Our Father's Word / "The Bible is not a Jewish Book"

Summary

A short introduction on Bible interpretation, paired with a longer, pointed essay on who the Bible's message was actually entrusted to.

- A brief introductory piece on Bible interpretation.
- The reprinted essay "The Bible is not a Jewish Book," credited to Bertrand L. Comparet.
- The argument that "Jew" denotes a religious label distinct from Israelite ancestry, and that today's Jews descend from Canaanites and Edomites who intermarried with Israelites after the Babylonian captivity.
- A case, from Scripture and Josephus, that the New Covenant's apostles (other than Judas) were of the tribe of Benjamin.
- An editor's note added beneath the Comparet byline, identifying these specific ancestry claims as the original author's own opinion, not independently researched or confirmed by TFR.

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The word Bible is derived from Biblia or the books, and is commonly used to signify the "Holy Scriptures", or the written Word of Yahweh. The word scriptures is derived from the Latin language.

The 1611 version of the Bible was translated under the auspices of King James. The Douay Version *(1609-10)* was the first Roman Catholic Bible in English. The King James Version was the culmination of earlier translations and revisions, and is deemed by most theologians and scholars as being a highly accurate version in terms of word for word translation.

The Bible will interpret itself if allowed to be read with an open mind to the whole truth and not to the narrow interpretations of others. The best rule of interpretation is to follow the Author's - Yahweh's instruction, which is to let His Holy Spirit do the teaching.

To do otherwise is to risk times entrenchment in whatever delusions that drives one, and in that respect, to become your own truth and way, taking upon yourself the many forms of false deity and becoming false Messiahs.

The Bible has been misinterpreted throughout history and there are those that still use these misinterpretations to bring forth further misconceptions, misunderstandings and a dissection of the true word of Yahweh. To be true to scripture, we must go to the original texts; the word of Yahweh, and understand its historical context before we can understand and teach others.

Christians must take the words of Paul to heart when he asked Timothy to *(2:15):* "Study to show thyself approved unto Yahweh, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." It has been said that "the sacred page is not meant to be the end, but only the means toward the end, which is knowing Yahweh himself."

Yahweh inspires us regardless of biblical inspiration and certainly no differently than He inspired the biblical writers. Yahweh has spoken through His prophets throughout history whether it is recorded in a canonical book or not. Progressive revelation shall never cease in the hearts of His people except in those that do not have the faith to believe it.

The Bible is not a Jewish Book:

by *Bertrand L. Comparet*

[Editor's Note: The essay that follows presents the personal historical and theological views of its original author, Bertrand L. Comparet, including his specific claims about Jewish ancestry. These claims have not been

independently researched or verified by TFR, and are presented here as the author's own opinion rather than as an established or confirmed TFR position.]

The statement is commonly made, even by those who should know better, that we Christians owe a debt to the Jews, for we got our Bible and our religion from them. While many people have been deceived into believing this, it is completely false. Part of the mistake comes from the complete confusion in the minds of nearly all people as to just what they mean by Jew. Are they referring to people of a certain race, or referring to a people of a certain religion, for the two are not the same.

There are in Africa today, some pure blooded negroes who are Jews by religion; in India today there are some pure blooded Indians who are Jews, and there are in China today, some pure blooded Mongolians who are Jews by religion. Likewise, there are some people today who are racially of the stock we know as Jews, but who have been converted to other religions.

First let's consider the claim we got our Bible and our religion from the Jews, as meaning Jews by religion. It is certain we didn't get the New Testament from them, for it condemns the Jewish religion throughout all the New Testament. But did we get the Old Testament from them? No, for several reasons: in the first place, no Jew by religion existed before the return from the Babylonian captivity, shortly after 536 B.C. Their great historian Josephus writes, "So the Jews prepared the work. Jew is the name they are called by from the day that they came up from Babylon." The only books of the Old Testament that were written after the return from Babylon are, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah *(all of them historical, rather than doctrinal)* Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. In none of these do the Jews receive anything but rebuke for their wickedness, for their apostasy from the religion of the Old Testament.

The late Rabbi Stephen F. Wise, formerly the Chief Rabbi of the United States said, "The return from Babylon and the introduction of the Babylonian Talmud mark the end of Hebrewism and the beginning of Judaism."

The learned Rabbi was correct in distinguishing the true religion of the Old Testament as Hebrewism for it was the religion of the real Hebrews, who were not Jews at all. Judaism, the religion of the Jews, is as the learned Rabbi says, based upon the Babylonian Talmud, which contains the supposed oral law. It was never reduced to writing as part of the Bible. This oral law gradually gained greater force among the Jews than the written law in the Bible, with which it often conflicted in The Messiah's' day, the Babylonian Talmud was known as the Tradition of the Elders.

This is why The Messiah told the Jews:"Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Howbeit, in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the Commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God that ye may keep your own tradition, ye make the Word of God of none effect through your tradition which ye have delivered" *(Mark 7:6-13)*. "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God" *(Matthew 22:29).*

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint, anise and cumin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith" *(Matthew 23:23).*

This was the religion of the Jews. As the learned Rabbi Stephen F. Wise said, Judaism was distinguished from Hebrewism, the real religion of the Old Testament. Certainly Christianity took nothing from any Jewish religion for we have never taken any part of Christianity from the Talmud.

