



THE

MENORAH LIGHT

אור מנורה Proclaiming Messiah Yeshua/Jesus

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Mission News-Views

Pastor Reuben Drebenstedt, Director

Shalom friends,

“The ancient process of **conviction by argument and proof is now being replaced** by reiterated affirmation; and the speech of men is becoming saturated with expressions which everywhere connote contempt for the use of the intelligence.” (The Great Heresies page 154, by Hilaire Belloc) Written in 1938 this wise historian saw the beginning of the breakdown and replacement of truth and fact, especially about the real God, Jesus and the Church, with mere loss of true freedom for mankind to investigate and use their natural common sense and intelligence. For people pressed by intimidation and forced into complacency by fear tactics results in their inner imprisonment within self protection style walls. Lies replace truth and mankind thus loses eternal life with God!

Most true Christians today know that the spiritual attack is from the anti-Christ, from darkness in this world against the Light of God. Satan is called by God as the *father of lies* (John 8:44), a *roaring lion, seeking someone to devour* (1 Peter 5:8) and the *anti-christ... the deceiver of the whole world* (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3 2 John 7 Revelation 12:9) So why would the world miss going to Heaven to live eternal with God? Could it be a combination of the Church (is only one, not many as the telephone book lists!) not doing its job faithfully and of the world believing lies and deceit of Satan? YES!

There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen (born again Believers in Jesus Christ, John 3). **But you, watch out! I have told you everything in advance!**
 Mark 13:22-23 Continued. on p. 2

A THEISM

The issue isn't the existence of God.

If the atheist is wrong and there is a Creator, then he was wrong. He gambled and he lost. No big deal. The real gamble is that there's no hell. That's what makes the player sweat just a little.

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WE BELIEVE

★ The Bible, both Old and New Covenants, to be the only complete, infallible, and authoritative Word of God.

★ In one God,
 Continued on p. 3



WHY MESSIANIC JEWS?

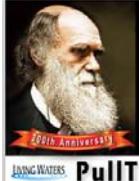
Now a Jew is a Jew, because he was born a Jew and because he wants to be a Jew. In most cases, even if he does not want to be one, he will be com-
 Continued. on p. 3

Salvation Testimony!
WWW.MENORAH.ORG/SALV.HTML
RABBIS AND OTHER JEWS, PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS



נאמנות של אלוהים GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

by Donna Drebenstedt, staff *For you have been delivered by grace through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but God's gift.* Ephesians 2:8



ATHEIST
 Someone who believes that nothing made everything.
 A scientific impossibility!
 PullThePlugOnAtheism.com

This recent poster at our campus outreach tables on Denver University and the Denver Auraria campus's continue to spark many interesting conversations and some complaints from the campus Atheist club. Some are very angry and others are willing to discuss the issue! We really enjoy the discussions because it is just another avenue to share the Gospel with a heart that might not have stopped otherwise to talk!

ple say the above poster caught their attention. Like Joel who told me he was Jewish but was having problems with Atheist and Evolutionist in many of his classes. I gave him our DVD on Confronting Evolution and asked him if he had noticed our large Genealogy Chart on the Tenach (Old Testament)? It started us off on another common ground and a door to share the Gospel! He seemed ever more open as we talked and ended up excited about taking the new Jesus Film DVD we give away!!

Matt told me he was an Atheist but admitted he did not really know what the Bible taught. Surprisingly he said he was willing to listen to my explanation! Using our Genealogy Chart we
 Continued on p. 2

...Keep contending earnestly for the faith which was once and for all passed on to God's people (born again Believers in Jesus Christ, John 3). **For certain individuals, the ones written about long ago as being meant for this condemnation, have wormed their way in —ungodly people who pervert God's grace into a license for debauchery and disown our only Master and Lord, Yeshua/Jesus, the Messiah.**

Y'hudah/Jude 3

The true Church/Body of Messiah cannot be destroyed or defeated! **Christian choose to stand and be found faithful to your Lord!**

Matthew 16:18

Ephesians 6:10-18 I John 4:4

God bless you,



Pastor Reuben

Questions? Please call or write or, see www.menorah.org/askpr.html



נאמנות של אלוהים GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

discussed for a long time the central theme of the Gospel from Genesis to Revelation. Praise God I could see the Holy Spirit working in Matt's heart! With emotions beginning to swell he decided to leave rather abruptly to keep me from seeing them.

