

ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTIONS TO JESUS

ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTIONS TO JESUS: A RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

INTRODUCTION:

FOR CENTURIES, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN COMPLEX, MARKED BY BOTH DEEP HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS AND SIGNIFICANT THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. UNDERSTANDING THIS RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES ACKNOWLEDGING AND RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSING THE OBJECTIONS SOME JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE TO JESUS AS THE MESSIAH. THIS ARTICLE AIMS TO PROVIDE A NUANCED EXPLORATION OF THESE OBJECTIONS, OFFERING POTENTIAL RESPONSES ROOTED IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND RESPECTFUL THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE, RATHER THAN POLEMIC. WE WILL DELVE INTO COMMON CONCERNS REGARDING JESUS' CLAIMS, THE NEW TESTAMENT NARRATIVE, AND THE IMPACT OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES. OUR GOAL IS NOT TO CONVERT BUT TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGE RESPECTFUL CONVERSATION.

I. THE MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS: A DIVERGENCE OF INTERPRETATIONS

ONE OF THE CENTRAL OBJECTIONS STEMS FROM DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY. JEWISH TRADITION ANTICIPATED A MESSIAH WHO WOULD BE A POWERFUL, EARTHLY KING, LIBERATING ISRAEL FROM OPPRESSION AND RESTORING ITS SOVEREIGNTY. MANY JEWISH PEOPLE FIND JESUS' LIFE AND DEATH—SPECIFICALLY HIS CRUCIFIXION—TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS VISION. THEY ARGUE THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD NOT SUFFER DEFEAT, LET ALONE DIE A HUMILIATING DEATH.

RESPONSE: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY INTERPRETS PROPHECIES THROUGH A LENS OF SUFFERING SERVANT. ISAIAH 53, FOR EXAMPLE, SPEAKS OF A SUFFERING SERVANT WHO BEARS THE SINS OF MANY. CHRISTIANS SEE THIS PROPHECY FULFILLED IN JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION. THIS INTERPRETATION, HOWEVER, IS NOT UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED WITHIN JUDAISM, WHICH VIEWS THE SUFFERING SERVANT PASSAGE DIFFERENTLY, NOT NECESSARILY AS A MESSIANIC PROPHECY. THE KEY DIFFERENCE LIES IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE MESSIAH AND THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

II. THE PROBLEM OF SUPERSESSIONISM: REPLACING THE COVENANT

HISTORICALLY, SOME INTERPRETATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS PROMOTING "SUPERSESSIONISM"—THE IDEA THAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH SUPERSEDED OR REPLACED JUDAISM AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE. THIS NOTION DEEPLY OFFENDS MANY JEWISH PEOPLE, WHO SEE IT AS A DENIAL OF THE ENDURING COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

RESPONSE: PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY ACTIVELY REJECTS SUPERSESSIONISM. IT EMPHASIZES THE ENDURING VALIDITY OF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND THE CONTINUING ROLE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN GOD'S PLAN. THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY IS MOVING TOWARDS ONE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND RECOGNITION OF THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH FAITH. MODERN CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP EXTENSIVELY CRITIQUES PAST SUPERSESSIONIST INTERPRETATIONS.

III. HISTORICAL ACCURACY AND THE GOSPELS:

SOME JEWISH OBJECTIONS ARISE FROM QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HISTORICAL ACCURACY AND POTENTIAL BIASES WITHIN THE GOSPELS. CRITICS POINT TO DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS AND OTHER HISTORICAL SOURCES. THEY ALSO QUESTION THE RELIABILITY OF THE GOSPELS AS OBJECTIVE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, SUGGESTING THEY MAY REFLECT EARLY CHRISTIAN AGENDAS.

