

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST

RLJ-1481

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PART 4: LIVING IN THE PAST

CHRISTIANS AND JEWISH CUSTOMS

Since the formation of the political state of Israel in 1948, it has become a trend among some Christians to blend Jewish traditions and holidays into their life even though Jesus and the apostles never advocated such an action. On the contrary, the apostle Paul strongly rebuked the church in Galatia for reverting back to Judaism. **Galatians 2:9-16; 3:1-10**

Every book in the New Testament, with the exception of the Book of Revelation, was written before the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. The apostles and their converts stopped participating in the sacrifices at the temple after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Acts 15:1-11; 20-21; Hebrews 9:17-28**

Jesus discarded all Jewish customs and presented the Church with three rituals that He wanted us to observe:

1. Water baptism **Matthew 28:18-20**
2. Breaking of bread or communion **1 Corinthians 12:23-26**
3. Foot washing **John 13:4-15**

JEWISH HOLY DAYS

It is important to note that the last true Passover (Seder) was observed by Jesus and the twelve disciples. After His death and resurrection, any Passover observances which are carried out are done so in rebellion against God because the person is implying that Jesus is not the Messiah of Israel. There is a curse upon anyone who participates in the Passover meal now. Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God that was slain for the sins of the world and there are no more sacrifices needed. **Hebrews 10:9-23**

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is another holy day that is also known as the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication. It is observed on the 25th day of Kislev from the Jewish calendar, which fluctuates from late November to late December. This celebration is not found in the Bible and dates back to 165 B.C.

According to Rabbi Solomon Grayzel, Judah Maccabee was a Jewish guerilla fighter who assumed command after his father died.¹ They were contesting the Seleucid dynasty and the Hellenizing Jews who were not interested in restoring true worship at the temple. Hellenized Jews had accepted the traditions of Greece and distanced themselves from the traditional orthodox Jews. It was a civil war to a certain degree since a large number of Hellenized Jews sided with the Seleucians.

¹ Solomon Grayzel, A HISTORY OF THE JEWS, The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1948, pp. 60-62.



At the battle of Emmaus, Judah and his men defeated the Syrian army, and then turned to Jerusalem. The Syrian fortress of Acra in Jerusalem was bypassed as Judah stationed some of his troops around it to keep the Syrian soldiers locked up. Judah and his men then took control of the temple ground and cleansed it from the desecration caused by the Greek army that had taken the area under Alexander the Great. They dismantled the altar and built a new one and the temple was cleansed after sacrifices, and prayer and daily sacrifices were reinstated according to the laws of Moses.

Judah declared an eight day feast to celebrate this great victory and for the cleansing of the temple. This was the first Hanukkah.

Most of the Jews living in Jerusalem did not support Judah and his army, and when the Seleucid Viceroy Lysias led a large army to crush the rebellion, Judah and his army were defeated in the field and fled back to Jerusalem. During the siege, Lysias offered to allow the Jews to control the temple and enjoy religious freedom, but the Seleucians would re-occupy the land and rule it. The majority of the Jews accepted the peace plan and Judah had to flee. He fought the Syrian army with only 800 men and died in 160 B.C. The time in which Judah Maccabee ruled only lasted five years.

Jews living in America began to Americanize Hanukkah around 1842, when the Penina Moise's Hanukkah hymn was published. The American Jewish leadership wanted to offset the emerging Christmas celebration and prevent Jews from starting to celebrate Christmas. It was the Kabbalistic Lubavitcher Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson that in the 1970's began to strongly promote the celebration of Hanukkah.² He wanted the American public to be educated about Hanukkah and for there to be a public lighting of menorahs at the beginning of this Jewish festival. Today it is common for menorah's to be lit at Congress and the White House and most state capitols.

Jewish rabbis have specified special foods to be eaten during Hanukkah and it is now a big commercial holiday in the United States.