On the Denver University campus I had the opportunity in one afternoon to share the Gospel with four Atheist and I think three were also Jewish! These four all claimed to be open minded, which was good. I found this very challenging as the three guys knew each other and had stopped individually to come to their friends defense. They all heard the Gospel mixed in with all the other topics we covered that afternoon. **They took our DVD's on Confronting Evolution where they will hear the Gospel again!**

Laura is Orthodox Jewish and was shocked to see our information about the very issue she never felt free to talk about but has been curious about for years, Yeshua/Jesus! She told me of friends in the U.S. and Israel who share her feelings. Laura loves to read and took everything we had on this topic including her first complete Bible, Old and New Testaments! Pray she lets her heart to be touched by her

Messiah as she reads this material!

I looked up and there was Helene one afternoon staring at our table literature. I introduced myself and Menorah to her and then asked her about her thoughts on God. She told me she had never really thought about what she believed, just that she was Jewish. She agreed that she would like to listen to me explain why I think Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, according to Jewish Scripture and historical facts. She was a bit uncomfortable as I believe this was the first time anyone had shared this information with her. I answered her questions and she was off with the greatest bit of news she would ever hear. Only God knows what she will do with it.

Rachel, **Praise God**, had already found her Messiah when she excitedly came by so we both could rejoice together over Yeshua/Jesus and Menorah's outreach on campus! It was a great time of fellowship and encouragement for the both of us!

Please let Menorah know if you would like to join our campus prayer team! Prayer/praise updates are e-mailed once a week!

Your prayers sustain us!

God bless you,

T. D...

SUBJECT: RECALL NOTICE !!

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed 'Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality,' or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed. Some of the symptoms include:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Loss of direction | 2. Foul vocal emissions |
| 3. Amnesia of origin | 4. Lack of peace and joy |
| 5. Selfish or violent behavior | |
| 6. Depression or confusion in the mental component | |
| 7. Fearfulness | 8. Idolatry |
| | 9. Rebellion |

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: **P-R-A-Y-E-R**
Once connected, please upload your burden of **SIN** through the

STILL THINK ISLAM IS A "RELIGION OF PEACE?" and of "TRUTH" It is not! visit:

- www.jihadwatch.org www.answering-islam.org
www.muslimhope.com
www.whatthewestneedstoknow.com
www.menorah.org/false www.thethirdjihad.com

REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download: **ATONEMENT** from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention! **GOD**

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'. *Because He Lives!*

ישי

WE BELIEVE

- ★ The Bible, both Old and New Covenants, to be the only complete, infallible, and authoritative Word of God.
- ★ In one God, eternal, existing, and manifested in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ★ In Jesus Christ, God's only Messiah & Savior, His only begotten Son, our sole mediator. We believe further in His deity, His pre-existence, His incarnation, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the grave, and His personal, visible, imminent, pre-millennial return.
- ★ In the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His activity in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation.
- ★ That people were created in the image of God, we all sinned in Adam, and that we are now sinners by nature and by choice.
- ★ In salvation by grace only, through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from human merit, works, or Ceremonies.
- ★ That the church is the spiritual body of which Christ (Messiah) is the Head.
- ★ In the resurrection of the human body, the eternal existence of all men, either in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments.
- ★ That we are under obligation to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints (Y'hudah/Jude 3) and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all nations. (Acts 1:6-8)

For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile. For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in His sight.... Romans 1:16-17

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
Jesus

Continued from page 1

WHY MESSIANIC JEWS?



...pelled to admit it; other wise, others will point a finger at him, asking, "Aren't you Jewish?" The term Jew is related to Judah, Jacob's fourth son from Leah. Judah/ means praise to the Lord.

His mother Leah wanted to express her gratitude to the Lord for giving her this fourth son. The descendants of Judah were aware of this deviation, and sometimes were reminded of it by descendants of other tribes challenging them to live up to their name.

Some Jews did succeed in assimilating with their Gentile neighbors through intermarriage, change of name, and denial of their identity. Usually it took several generations to achieve. On the other hand, there were groups and individuals who, though not descendants of Judah, or from any of the other tribes of Israel, succeeded in their efforts at being absorbed into the people called Jews.

The people of Shechem wanted to become Jewish and even went through the full rite of circumcision of every male, yet were slaughtered and never penetrated the hermetically

Continued on p. 5

Is truth in the eye of the beholder? **NOTE:** Authoritative Islamic texts are the Qur'an and Hadith. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the revealed word of Allah (verse numbers differ slightly in different versions). Sura always stands for a chapter in the Qur'an. Islamic belief is that Muhammad is the perfect example to be followed by all Muslims. Whatever he said, practiced or approved is called Hadith. There are six different sets of authentic ahadith (Hadiths): Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmizi, Sunnan Ibn Majah and Sunnan Nasa'i. This pamphlet is intended to show the teachings and examples of Muhammad, and is not intended to be offensive to Muslims; many Muslims may have little real knowledge of what their god, Allah and their prophet has said on this topic.