RESPONSE: HISTORICAL CRITICISM OF THE GOSPELS IS A ROBUST FIELD OF STUDY WITHIN BOTH CHRISTIAN AND SECULAR SCHOLARSHIP. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMPLEXITIES AND CHALLENGES OF HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION, IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE DIVERSE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES USED TO ANALYZE THE GOSPELS. SCHOLARS EMPLOY SOURCE CRITICISM, REDACTION CRITICISM, AND FORM CRITICISM TO ASSESS THE DEVELOPMENT AND MEANING OF THE TEXTS. THE GOAL IS NOT NECESSARILY TO DEFINITELY PROVE OR DISPROVE EVERY DETAIL BUT RATHER TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES EMBEDDED IN THESE WRITINGS.

IV. THE IMPACT OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES:

THE EARLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NASCENT CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM WAS FAR FROM HARMONIOUS. EARLY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES OFTEN ENCOUNTERED RESISTANCE, AND ACCUSATIONS OF HERESY WERE COMMON. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN 70 CE FURTHER COMPLICATED MATTERS, CREATING A CLIMATE OF SUSPICION AND MISTRUST. MANY JEWISH PEOPLE SEE THE ACTIONS OF EARLY CHRISTIANS AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUFFERING AND DISPERSION OF THEIR PEOPLE.

RESPONSE: THE HISTORICAL REALITY OF TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN EARLY CHRISTIANS AND JEWS CANNOT BE DENIED. HOWEVER, ATTRIBUTING ALL THE HARDSHIPS FACED BY JEWISH COMMUNITIES SOLELY TO THE ACTIONS OF EARLY CHRISTIANS IS AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION. THE ROMAN EMPIRE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE OPPRESSION OF JEWS, AND INTERNAL DIVISIONS WITHIN JUDAISM ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE. UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT REQUIRES A MULTIFACETED APPROACH THAT AVOIDS ASSIGNING UNDUE BLAME TO ANY SINGLE GROUP.

V. THE NATURE OF GOD AND DIVINE REVELATION:

THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES CONCERNING THE NATURE OF GOD AND DIVINE REVELATION REPRESENT ANOTHER AREA OF CONTENTION. JUDAISM EMPHASIZES MONOTHEISM AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THE TORAH AND SUBSEQUENT RABBINIC INTERPRETATIONS. CHRISTIANITY INTRODUCES THE CONCEPT OF THE TRINITY—GOD AS FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT—WHICH IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL JEWISH MONOTHEISM.

RESPONSE: THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES ARE INEVITABLE BETWEEN DISTINCT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS. RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE REQUIRES ACKNOWLEDGING THESE DIFFERENCES WITHOUT RESORTING TO POLEMIC OR ATTEMPTS AT FORCING CONVERSION. UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS WITHIN WHICH EACH TRADITION OPERATES IS CRUCIAL FOR PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION. FOCUSING ON SHARED ETHICAL VALUES AND COMMITMENTS CAN HELP BRIDGE THEOLOGICAL GAPS.

VI. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION:

THE CHRISTIAN BELIEF IN JESUS' RESURRECTION IS A CENTRAL TENET OF THE FAITH. HOWEVER, THE RESURRECTION IS A SIGNIFICANT POINT OF CONTENTION WITH MANY JEWISH PEOPLE, WHO DON'T ACCEPT THE SUPERNATURAL NATURE OF THIS EVENT.

RESPONSE: THE RESURRECTION NARRATIVE IS OFTEN VIEWED THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH AND THEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION RATHER THAN SCIENTIFIC PROOF. WHILE SOME CHRISTIANS ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE HISTORICAL OR SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS, MANY OTHERS EMPHASIZE THE RESURRECTION AS A MATTER OF FAITH BASED ON THE WITNESS OF THE APOSTLES AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF BELIEF IN THE RESURRECTION ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THIS REMAINS A THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE THAT REQUIRES MUTUAL RESPECT FOR DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES.

ARTICLE OUTLINE: ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTIONS TO JESUS

I. INTRODUCTION: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE TOPIC AND ITS SENSITIVITY.

II. MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS: EXPLORING DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS OF PROPHECY AND THE CONCEPT OF THE MESSIAH.

