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Faith Bible Church
Monday, January 17, 2011
<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (4)
Overview of the Five Jewish Objections to Jesus: #3 Theological Objections
(DDR #624)

There are five major categories of Jewish objections to Jesus: 1) general objections, 2) historical objections, 3) theological objections, 4) messianic prophecy objections, and 5) New Testament objections.

Concerning the theological objections, Michael Brown (world's premiere Jewish apologist for Christianity) notes,

These objections are the most serious and cut to the heart of the differences between traditional Judaism and Messianic Jewish/Christian faith. They revolve around the nature of God (the Trinity, the deity of Jesus, the person of the Holy Spirit), the continuity of the law (Is it binding in total, or was it abolished by Jesus or Paul?), the nature of mankind and the need for salvation, and sin and the means of atonement. In sum, these objections support the claim that the religion of the New Testament is a completely foreign religion that is not only un-Jewish but is also unfaithful to the Hebrew Bible. Thus, issues of Messianic prophecy are secondary, since Jesus is viewed as a false prophet and the founder of an alien faith. Our answers here seek to distinguish between what the Hebrew Bible actually says (in distinction from later church traditions), and how Jewish tradition at times underscores the essential Jewishness of Christian beliefs.¹

Here is a sampling of various *theological* Jewish objections: 1) we don't believe in the Trinity; we believe in one God, not three; 2) if you claim that Jesus is God then you guilty of making God into a man; you are an idol worshipper; 3) God doesn't have a son; 4) according to the Law (Dt 13), Jesus was a false prophet because he taught us to follow other gods, gods our fathers have never known or worshiped; 5) the Holy Spirit is not the so-called Third Person of the Trinity; 6) according to Isaiah 43:11, God alone is our Savior; we don't need other saviors; 7) we are righteous by what we do, not by what we believe; Christianity is a religion of the creed

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), xviii.

whereas Judaism is a religion of the deed; 8) according to Proverbs 16:6, love and good deeds make atonement; so who needs sacrifice?; 9) even if I admit that we need blood atonement, I still won't believe in Jesus; God wanted the blood of a goat or a lamb, not a person; He does not want the blood of a person; 10) Jews don't believe in a divine Messiah; and 11) I find much beauty in the teachings of Jesus, and I think there are some good arguments in favor of Christianity; but I find it impossible to believe in a religion that condemns all people to hell—including many moral, good, kind, and sensitive people, not to mention countless millions of religious Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists—simply because they don't believe in Jesus. I can't follow a religion whose God tortures people in flames forever for not believing in someone they never even heard of.

These are just a few of the heavier Jewish objections. Before we move into the answers, I am going to let them stand unanswered so we can feel the weight of them. This also gives us all the opportunity to check our own ability to answer them. Do you have answers? Answers that are not ad hoc? Answers instead of attacking their general rejection of the Messiah? Are you satisfied with those answers?

Chosen before the foundation of the world with a purpose,

Pastor Don

Eph 1:3 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him (Eph 1:3 NAS)

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