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, (also the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, the oldest Islamic University), who is seen as the highest spiritual authority by most Sunnis worldwide has often made contradictory statements: In 2004, he was quoted in the Italian daily *Avennire* as saying: "Islam forbids suicide and considers human life a precious gift". However, on IslamOnline in 2002, he argued that "Suicide operations and the killing of Israeli civilians, even women and children, are permitted and indeed should be intensified.". How can such a highly regarded scholar, make such statements? He is not the only one.

The former Mufti of Australia, Sheik Taj El-Din Al-Hilali, on a trip to Egypt in early 2004, praised and encouraged martyrdom operations, and then promptly denied it on his return, claiming it was a mistranslation. Similarly, his comments in 2006 regarding women deserving rape was dismissed as mistranslation and misunderstanding.

In a weekly sermon in April 2002, Al-Azhar Sheikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the highest-ranking cleric in the Sunni Muslim world, called the Jews "the enemies of Allah, descendants of apes and pigs." Yet he is the Patron of the U.K.-based Three Faiths Forum working for mutual understanding between Muslims, Christians and Jews. The claim that difficulties in translating from Arabic to English makes communication with non-Arab speakers difficult or impossible, is another tactic used in subterfuge.

The President of Iran who wants to "push Israel in to the sea," also claims mistranslation and misunderstanding. A common thread is beginning to emerge. Throughout history, Islamic forces have deceived other groups, making them think Islam and Muslims are peace-loving, only later to find the opposite. For example: in A.D. 635, Damascus fell to Muslims because they used the Bishop of Damascus to deceive the population opening the city gates at night.

Many Christians in Egypt welcomed the Islamic forces because Muhammad's wife was Egyptian (and they thought

Continued on p. 5

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ

TRUTH IN ISLAM

they would get preferential treatment), but especially because they would be delivered from the persecution of the Byzantines. However, 1400 years of severe persecution followed and continues today where Christians are routinely murdered, kidnapped and tortured.

Rather than pass this off as nothing to be concerned about, we should ask whether there is something in Islam that allows flexibility in the "Great Sin." If so, we must look carefully at the teachings of Allah/Muhammad and the practices of Muhammad.

Allah claims thirty times in the Qur'an that he misleads/sends astray people and that he is the greatest deceiver [Allaahu Khayrul-maakiriin] (Sura 3:54; 8:30). Allah says that he leads people astray (Sura 4:88, 143; 6:39, 126; 7:178,186; 9:51; 13:27, 31; 14:4; 16:93; 17:13, 97; 30:29; 35:8; 36:8-10; 39:23; 40:33,34,74; 42:44,46; 74:31). Even the first, Rightly Guided Caliph said, "I swear to Allah that I do not feel safe from Allah's cunning even if one of my feet is already inside paradise..." (Khalid Muhammad Khalid, *Successors of the Messenger*, (2005) p. 99).

Muhammad believed that lying was acceptable and even taught how to expiate [make amends for] an oath,

Z 'Allah willing, if ever I take an oath to do something, and later on I find that it is more beneficial to do something different, I will do the thing which is better, and give expiation for my oath.' (Bukhari, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 361)

Muhammad saw nothing wrong in practicing duplicity. It was his common practice to say one thing and do exactly the opposite if something appealed to him otherwise. He sent men to kill people unawares in their homes and also gave them permission to tell lies in order to deceive the people being killed. (A. Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammad*, Bukhari, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 143) Imam Jafar Sadiq said: "You belong to a religion that whosoever conceals it, Allah will honour him and whosoever reveals it, Allah will disgrace and humiliate him." (Ahmad Abdullah Salamah, *The Sunni and Shia Perspective of The Holy Qur'an*). This is called *al-Taqiyya* [legal deception].

Sura 3:28 and others, record that **Muslims cannot take unbelievers for real friends** (else they will cease to be true Muslims),

Z 'Let not the believers take the disbelievers as Auliya (supporters, helpers, etc.) instead of the believers, and whoever does that will never be helped by Allāh in any way, except if you indeed fear a danger from them. And Allāh warns you against Himself (His Punishment), and to Allāh is the final return.' Also see Sura 60:1; 4:144; 5:51; 8:73.

In other words, Muslims can outwardly pretend to be your friend, to guard against you, to strengthen themselves against you. Some Muslims will argue that this is only in Shi'a Islam, but Ibn Kathir, a highly regarded Sunni scholar records, as an argument for Taqiyya, "We smile in the face of some people although our hearts curse them." (*Fath Al-Bāri*, 10:544, quoted in Ibn Kathir, *Tafsir*, Vol. 2, p. 141-143). He also argues that **Muslims can even deny that they are Muslims** and deny Islam, the

Qur'an and Muhammad, in the interest of self preservation. They can lie to promote a social 'good' i.e. promote Islam. (Imamovic, *Outlines of Islamic Doctrine*, p. 346).