III. SUPERSESSIONISM: ADDRESSING THE HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ISSUES SURROUNDING REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY.

IV. HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE GOSPELS: DISCUSSING HISTORICAL CRITICISM AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTERPRETING ANCIENT TEXTS.

V. IMPACT OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMPLEX HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EARLY CHRISTIANS AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

VI. THE NATURE OF GOD: EXAMINING THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES CONCERNING MONOTHEISM AND THE TRINITY.

VII. THE RESURRECTION: ADDRESSING THE CENTRAL CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND JEWISH OBJECTIONS.

VIII. MODERN DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING: EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY ATTEMPTS AT INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION.

IX. CONCLUSION: REITERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, AND CONTINUED DIALOGUE.

(DETAILED EXPLANATION OF EACH POINT IS PROVIDED ABOVE IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE ARTICLE.)

FAQs:

1. IS THIS ARTICLE MEANT TO CONVERT JEWISH PEOPLE TO CHRISTIANITY? NO, THIS ARTICLE AIMS TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE, NOT TO PROSELYTIZE.
1. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS JEWISH OBJECTIONS TO JESUS? UNDERSTANDING DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES IS CRUCIAL FOR INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES.
1. ARE ALL JEWISH PEOPLE OPPOSED TO JESUS? NO, JEWISH OPINIONS ON JESUS VARY WIDELY.
1. HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT JEWISH PERSPECTIVES ON JESUS? RESEARCH JEWISH THEOLOGICAL TEXTS AND ENGAGE IN RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AND SCHOLARS.
1. DOES CHRISTIANITY DENY THE VALIDITY OF JUDAISM? PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY REJECTS SUPERSESSIONISM AND AFFIRMS THE ENDURING COVENANT WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE.
1. WHAT IS SUPERSESSIONISM? THE BELIEF THAT CHRISTIANITY REPLACED OR SUPERSEDED JUDAISM AS GOD'S CHOSEN RELIGION.
1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY? THE RESURRECTION IS A CENTRAL TENET OF CHRISTIANITY, SIGNIFYING JESUS' VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE.
1. HOW CAN WE MOVE FORWARD IN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE? RESPECTFUL LISTENING, OPEN COMMUNICATION, AND A COMMITMENT TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ARE ESSENTIAL.
1. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE RESOURCES ON THIS TOPIC? ACADEMIC JOURNALS, THEOLOGICAL BOOKS, AND INTERFAITH ORGANIZATIONS OFFER VALUABLE INFORMATION.

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9. UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE: AN EXPLANATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY.

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answering jewish objections to jesus: *What Do Jewish People Think about Jesus?* Michael L. Brown, 2007-10 A Jewish believer himself, Dr. Michael L. Brown provides clear answers to questions about modern and historical Jewish practices. He also addresses questions Christians have about their own relationship to the Old Testament Law, such as Should Christians observe the Sabbath on Saturday? and Are Gentile Christians spiritual Jews?

answering jewish objections to jesus: The Real Kosher Jesus Michael L. Brown, 2012 Jesus-Yeshua. The most influential Jew who ever lived. The most controversial Jew who ever lived. He has been called a rabbi, a rebel, a reformer, a religious teacher, a reprobate sinner, a revolutionary, a redeemer. Some have claimed he was a magician, others the Messiah. Some say he was a deceiver; others say he was divine. Who is this Jesus-Yeshua, and why are we still talking about him two thousand years later? Recently a prominent Orthodox Jewish rabbi presented a new version of Jesus, a Kosher Jesus that Jews can accept. By reclaiming Yeshua as a fellow Jew and rabbi, he has taken a very major and truly wonderful step in the right direction, but by re-creating Jesus, he has also robbed him of his uniqueness. The Real Kosher Jesus takes you on a journey to uncover the truth. It is a journey filled with amazing discoveries and delightful surprises, a journey that is sometimes painful but that ends with joy, a journey through which you will learn the real story of this man named Yeshua: the most famous Jew of all time, the Jewish nation's greatest prophet, the most illustrious rabbi ever, the light of the nations and Israel's hidden Messiah.

