

## OVERCOMING THE JESUS MYTH

(How many Gods are there? One? Two? or Three?)

The two greatest sins of the northern kingdom of Israel were 1) **profaning the Sabbath** and 2) **idolatry**. Tens of thousands have overcome the first sin on the way to geula shleima (complete redemption), but the second sin is the tough one. Overcoming idolatry is all the more difficult if one does not even recognize that it is idolatry.

Between the second and fifth centuries of the common era, the books of the New Testament were extensively revised to support the idea that Rabbi Joshua ben Joseph (known today as Jesus the Christ) was the son of God, born of a virgin [see Bart Ehrman's book *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture*]. In essence, what these alterations really did is to deny Rabbi Joshua's messiahship. A messiah (or *moshiach* in the Hebrew) is one who is "chosen" by God to perform a particular duty or service. In some places in the Gospel of Luke the phrase "chosen of God" was actually altered to read "son of God." In several other places in the New Testament the phrases "his parents" and "his father and mother" were altered to read "Joseph and his mother" [This is all documented in *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture* by Bart Ehrman].

Rabbi Joshua did not claim to be divine. [This topic is covered in more depth in the article: Was Jesus "God" or the "Son of God"?] The deification of "Jesus" did not even occur until the Council of Nicea in 325 CE. Even at that time it was opposed by Arius of Alexandria. It was at this same time that the Roman Church officially changed the day of worship from Shabbat (on the seventh day of the week) to the day of the Sun (on the first day of the week). It was also at this time that a festival named for a pagan fertility goddess, Easter, replaced the Biblical Holy Day of *Pesach* (Passover). The Council of Nicea was overseen by the Roman Emperor Constantine. It was this same Constantine who made the following anti-Semitic comments: *"Let us therefore have nothing in common with this odious people, the Jews, for we have received from our Saviour in a different way; our worship follows a more legitimate and more convenient course; and consequently, in unanimously adopting this mode, we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews,... Strive and pray continually that the purity of your souls may not be sullied by fellowship with the customs of these most wicked men... All should unite in desiring that which sound reason appears to demand in avoiding all participation in the perjured conduct of the Jews."*

The Jewish followers of Rabbi Joshua ben Joseph (Nazarenes and Ebionites) were condemned by the Roman Church as heretics, primarily because they rejected the "deity" of Rabbi Joshua.

The "Church" was made up of non-Jewish gentiles. It was natural for these gentiles to bring many of their customs and beliefs with them when they joined a new sect or religion. Hence the Saturnalia became Christmas and a festival for the fertility goddess Easter replaced the Passover. Likewise, a simple rabbi became a demi-god, much like Hercules. Many myths and legends from the pagan world were fused into this new religion called Christianity.

Those who say that Jesus is divine and deny that he was merely flesh and blood are called "*antichrist*" in the epistles of John.

## Was Messiah divine?

1) At no time has Judaism ever taught that the Moshiach (Messiah) was to be divine. There are a number of “messianic” texts in the Tanakh (Old Testament) and they all refer to flesh and blood, normal humans:

### **The Messiah can sin:**

Vayikra (Leviticus) 4:3-5 *If the Moshiach, the Kohen sins and brings guilt upon the people, he shall offer a young bull, without blemish to the Lord for the sin which he has committed. And the Moshiach, the Kohen shall bring the bull to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before the Lord; he shall place his hand upon the head of the bull, and he shall slaughter the bull before the Lord. The Moshiach, the Kohen shall dip his forefinger into the blood; he shall sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord toward the Curtain of the Holy.*

### **The evil King Saul was called the Messiah of the Lord:**

1 Sh'muel 24:4-6 *And the men of David said to him, Look! This is the day which the Lord told you about, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him what ever seems good to you. Then David got up, and secretly cut off the wing of Shaul's garment. But afterward, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off Shaul's wing. And he said to his men, the Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's Moshiach, to stretch forth my hand against him, seeing he the Moshiach of the Lord.*

The Lord's Moshiach is also mentioned in: 1 Sh'muel 26:9,11,16,23; 2 Sh'muel 1:14,16

### **The Messiah can be a righteous king:**

2 Sh'muel 19:21 *Refers to David as “the Lord's Moshiach”*

2 Sh'muel 23:1 *Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse, the man who was elevated as the Moshiach of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel, said...*

### **God can be angry with the Messiah:**

Psalm 89:38 *But You have cast off and abhorred, You have been angry with Your Moshiach.*

### **The Messiah can be a gentile king:**

Isaiah 45:1 *Thus says the Lord to his Moshiach Koresh (Cyrus), whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him...*

2) The early Jewish followers of Rabbi Joshua ben Joseph (a.k.a. Jesus) were condemned by “the Church” because they denied the divinity and the “virgin birth” of Jesus:

*“They considered him [Jesus] to be a plain and common man, who was justified only because of his superior virtue, and who was the fruit of the intercourse of Joseph with Mary. In their opinion the observance of the law was altogether necessary, on the ground that they could not be saved by faith in Christ alone but by a corresponding life.” [Hist. Eccl. III, xxvii - Eusebius]*

*“Nevertheless, inasmuch as they refused to acknowledge that he pre-existed, being God, Word, and Wisdom, they turned aside into the impiety of the former, especially when they, like them, endeavored to observe strictly the bodily worship of the law.” [ibid]*

3) During the Christological debates between the second and fourth centuries the church added whole chapters to the New Testament (particularly the first two chapters of Matthew) to establish the “virgin birth;” and words were altered to establish that he was the “son of God.” [See: *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture* by Bart Ehrman]

Does it not seem strange that the “Jerusalem Church” rejected the divinity and the virgin birth while the “Roman Church” established these concepts? Is it Rome where God has placed his name forever, or is it Jerusalem?

Much more information is contained here:

<http://www.bnai-el-chai.com/025Newsletter.htm>

<http://www.bnai-el-chai.com/jesus.htm>

<http://www.originsoffourfaith.com/alephstart.html>

In conclusion: Redemption can only occur when Israel overcomes the sin of idolatry.

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