As such, **treaties are not binding** (Sura 47:35; 2:224-225; 66:1-2, ccf: 16:91, 94) and used to provide time to regroup and rearm. Ghazali, the most famous and highly regarded Muslim scholar of all times, states that **lying is obligatory when the goal is obligatory and it cannot be reached by telling the truth** (Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri, (1368), *Reliance of the Traveller*, translated by Nuh Ha Mim Keller (1994), r.8.2, p. 745). *Dawah* (Islamic evangelism) is obligatory; if Islam cannot be spread with the truth, they are obliged to lie.

According to Ghazali, Muhammad taught people to retract truthful confessions of sins so they could avoid punishment; lying is also permissible if the consequences of telling the truth are more damaging than the damage by lying (ibid., p. 746).

The ultimate purpose of Taqiyya is to confuse and split the enemy, so that they can be conquered for Allah. A perfect example of this is when Sura 2:256 is quoted, 'there is no compulsion in religion,' but they fail to cite Sura 9:5, 29, (and others) which abrogate 2:256. Today, unbelievers only have the choice of converting, **paying protection money or facing humiliation by Muslims or death.**

On the one hand, the Qur'an in numerous places condemns falsehood, but as we have seen, not only do Allah and Muhammad practice lying, but Muhammad also taught his followers how to lie and deceive. Un-

fortunately for Muslims, the long history of lying has caused many Muslims to believe their own lies. (Irshad Manji, *The Trouble with Islam*, Random House, Sydney, 2003, p.3)

TRUTH IN THE BIBLE The Bible teaches the exact opposite. It does not condone or allow for deceit of any kind (Revelation 22:15). Believers are commanded to keep their oaths even to their own detriment (Joshua 9; Psalm 15:4). In fact, Yahweh, the God of the Bible, says that He is not a man, that He would not lie (Number 23:19). The Bible describes Jesus as Truth (John 14:6), the Holy Spirit as Truth (1 John 5:6) and the Father has not the slightest deceit in Him (James 1:17; 2 Samuel 7:28; Psalm 31:5). Jesus IS truth. Believers are to be Holy as God is Holy (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16 etc.).

In the New Testament period, the seriousness of sin and lying was highlighted when God killed some people who lied (Acts 5). The Bible declares that:

"all liars will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." (Revelation 21:8)

However, in Islam, if you do not sin, Allah will kill you and replace you with people who will sin (Muslim, Book 37, Hadith No. 6622 & 6621).

We have brought you this message because we love you and desire to see you know the truth; we want you to know that you can have your mind, body, heart and soul cleansed by Jesus. For more information, read our tract on *Salvation in Islam*.

TRUTH 1 *a*archaic : fidelity , constancy b: sincerity in action, character, and utterance 2 a (1): the state of being the case : fact (2): the body of real things, events, and facts : actuality

DECEPTION 1 a: the act of deceiving b: the fact or condition of being deceived 2: something that deceives : trick <a clever deception>

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

WHY MESSIANIC JEWS?



sealed tribes of Israel. Sometimes those attempting to join them gave them trouble, like the "mixed multitude,"² and the Gibeonites.³ However, in most other cases, these non-Jewish groups seem to have been gradually absorbed and assimilated into the Jewish body by intermarriage.⁴ Large influxes took place in the Persian period, as reported in the book of Esther in the Bible, and in the Maccabean period, when whole tribes under threat of extermination, preferred circumcision. The most prominent are the Khazar tribes of central Russia who accepted Judaism. The story of their conversion was described and popularized by the famous philosopher/poet Yehuda Halevi.

Today, both in Israel and in the Diaspora, Rabbis are working hard at teaching and preparing prospective converts to Judaism. In some cases, at least, these converts are absorbed into the Jewish mainstream by intermarriage.

Messianic Jews Among the 18 million Jewish people there is a group of perhaps twenty or thirty thousand people (editor note: 200,000 plus today some say), born Jews, who believe in the Torah and the rest of the Tenach and practice Jewish customs. They also believe in Jesus. Some, if not most of them, prefer to call Him by His Jewish name, Yeshua. Although small in number, they are a vocal group, constantly challenging the Jewish spiritual and secular authorities with their presence, demanding recognition as Jews.

It would be easiest for these Jewish believers to accept the advice of rabbinic leaders and put aside belief in Yeshua. The Jewish authorities work very hard to achieve it. Organizations and individuals spend their time and hundreds and thousands of dollars towards this end. Among the best known are the Pe'ilem, Keren Yeladdenu, supported by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Israel and Jews for Judaism in the United States, who do it as a full or part time job.