answering jewish objections to jesus: A Rabbi Looks at Jesus of Nazareth Jonathan Bernis, 2011-01-01 Raised in a traditional Jewish family, international television host Jonathan Bernis was taught from a young age that Jews don't--and can't!--believe in Jesus. Yet in his study of the Bible, including the Torah, he found overwhelming evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really was the Jewish Messiah. With warmth and transparency, Bernis talks about discovering Jesus in history, too, and how it was that the Jewish Yeshua became the Gentile Jesus. By presenting historic evidence that Jesus is Messiah and refuting common Jewish objections, Bernis gives Christians the knowledge and tools they need to share their Lord with their Jewish friends in a loving, effective way.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Refuting Rabbinic Objections to Christianity & Messianic Prophecies Eitan Bar, 2019-01-03 For us, Jews who grew up in Israel, Jesus and His word were never part of the conversation. Not in our school system, not in our synagogues, and not in our media. Nor do we have easy access to the New Testament. Jesus has been studiously avoided, and hidden from our people. Today in Israel, 99.7% of the Jewish population, reject Jesus as the Messiah. How did our country, where the gospel first took place, come to be so adamantly against it? Within

Judaism over the last two millennia, any kind of spiritual message had to go through the gate keepers, the Orthodox Jewish Rabbis. The Rabbinic Judaism of the Orthodox comes directly from the sect of the Pharisees, whom Jesus rebuked: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. (Matthew 23:13) Ever since the days of Messiah, the Rabbis have set themselves in opposition to the gospel, blocking the message of Jesus from Israel. They deliberately prevent Jewish people from hearing about the free salvation offered to them in the death and resurrection of their own Jewish Messiah. They have gone to great lengths to conceal Jesus, and keep him the best kept secret in Judaism., keeping our people in spiritual darkness. But now the secret is out! After almost 2000 years, Jesus, or as we call him in Hebrew, Yeshua, can no longer be hidden from the people! Today, our ministry, ONE FOR ISRAEL, reaches Jewish and Arab Israelis exactly where they are - online. We no longer need the rabbis' permission for anything. We can go straight into the smartphones, tablets, and computers of every Israeli, sharing the saving good news of Yeshua the Messiah! In the past, the message of the gospel came to Israel from outside our borders, delivered by people who didn't understand our language, our culture, our heritage or our way of thinking. Today the messengers look very different. Now it is Jewish and Arab Israelis who are bringing the gospel back to where it started - back to our own people Israel. We can explain the gospel to our people in a way that makes sense to them, in our own native tongues of Hebrew and Arabic as only Israelis can, and help our people understand who Yeshua really is. The Orthodox rabbis in Israel operate an anti missionary organization called Yad L'Achim, specifically to fight against the spread of the gospel among the Jewish people. This very well-funded organization, works very closely with the Minister of Interior in the Israeli government. They seek to prevent Jewish people from leaving the confines of Rabbinic Judaism by any means necessary (not always legally), and relentlessly persecute us, the Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel. With over 90% of the names, photos and addresses of all the Messianic Jews in Israel on file, Yad L'Achim began sending a magazine called Searching to the homes of believers in Israel back in 2014. The magazine contains objections and refutations from Orthodox rabbis about the messiahship of Jesus, the credibility of the New Testament, and trying to ridicule and destroy the belief in Jesus. This caused several Jewish believers, even including some who had been missionaries, to deny their faith in Jesus and revert to rabbinic Judaism. Over the past five years, I decided to go over all of their magazines, books and videos, in order to answer their arguments and prove their objections false. Since 2015 we have released about 150 short videos where we share the gospel and directly refute these rabbinic objections to Jesus, New Testament and Christianity. This book is a compilation of transcripts from these videos, all in one place for your consideration. While the content of this book is based on five years of academic research, I did my best to write it in a simple, easy-to-read way, in order to keep this book as short as possible. Please SHARE links to this book! :)

