dt. 6:4***
2. The Law of the Old Testament/Jewish Scriptures – The Torah (The first five books of Jewish Scriptures) – Mitzvah means commandment. There are 613 mitvot in the Law of Moses, 248 are positive and 365 are negative.
3. The Talmud – The Talmud contains the Mishnah and the Gemara. The Mishnah is the rabbinic teachings on the Jewish Scriptures. The Gemara is a rabbinic commentary on the Mishnah
4. The 13 Principles (From the Jewish Philosopher/Rabbi Maimonides in the 12th Century) attempts to synthesize Jewish beliefs

E. To be a follower of Jesus Christ verses to be a follower of Judaism

1. Regarding one's view of God
2. Regarding one's view of the Bible and the Traditions
3. Regarding one's view of sin and salvation
4. Regarding one's view of Jesus Christ

F. How should a follower of Jesus Christ view Judaism?

1. As _____ to Christianity – ***Galatians 3:24-26***
2. As _____ of the Holy Scriptures and the Messiah – ***John 4:22***
3. As a fulfilled faith that was to disappear in the 1st Century – ***Luke 24:44*** and ***Hebrews 8:13***

Why I am a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of Judaism?

1. Better _____ – ***Hebrews 4:14-16***
2. Better _____ – ***Hebrew 9:13-14, 23-24***
3. Better _____ – ***Hebrew 8:6***
4. Better _____ – ***Hebrews 9:11-12***
5. Better _____ – ***Hebrews 8:7-12***

Why I am a Follower of
JESUS CHRIST



**NOT A FOLLOWER OF
JUDAISM**

Presented by Pastor Dave Watson
at Calvary Chapel