Why do Messianic Jews resist? What lies behind their obstinacy, not only continuing to believe themselves but also spreading their faith to others? The answer is spiritual. This spiritual aspect can be summarized.

Prophecies Demand It Yeshua is Messiah because He alone gives sense to the words of our Jewish prophets. There is Isaiah 53 with its minute description of the suffering servant who was despised and rejected, afflicted with pain and stripes, by whose "stripes we are healed." He then dies, is buried, yet is revived and suffers all this "for the affliction of my (Isaiah the prophet's) people." All this can best be applied to one person only - Yeshua of Nazareth. The Talmud teaches that this chapter refers to Messiah. The targum of Jonathan begins the passage with the words, Ha yatslakh avdee Mashikha, "Behold my servant the Messiah shall prosper. ..." Common sense says it must refer to Yeshua.

The same is true for many other prophecies which speak of the time of His birth, like Daniel 9:26:

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (The city & sanctuary were destroyed A.D. 70. Messiah had to come & be cut off before then.)

The manner of His birth in a supernatural way is recorded in Isaiah 7:14: *Behold the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* Isaiah 9:6:5 says: *For unto us a*

child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God. The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The place of his birth is foretold by Micah, the prophet in verse 5:26 *But thou Bethlehem Ephraiah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

The manner of His death is found both in Psalm 22:17, "They pierced my hands and my feet,"⁷ and in Zechariah 12:10, "They shall look unto me whom they have pierced," which the Talmud applies to Messiah ben Joseph.⁸

We have heard arguments against His Messianic claims by the fact that some prophecies like Isaiah 2 (breaking swords into plowshares) and Isaiah 11 (lamb and lion dwelling together) have not been fulfilled as yet and that our explanations for a future fulfillment by His second coming creates too long a hiatus (of close to 2,000 years). But what is 2,000 years in the sight of God, waiting patiently for His people to respond and accept His Anointed One - Yeshua, ben Elohim?

Personage Spotless We hold on to our faith because of the spotless Person He was. His contemporaries testified of Him that "He doeth all things well."⁹ He could challenge his contemporaries saying to them, "which of you convicted me of sin?" and they held their peace. Some modern Jewish and non-Jewish scholars point out His lack of originality in many of His sayings. Would it have been better if He had contradicted the words of the prophets? Others assert that His teaching is too idealistic (e.g., the turning of the other cheek), and therefore impractical. But who can find fault in a Man who constantly goes from the south to the north of Israel, then Judea and Samaria, doing good, healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, opening the eyes of the blind, unstopping the ears of the deaf, making the lame to walk again and preaching good news of salvation to the poor, the needy, and the outcast? Rejected by the leading Pharisees and by the High Priests, He died a martyr's death by crucifixion at the hands of the Roman soldiers.

But this is not the end of the story, for His 11(-Judas) disciples plus a number of others, see Him alive after He died and proclaimed Him the risen Savior. For this assertion nearly all of them had to pay with their lives, dying like their master a cruel death by hands of pagans & of unbelieving Jewish leaders. Yet these believing Jews never flinched. They knew for sure that He is alive.

We are convinced that He is Messiah because of the transformation in the personalities of His followers. Who could transform Simon Bar Yonah (Peter), the fisherman on the shores of Galilee, to become the leader of Messianic Jews in Israel and abroad, and finally to be acknowledged the first bishop and highest authority next to Yeshua by millions of people of the whole world?

What about Saul of Tarsus, convinced that he, with the letters he had from the High Priest, would completely knock out all belief in Yeshua? He met the risen Yeshua on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus,¹⁰ and from a persecutor of the Gospel he became a proclaimer of the Good News. He himself was greatly persecuted by unbelieving people everywhere until he finally died a martyr's death at the hands of the Romans in the time of Nero.

People Who Accepted Him From the first book, Bereshit (Genesis), to the last prophet in the Tenach (OT), Malachi, the Messiah's activity involves "the people" or the nations. Yaacov Avenoo (Jacob) foresees it and says: *The scep*



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WHY MESSIANIC JEWS?

ter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be. (Genesis 49:10)

Isaiah¹¹ the prophet sees Him as the "root of Jesse which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to Him shall the Gentiles seek."

In Isaiah 49:6 Messiah is proclaimed with these words:

It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Malachi¹² says of Him: *For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles.*

Peace That Messiah Gives Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua found that only in Him they have rest, peace, and satisfaction.

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THE TRINITY.....

even found in the Bible. To deal with that issue, we must begin with God, as the Bible itself does. There are two general concepts of God: (1) pantheism/naturalism, that the universe itself is God; and (2) supernaturalism, that the Creator is distinct from His creation. Within these are two more opposing views: (1) polytheism, that there are many gods; and (2) monotheism, that there is only one true God.