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answering jewish objections to jesus: *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood* Michael L. Brown, 1992 A description of 2,000 years of Christian persecution of the Jews, written by a Jewish Christian who contends that Christians are almost totally ignorant of the Jews' agony throughout the centuries. Pointing to the Jewish origins of Jesus and the apostles, and to positive aspects of Judaism,

decries the Christian distortion of Judaism, and the hatred and lies spread against the Jewish people up to the present day. Although he believes that the Jews will eventually come to accept Jesus as the Messiah, Brown calls on Christians to approach Jews with love, and not with hatred. He states that Satan is the author of the spirit of antisemitism, and that Christians must recognize that when they hate Jews they are heeding not God but Satan.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Witnessing to Jews Moishe Rosen, Ceil Rosen, 1998

answering jewish objections to jesus: The Return of the Kosher Pig Itzhak Shapira, 2013
Far from a study of kosher dietary laws, this book is an unprecedented journey toward the true identity of the Divine Messiah--the one previously considered unkosher and unacceptable by Jewish people. This encyclopedic volume will surprise and challenge you with the compelling words of Jewish sages and rabbis over the last 2,000 years, many in English for the first time.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Twenty-six Reasons why Jews Don't Believe in Jesus Asher Norman, 2007 In this seminal work, an attorney puts Jesus on trial, explaining to Jews, Christians and the theologically curious; why Jesus did not qualify as the Jewish messiah; why believing in Jesus cuts Jews off from G-d forever in the World To Come; how the Christian Bible has strategically mistranslated key verses in the Old Testament to shoehorn Jesus into the text. This compelling new book calls unorthodox Jews back to Torah Judaism. Black, White and Red Publishing.

answering jewish objections to jesus: The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah Alfred Edersheim, 1917

answering jewish objections to jesus: The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy Michael Rydelnik, Edwin Blum, 2019-10-10 The ultimate, all-in-one resource on what the Old Testament says about Jesus As Jesus walked the Emmaus road, he showed his companions how the whole of Scripture foretold his coming. Yet so often today we're not quite sure how to talk about Jesus in the Old Testament. How do you know what applies to Jesus? And how do you interpret some of the strange prophetic language? Get answers and clarity in this authoritative and reliable guide to messianic prophecy from some of the world's foremost evangelical Old Testament scholars. In this in-depth, user-friendly one volume resource you get: -essays from scholars on the big ideas and major themes surrounding Messianic prophecy -A clear and careful commentary on every passage in the Old Testament considered Messianic -Insights into the original Hebrew and helpful analysis of theological implications Watch the Scriptures come into full color as you see new meaning in familiar passages and further appreciate God's masterful handiwork in preparing the way for Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah.

answering jewish objections to jesus: The 10 Most Common Objections to Christianity Alex McFarland, 2007-05-07 Society today has a growing number of objections and concerns regarding Christianity. Why does a loving God let bad things happen? Would God really send someone to hell? And why is Christianity right and other religions are in error? Many Christians hear objections to Christianity and have a crisis of faith. Enter Alex McFarland, a seasoned apologist who is ready to explore 10 common objections to Christianity. He offers straight answers that will give them confidence and understanding about their beliefs. After reading this book, all Christians will know how to effectively answer the most common objections to Christianity, why they believe what they believe and be prepared to defend their faith and worldview.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Mama Bear Apologetics™ Hillary Morgan Ferrer, 2019-06-04 *Foreword written by Nancy Pearcey* Parents are the most important apologists our kids will ever know. Mama Bear Apologetics will help you navigate your kids' questions and prepare them to become committed Christ followers." —J. Warner Wallace If every Christian mom would apply this book in her parenting, it would profoundly transform the next generation. —Natasha Crain #RoarLikeAMother The problem with lies is they don't often sound like lies. They seem harmless, and even sound right. So what's a Mama Bear to do when her kids seem to be absorbing the culture's lies uncritically? Mama Bear Apologetics™ is the book you've been looking for. This mom-to-mom guide will equip you to teach your kids how to form their own biblical beliefs about