Why should Christians celebrate a Jewish holiday that has no roots in the Bible and is based on the Maccabean uprising when they attempted to take the land back by force? Why is this holiday being pushed so hard by Kabbalistic Jews?³

YOM KIPPUR – THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Yom Kippur is a biblical holy day set aside every year by God for Israel to repent of their sins. It is clearly detailed by God how it was to be carried out in **Leviticus 16:1-34**. This

² Rabbi Menachem Schneerson (1902-1994) was thought to be the Messiah of the Jews and his followers expected him to be resurrected after his death. The movement is also known as Chabad, with its headquarters in New York and has become the biggest movement within Judaism. It was started in the Russian village of Lyubavichi in 1755 by Rabbi Schneur of Liadi and its doctrine is built upon the Zoar and the Kabbalah as developed by Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-1572).

Schneerson was a Jewish political heavyweight and his birthday was designated as the National Day of Education of the United States in 1978. He was invited in 1991 to the White House when President Bush signed into law the Seven Noahide Laws, which had been previously passed by Congress. In 1994 he was posthumously awarded the congressional gold medal for his "outstanding work in education, morality and acts of charity."

³ See [RLJ-1473](#) for more information.

special day was to be observed on the 10th day of the seventh month of Tishri (October).

According to the New Testament, the Day of Atonement ceased to exist with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Jewish leadership and the majority of the Jewish people at the time of Christ rejected Jesus as the Messiah and simply continued to observe Yom Kippur and still continue to this day. According to the New Testament, it is now an abomination to celebrate the Day of Atonement because it is a sin to reject Jesus as the Messiah. **Acts 4:5-12**

Any Christian who chooses to observe Yom Kippur is essentially spitting Jesus in the face like the Jews did before He was hung on the cross. Any believer in Christ who decides to observe this day will become cursed. **Matthew 26:65-68**

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles was held on the 15th day of Tishri and lasted seven days. The people were commanded to build a hut of tree branches to commemorate the time when they dwelled in tents in the wilderness, to eat and to rejoice. Sacrifices were also part of this festival. **Leviticus 23:33-43**

The Feast of Tabernacles was yet another sacrificial feast day that pointed the people to the Messiah. Since Jesus has come as the Messiah, there is no reason to observe this holy day any longer.

PURIM

The Book of Esther is the story of a Jewish leader by the name of Mordecai and his dealings with King Ahasuerus of the Persian Empire around 478 B.C. There is no mention that God supernaturally intervened to save the Jews living in the Persian Empire; instead, it is the story of Mordecai using his political skills to manipulate the king.

Mordecai had adopted his uncle's daughter, Esther, who was orphaned as a child. Many years later, King Ahasuerus was searching for a new queen and Esther was chosen. Mordecai worked in the palace and kept an eye on Esther. When Haman plotted to have Mordecai executed and all Jews killed in the Persian Empire, Mordecai used Esther to sway the king and hang Haman.

Once Mordecai had aced out Haman and became the chief advisor to the king, he issued a decree that the victory over Haman should be observed by all Jews on an annual basis and the feast day became known as Purim. The festival was to be kept on the 14th and 15th days of the month Adar (February-March). The feast involved extra food and merry making, including exchanging of gifts and also giving gifts to the poor. **Esther 9:17-22**

OTHER JEWISH HOLY DAYS

There are a number of other holy days and feast days in Judaism, some with sacrifices and some without. It is important to note that when the people of Israel began to sin against the Lord, He was not pleased and stated that He hated their observance of the

feast days because they lived in sin. God spoke in harsh terms through his prophet Amos. **Amos 5:18-27; 6:1-8**

SUMMARY

The apostle Paul made it clear that being Jewish is not an advantage when it comes to having a closer relationship with God because of their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. **Romans 3:9-18; 28-31**

All Jewish people who reject Jesus as the Messiah are cursed. **Galatians 3:8-10**

Christians that choose to participate in Jewish holy days are essentially turning back from Christ and returning to Judaism, which the Bible defines as a corrupt religious system without any value. **Galatians 4:1-11**

Starting with Adam in the 4,000 years prior to the cross, everyone in the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who lived on earth and died without faith in the coming Messiah is today in hell and awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment. The same fate awaits the descendants born in the last 2,000 years that refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. The Bible is very clear on this issue. **Revelation 20:10-15**

God does not have a special redemption plan for Jews. The first covenant does not exist anymore and will never be revived. Judaism is a corrupt and dead religion that will one day give birth to the Antichrist system. As a Christian, do you want to undergird the coming Antichrist?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?