Monotheism itself is divided into two rival beliefs: (1) that God is a single being; and (2) that God has always existed in three persons who are separate and distinct yet one. Obviously, Christians are the only ones who hold the latter view--and even some who call themselves Christians reject it. Yet it is the only logically and philosophically coherent view of God possible.

Pantheism has the same fatal flaws as atheism. If everything is God, to be God has lost all meaning and so nothing is God. The problems with polytheism are equally obvious. There is no real God who is in charge, so the many gods fight wars and steal one another's wives. There's no basis for morals, truth or peace in heaven or earth. Polytheism's basic problem is: *diversity without unity*.

The belief that God is a single being is held by both Muslims and Jews, who insist that Allah and Jehovah are single entities. It is also held by pseudo-Christian cults such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons - - - and by various aberrant Christian groups who also deny the deity of Christ. Some Pentecostals claim that God is a single being and that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are God's three "titles" or "offices." Here we have *unity without diversity*.

That God must have both unity, and diversity is clear. The Allah of Islam (like the Jehovah of Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews), for instance, is incomplete in himself, unable to experience love, fellowship and communion before creating beings with whom he could have these experiences. The Bible says that "God is love." But the God of Islam and Judaism could not be love in and of himself--for whom could he love when he was alone before creation? This belief that God is a single entity (Unitarianism) and not three persons existing eternally in one God (Trinitarianism) was first formulated in the early church around 220 A.D. by a Libyan theologian named Sabellius. He attempted

They heard Messiah's invitation. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."¹³ They verified it in their own lives. They read the record of His promise, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."¹⁴ They found Messiah to be the Great Gentleman who always keeps His promise. The result is that we can say together with one of the first hasidim of Messiah Yeshua, Simon bar Jonah, called Simon Peter: *Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Messiah Ben Elohim 15* — The Son of the Living God.

References 1 Yehuda 2 Exodus 12:38 3 Joshua 9 4 Sanhedrin 98 5 v.5 in the Hebrew text 6 v.1 in the Hebrew text 7 In the Masoretic text it reads "Like a lion they are at my hand and my feet" 8 Sukkah 52 9 Mark 7:37 10 Acts 9 11 Isaiah 11:10 12 Malachi 1:11 13 Matthew 11:28 14 John 14:27 15 John 6:68-69

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to retain Biblical language concerning Father, Son and Holy Spirit without acknowledging the triune nature of God. Sabellius claimed that God existed as a single being, who manifested Himself in three activities, modes or aspects: as Father in the creation, as Son in redemption, and as Holy Spirit in prophecy and sanctification. This heresy, though condemned by the vast majority of Christians, survives to this day.

The Bible presents a God who did not need to create any beings to experience love, communion and fellowship. This God is complete in Himself, being three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, separate and distinct yet at the same time eternally One God. They loved and communed and fellowshiped with each other and took counsel together before the universe, angels or man were brought into existence. Isaiah "heard the voice of the LORD [in eternity past] saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Is 6:8). Moses revealed the same counseling together of the Godhead: "And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness"; and again, "[L]et us go down and there confound their language" (Gn 1:26; 1 1:7). Who is this "us" if God is a single entity? Why does God say, "the man is become as one of us" (Gn 3:22)

Moreover, if God is a single being, then why is the plural Hebrew noun *Elohim* (literally "Gods") used for God repeatedly? In fact, this plural noun is in the center of Israel's famous confession of the *oneness* of God! The *Shema* declares, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord" (Dt 6:4; Mk 12:29). In the Hebrew it reads, "Jehovah our *Elohim* (gods) is one [*echad*] Jehovah." The Hebrew word *echad* allows for a unity of more than one. For example, it is used in Genesis 2:24 where man and woman become *one* flesh; in Exodus 36:13 when the various parts "became *one* tabernacle"; in 2 Samuel 2:25 when many soldiers "became one troop"; and elsewhere.

Nor is the word *Elohim* the only way in which God's plurality is presented. For example, Ecclesiastes 12:1: "Remember now thy creator [lit. "creators"]"; and Isaiah 54:5: "For thy Maker is thine husband [lit. "makers, husbands"]" Unitarianism has no explanation for this consistent presentation of God's plurality all through the Old Testament. Although the word "trinity" does not occur in the Bible, the concept is clearly there, providing the unity and diversity that makes possible the love, fellowship and communion within the Godhead. Truly the trinitarian God *is* love and He alone. Jesus said, "The Father loveth the



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The issue isn't the existence of God.