what is true and what is false. Through transparent life stories and clear, practical applications—including prayer strategies—this band of Mama Bears offers you tools to train yourself, so you can turn around and train your kids. Are you ready to answer the rallying cry, “Mess with our kids and we will demolish your arguments”? Join the Mama Bears and raise your voice to protect your kids—by teaching them how to think through and address the issues head-on, yet with gentleness and respect.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *Jesus in the Jewish World* Geza Vermes, 2013-01-26
Geza Vermes is the greatest living Jesus scholar. In this collection of occasional pieces, he explores the world and the context in which Jesus of Nazareth lived and tells the story of the exploration of first-century Palestine by twentieth-century scholars. Informed by the work of a world-class scholar, the articles in this book open to the general reader the findings of some of the major discoveries of the twentieth century such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. This collection of shorter popular pieces, many of which appeared in *The Times* and other newspapers, makes Vermes' research on Christian origins, the Dead Sea Scrolls and most importantly Jesus the Jew accessible to a wider readership.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *Jesus Is the Christ* Michael F. Bird, 2013-02-27
Entering the fray of a hotly debated issue, Michael Bird argues that the title and role of Messiah ascribed to Jesus is not a late addition to the four Gospels but their structural and semantic foundation. Stressing that Christianity is itself a messianic movement, Bird argues that the messianic testimony is the mother of all Christology.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *Israel, the Church, and the Middle East* Darrell L. Bock, Mitch Glaser, 2018-04-24
The relationship between the church and Israel has been the source of passionate debate among Christians throughout much of church history. In recent years the traditional pro-Israel stance of evangelicals has come under fire by those who support the Palestinian cause, calling for a new perspective and more nuanced approach by Christians who believe that the land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people by virtue of God's covenants and promises. *Israel, the Church, and the Middle East* challenges the supersessionist drift of the modern church, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people while also addressing a number of the divisive issues raised by authors critical both of Israel and of those who affirm Israel's right to the land. The book explores the hermeneutics and wider effects of the conflict, such as the growing antipathy within the church toward the evangelization of the Jewish people. It provides readers with an objective and interdisciplinary treatment, which is irenic and respectful in tone. The book is directed toward pastors, global Christian leaders, theological students, and well-read lay Christians who are actively seeking guidance and resources regarding the Middle East conflict. The contributors represent a broad evangelical spectrum.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *Christian Antisemitism* Michael L. Brown, 2021-02-02
Hate isn't a thing from history. The Jewish people and Israel have been described as a dominant and moving force behind the present and coming evils of our day; a monstrous system of evil...[that] will destroy us and our children if not resisted; and a group that seeks the annihilation of almost every Gentile man, woman, and child and the establishment of a satanic Jewish-led global dictatorship. What's worse is that these comments were all made by professing Christians. In *Christian Antisemitism*, respected Messianic Bible scholar Michael L. Brown, PhD, documents shocking examples of modern Christian antisemitism and exposes the lies that support them. Carefully researched, this book shows that church-based antisemitism is no longer a thing of the past. Rather, a dangerous, shocking tide of Christian antisemitism has begun to rise. In *Christian Antisemitism*, Dr. Brown shows you how to stem this tide now and overcome the evil of Christian antisemitism with the powerful love of the cross! This book will show you how to confront everyday antisemitism in all areas of your life and become a champion for the people of Israel.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *Did Jesus Exist?* G. A. Wells, 1987-02
Professor Wells argues that there was no historical Jesus, and in thus arguing he deals with the many recent writers who have interpreted the historical Jesus as some kind of political figure in the struggle against Rome, and calls in evidence the many contemporary theologians who agree with some of his

arguments about early Christianity. The question at issue is what all the evidence adds up to. Does it establish that Jesus did or did not exist? Professor Wells concludes that the latter is the more likely hypothesis. This challenge to received thinking by both Christians and non-Christians is supported by much documentary evidence, and Professor Wells carefully examines all the relevant problems and answers all the relevant questions. He deliberately avoids polemic and speculation, and sticks so far as possible to the known facts and to rational inferences from the facts.