Well then, can it be said we got our Bible or our religion of Christianity from men of the Jewish race? No, it cannot. I haven't the time in the remainder of this lesson to give the Bible evidence in detail. I will have to reserve that for a later lesson. It can be clearly proven, both out of the historical books of the Bible and out of the only thorough history of the times written by one living when the facts were still well known. Josephus' "Antiquities of the Jews," tells that the Jews were a people distinct and separate from Yahweh's people Israel, although living among them.

The Jew were the Canaanite people who lived in Palestine, before Israel entered the Promised Land and who were not driven out. These Canaanite people, and the mixed offspring from intermarriage with the Israelites, were allowed to remain in the land while paying heavy tribute taxes.

The prophets, who wrote the books of the Old Testament, were all of pure Israelite stock, from one or another of the 12 tribes of Israel. Moses, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zechariah were of the tribe of Levi. Joshua and Samuel were of the tribe of Ephraim. Isaiah, Daniel, and Zephaniah were of the house of David, Jonah was of the tribe of Zebulun. Hosea was of the tribe of Issachar.

When the Assyrians conquered and deported the people of the ten northern tribes, the Bible records that the Assyrians brought other people in from the Assyrian empire and settled them in Samaria, in place of the Israelites they had deported. Samaria is only the southern half of the territory occupied by these ten northern tribes. The northern half was Galilee and this was left vacant.

When the kingdom of Judah was later deported to Babylon, for their seventy years captivity, their land was left with very little population. While they were gone, the Edomites who were descendants of Esau, mixed with Canaanite people, were forced out of their own land by pressure of invading Arab tribes, and moved westward into the vacant lands of Judah, occupying the southern half of the former kingdom of Judah.

Therefore, when a portion of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin returned from the Babylonian captivity, they were too few in numbers to drive out the warlike Edomites and had to try to squeeze into the very little territory they had left. It was too small for them, so what was left of the tribe of Judah took the little territory remaining around Jerusalem and Benjamin was pushed to the north. They could not move next door into Samaria, as this area was occupied by the peoples settled there by the Assyrians. Benjamin had to leapfrog over them into the vacant territory of Galilee.

That the apostles and the majority of Christian converts came from the Benjaminites should not surprise us. When the kingdom was split in two upon the death of Solomon, God said He would leave Benjamin

with Judah so that the house of David should have a light before them. In The Messiah's' time the people of Benjamin were still the light bearers.

In the New Testament all of the apostles were of the tribe of Benjamin except Judas Iscariot, the only Jew among them. Judas came from the village of Kerioth in southern Judea. Iscariot is a corruption of Ish Kerioth, man of Kerioth. Paul tells us that he was of the tribe of Benjamin and that the other apostles except Judas Iscariot were from Galilee where the tribe of Benjamin settled after the return from Babylon.

This is confirmed by the Messiah. In Matthew 15:24 He said, "I am not sent but unto the sheep of the house of Israel." In John chapter 10 the Messiah tells the Jews, "I am the good Shepherd and know My sheep and am known of Mine. But ye believe not because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me." From the Saviour's own lips we have the proof that the Jews are not of the tribes of Israel.

Note carefully that He does not say that their unbelief keeps them from being of His sheep. He says the exact opposite, that the reason why they do not believe is that they are not of His sheep, the house of Israel. Christianity and Judaism are completely and irreconcilably inconsistent. Whichever one is right, the other must be wrong for they mutually repudiate each other.

A great part of the Messiah's' reported Words are His denunciation of the Jews for their religion, which He tells them is not that of the Old Testament. In John 5:46 the Messiah told them, "Had ye believed in Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me." In Luke 16:31 the Messiah said, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded through one rose from the dead." He was right, He did rise from the dead, but to this day they are not persuaded.

It is therefore clear, we got neither our Bible nor our Christian religion, either in whole or in part from those who were Jews, either by religion or by race. We owe them no debt, for they gave us nothing.

Supplementary Notes:

Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser wrote, "This is not an uncommon impression and one finds it sometimes among Jews as well as Christians - that Judaism is the religion of the Hebrew Bible. It is, of course, a fallacious impression. . . Judaism is not the religion of the Bible" *(Judaism and the Christian Predicament, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967, p. 59)*.

Rabbi Moshe M. Maggal, President, National Jewish Information Service wrote: ". . . you will notice the great difference between the Jewish and Christian religions. But these are not all. We consider the two religions so different that one excludes the other. . . we emphasized that there is no such thing as a Judeo-Christian religion. . . . There is not any similarity between the two concepts" *(Letter of August 21, 1961).*

The London Jewish World of March 15, 1923 declared: "Fundamentally, Judaism is anti-Christian."

Rabbi Martin Siegel: "I am devoting my lecture in this seminar to a discussion of the possibility that we are now entering a Jewish century, a time when the spirit of the community, the non-idealogical blend of the emotional and rational and the resistance to categories and forms will emerge through the forces of anti-nationalism to provide us with a new kind of society.

I call this process the Judaization of Christianity because Christianity will be the vehicle through which this society becomes Jewish" *(New York Magazine, January 18, 1972, p. 32).*

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