"What if?" is the deep and nagging doubt. He believes it's worth the excitement of the game. Yet atheism isn't a mind game; it is intellectual suicide.

We know that there are six bullets that aim right into the brain of humanity. To be an atheist is to play Russian roulette with all barrels loaded. An atheist can't win. Of course, he feels and acts like a big player, until the trigger is pulled: **1. Creation.** Could you believe that the book you are holding came into being without an author? There was nothing. No paper, no ink. No cardboard. No editor. No author. There was nothing, and then a Big Bang changed everything. Time (the magic ingredient) produced a book with a cover, binding, coherent words, page numbers, and chapters, all in perfect order. Such thoughts are truly insane. You cannot have order without intelligence creating order. And there cannot be an ordered creation without an intelligent Creator.

2. The God-given conscience. All sane people have a conscience. It comes with the package. It is an inbuilt judge in the courtroom of the mind. It makes moral judgments, even when its voice is not wanted, and its voice *only* addresses that which is moral. It doesn't speak when my tie doesn't match my shirt. But it does speak when I steal a tie from a store. Why is that? Where did the conscience come from? Why do all civilizations have the knowledge that it's wrong to lie, kill, steal, etc.? Our social surroundings may shape the conscience, but they don't create it. It is the inner light that God has given to every one of us, and it leaves us without excuse for our sin.

3. The unchanging testimony of Holy Scripture. Do what they will to the testimony of Scripture—paint it as an ancient and archaic book, say it is full of mistakes, that it has been changed down through the ages, that it says that the earth is flat—but it remains the unchanging Word of the Living God. It is His Book, and it is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Refuse its wisdom, and you walk in darkness at your own peril.

4. The true and faithful testimony of the genuine Christian. These are not people who believe in God. Rather, they are sinners who have come to know Him. The Christian is called to testify as a witness to the truth. As in a court of law, the judge doesn't want poetic or flowery speech. He simply wants to hear what the witness has seen and heard. It is then up to the jury to believe or not believe his testimony. The atheist chooses not to believe the testimony of the Christian, and in doing so, accuses him of bearing false witness. But why would a Christian lie? Why would he want to be found a liar, when the Book in which he sincerely believes warns that all liars will be cast into the lake of fire?

5. The witness of Jesus Christ. The True and Faithful Witness, before Whom every knee shall bow. The challenge to any atheist is to read the testimony of Scripture. Any honest skeptic will have no choice but to come to the conclusion that "never a man spoke like this Man." He claimed to be God in human form. He claimed to have the power to raise all of humanity at the resurrection of the dead, with His lone voice. He claimed to be pre-existent, and that He came down to this earth to do the will of God. To make such claims, He could only

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Son, and hath given all things into his hand" (Jn 3:35). God's love is not just toward mankind but first of all among the three Persons of the Godhead. And three *Persons* they must be. Father, Son and Holy Spirit can't be mere offices, titles or modes in which God manifests Himself, for such cannot love, consult and fellowship together. Not only is the Son presented as a person, but so are the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Bible presents each as having His own personality: each wills, acts, loves, cares, can be grieved or become angry. "Offices" or "titles" don't do that! Unitarianism isn't Biblical—and it robs the Godhead of the necessary qualities of true Deity.

Godhead? Is that a Biblical term? Yes, indeed. It occurs three times in the King James New Testament in Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, and Colossians 2:9. In contrast to *theos*, which is used consistently throughout the New Testament for "God," three different but related Greek words occur in these verses (*theios*, *theiotes*, *theotes*) which the King James translators carefully designated by the special word, *Godhead*. That very term indicates a plurality of being. Paul wrote, "[I]n him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col 2:9). Did he simply mean that in Christ dwelt all the fullness of Himself? That would be like saying that in me dwells all the fullness of me. Well, of course it does—so why say it, and what does it really mean? Nothing!

Does it simply mean that in Christ dwells all the fullness of Deity, as some non-KJV translations render it? That, too, would be redundant—or it would detract from the deity of Christ. For if Christ is intrinsically God, then what is the point of saying that "in Him dwells all the fullness of Deity"? Of course it does! But if Christ is the Son and there are two other persons in the Godhead, then it does mean something. It means that just as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God, so, when the Son became man, He brought that fullness of the *Godhead* with Him into flesh. In Romans 1:20 Paul argues that God's "eternal power and Godhead" are seen in the creation He made. God's eternal power—but His *Godhead*? Yes, as Dr. Wood pointed out years ago in *The Secret of the Universe*, the triune nature of God is stamped on His creation. The cosmos is divided into three: space, matter and time. Each of these is divided into three. Space, for instance, is composed of length, breadth and width, each separate and distinct in itself, yet the three are one. Length, breadth and width are not three spaces, but three dimensions comprising one space. Run enough lines lengthwise and you take in the whole. But so it is with the width and height. Each is separate and yet distinct, each is all of space—just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, yet each is God.