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answering jewish objections to jesus: *The Case for Christ* Lee Strobel, 2010-11 The book consists primarily of interviews between Strobel (a former legal editor at the Chicago Tribune) and biblical scholars such as Bruce Metzger. Each interview is based on a simple question, concerning historical evidence (for example, Can the Biographies of Jesus Be Trusted?), scientific evidence, (Does Archaeology Confirm or Contradict Jesus' Biographies?), and psychiatric evidence (Was Jesus Crazy When He Claimed to Be the Son of God?). Together, these interviews compose a case brief defending Jesus' divinity, and urging readers to reach a verdict of their own.

answering jewish objections to jesus: *The Case Against Miracles* John W. Loftus, 2019-11-22 For as long as the idea of miracles has been in the public sphere, the conversation about them has been shaped exclusively by religious apologists and Christian leaders. The definitions for what a miracles are have been forged by the same men who fought hard to promote their own beliefs as fitting under that umbrella. It's time for a change. Enter John W. Loftus, an atheist author who has earned three master's degrees from Lincoln Christian Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Loftus, a former student of noted Christian apologist William Lane Craig, got some of the biggest names in the field to contribute to this book, which represents a critical analysis of the very idea of miracles. Incorporating his own thoughts along with those of noted academics, philosophers, and theologians, Loftus is able to properly define miracle and then show why there's no reason to believe such a thing even exists. Addressing every single issue that touches on miracles in a thorough and academic manner, this compilation represents the most extensive look at the phenomenon ever displayed through the lens of an ardent nonbeliever. If you've ever wondered exactly what a miracle is, or doubted whether they exist, then this book is for you.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Resurrection Michael L. Brown, 2020 What made Jesus the Messiah? This book will teach you the Jewish roots of your faith and help you gain a fresh new perspective on the resurrection of Jesus. In 1994, after one of the greatest rabbis of the twentieth century died at the age of ninety-two, his followers began to proclaim him as the Messiah. They expected him to rise from the dead and even come again. Is this possible? Could a deceased rabbi be the Messiah? In this fascinating book, biblical scholar Michael L. Brown, PhD, takes you on a captivating journey beginning in Brooklyn, New York, where this famous rabbi died in 1994, then back through Jewish history, looking at little-known Jewish beliefs about the Messiah, potential Messiahs that emerged in each generation, and teachings about the reincarnated soul of the Messiah. Dr. Brown then looks at the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus from his unique perspective as a Messianic Jew, demonstrating why Jesus' resurrection uniquely confirms that He alone is the promised Messiah. This page-turner is for everyone who is interested in the Jewish roots of our faith, everyone fascinated by Jewish tradition, and everyone wanting to gain a fresh new perspective on the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. It is also a great witnessing tool for Christians who want to share the good news of Yeshua the Messiah with their Jewish friends. FEATURES AND BENEFITS: Provides new understanding from a Messianic Jewish perspective of how Jesus'

resurrection validates His claim of being the true Messiah Serves as a tool to help Christians talk about Jesus with Jewish people Presents a fascinating perspective for Christians interested in the Jewish roots of their faith Also Available in Spanish ISBN: 978-1-62999-315-7 OTHER BOOKS BY DR. BROWN: Jezebel's War With America (2019) ISBN: 978-1629996660 The Power of Music (2019) ISBN: 978-1629995953 Playing With Holy Fire (2018) ISBN: 978-1629994987