Time also is a trinity: past, present and future—two invisible and one visible. Each is separate and distinct, yet each is the whole. Man himself is a trinity of spirit, soul and body, two of which are invisible, one visible. Many more details could be given of the Godhead's trinity reflected in the universe. It can hardly be coincidence.

The Hebrew word *Elohim* (Gods) occurs about 2,500 times in the Old Testament, while the singular form occurs only 250 times and most of those designate false gods. Genesis 1:1 reads, "In the beginning *Elohim* created the heaven and the earth"; i.e., literally, "GODS created the heaven and the earth." Though a single noun is available, yet the plural form is consistently used for God. And in violation of grammatical rules, with few exceptions, *singular*

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verbs and pronouns are used with this plural noun. Why? At the burning bush it was *Elohim* (Gods) who spoke to Moses. Yet *Elohim* did not say, "We are that we are," but "I AM THAT I AM" (Ex 3:14). One cannot escape the fact that all through the Bible God is presented as a plurality and yet as one, as having both diversity and unity. This is unknown among all the world's religions! To reject the Trinity is to reject the unique God of the Bible.

The New Testament presents three Persons who are distinct, yet each is recognized as God. At the same time we have repeatedly the clear statement that there is only one true God. Christ prays to the Father. Is He praying to Himself? "[T]he Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (I Jn 4:14). Did He send Himself? Worse yet, did one "office" pray to and send a "title"? Father, Son and Holy Spirit have distinct functions, yet each works only in conjunction with the others. Christ said, "[T]he words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself [on my own initiative]: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn 14:10); "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter Even the Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:16-17). Throughout the New Testament Father, Son and Holy Spirit are separately honored and act as God, yet only in concert with one another.

The Old Testament also presents three Persons in the Godhead interacting. For example: "Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens—from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me" (Is 48:12-16). The One speaking through Isaiah refers to Himself as "the first and the last" and the Creator of all, so He must be God. But he speaks of two others in the same passage who must also be God: "the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me." Jesus presented a similar passage to the Pharisees (Mt 22:41-46) when He asked them who the Messiah was, and they said, "The Son of David." He then quoted Psalm 110:1: "The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool." Then Jesus asked them, "If David then called him Lord, how is he his son?" (Mt 22:45). The Pharisees were speechless. Unitarianism cannot explain these two "Lords."

It is a mystery how God can exist in three Persons yet be one God; but it is also a mystery how God could have no beginning and create everything out of nothing. We can't understand what a human soul or spirit is. Nor can we explain love or beauty or justice. It is beyond human capacity to comprehend the full nature of God's being. But neither can we understand what it means for us or anything else to *exist*--nor can we comprehend what space *is* or what time *is* or matter *is*. For every door science opens, there are ten more unopened doors on the other side. The more we learn, the more rapidly the unknown expands before us like receding images in a hall of mirrors. The Jehovah's Witnesses and other Unitarians argue that because the Trinity can't be understood it can't *be*. But the fact that it is beyond human comprehension is no reason for rejecting what the Bible presents so consistently to us. God is telling us about Himself so that we may believe in and know Him. We dare not reject what He says or lower it to the level of our finite minds. Dave Hunt

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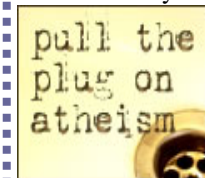
Is There No God?

ATHEISM

have been a simpleton (that doesn't match His matchless words), a liar (that doesn't match His impeccable moral teaching), insane (then billions down through the ages have followed the teachings of a madman), or He was who He said He was.

6. The Spirit of Almighty God watches every thought and every deed and will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or evil. No one will get away with a thing. No murderer will go unpunished. No rapist will get away with rape. Perfect justice will be done. But the justice of Almighty God is so thorough He will see to it that thieves, liars, fornicators, blasphemers, adulterers, and all who have transgressed the moral Law (the Ten Commandments) will get equity—that which is due to them.

Death is the trigger that will send eternal justice like a speeding bullet into the heart of the sinner. It will end the game of life in a heartbeat, and no second chance will come. So, if you are an atheist, let me reason with you. You cannot win. Think about your life.

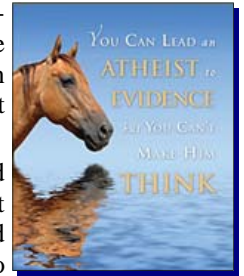


Think about eternity, while you still have time. * 1st page from Ray Comfort's book, *You Can Lead An Atheist to Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think.*

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