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answering jewish objections to jesus: From Jesus to Christ Paula Fredriksen, 2008-10-01 Magisterial. . . . A learned, brilliant and enjoyable study.—Géza Vermès, Times Literary Supplement In this exciting book, Paula Fredriksen explains the variety of New Testament images of Jesus by exploring the ways that the new Christian communities interpreted his mission and message in light of the delay of the Kingdom he had preached. This edition includes an introduction reviews the most recent scholarship on Jesus and its implications for both history and theology. Brilliant and lucidly written, full of original and fascinating insights.—Reginald H. Fuller, Journal of the American Academy of Religion This is a first-rate work of a first-rate historian.—James D. Tabor, Journal of Religion Fredriksen confronts her documents—principally the writings of the New Testament—as an archaeologist would an especially rich complex site. With great care she distinguishes the literary images from historical fact. As she does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.—Thomas D'Evelyn, Christian Science Monitor

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answering jewish objections to jesus: A Handbook on the Jewish Roots of the Christian

Faith Craig A. Evans, David Mishkin, 2019-01-01 A Handbook on the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith is a comprehensive handbook that serves as an introduction to the Jewish roots of the Christian Faith. It includes Old Testament background, Second Temple Judaism, the life of Jesus, the New Testament, and the early Jewish followers of Jesus. It is intended as a resource for college and/or higher education. It is no longer a novelty to say that Jesus was a Jew. In fact, the term Jewish roots has become something of a buzzword in books, articles, and especially on the internet. But what does the Jewishness of Jesus actually mean, and why is it important? This collection of articles aims to address those questions and serve as a comprehensive yet concise primer on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. It consists of thirteen chapters, most of which are divided into four or five articles. It is in a handbook format, meaning that each article is brief but informative. The thirteen chapters are grouped into four major sections: (1) The Soil, (2) The Roots, (3) The Trunk, and (4) The Branches. Craig A. Evans, PhD, DHabil, is the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at Houston Baptist University in Texas. He is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals and the author or editor of over seventy books. Evans resides in Houston, TX. David Mishkin, PhD, serves on the faculty of Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, Israel. He is the author of *The Wisdom of Alfred Edersheim and Jewish Scholarship on the Resurrection of Jesus*.

answering jewish objections to jesus: Why the Jews Rejected Jesus David Klinghoffer, 2006-03-07 Why did the Jews reject Jesus? Was he really the son of God? Were the Jews culpable in his death? These ancient questions have been debated for almost two thousand years, most recently with the release of Mel Gibson's explosive *The Passion of the Christ*. The controversy was never merely academic. The legal status and security of Jews—often their very lives—depended on the answer. In *WHY THE JEWS REJECTED JESUS*, David Klinghoffer reveals that the Jews since ancient times accepted not only the historical existence of Jesus but the role of certain Jews in bringing about his crucifixion and death. But he also argues that they had every reason to be skeptical of claims for his divinity. For one thing, Palestine under Roman occupation had numerous charismatic would-be messiahs, so Jesus would not have been unique, nor was his following the largest of its kind. For another, the biblical prophecies about the coming of the Messiah were never fulfilled by Jesus, including an ingathering of exiles, the rise of a Davidic king who would defeat Israel's enemies, the building of a new Temple, and recognition of God by the gentiles. Above all, the Jews understood their biblically commanded way of life, from which Jesus's followers sought to "free" them, as precious, immutable, and eternal. Jews have long been blamed for Jesus's death and stigmatized for rejecting him. But Jesus lived and died a relatively obscure figure at the margins of Jewish society. Indeed, it is difficult to argue that "the Jews" of his day rejected Jesus at all, since most Jews had never heard of him. The figure they really rejected, often violently, was Paul, who convinced the Jerusalem church led by Jesus's brother to jettison the observance of Jewish law. Paul thus founded a new religion. If not for him, Christianity would likely have remained a Jewish movement, and the course of history itself would have been changed. Had the Jews accepted Jesus, Klinghoffer speculates, Christianity would not have conquered Europe, and there would be no Western civilization as we know it. *WHY THE JEWS REJECTED JESUS* tells the story of this long, acrimonious, and occasionally deadly debate between Christians and Jews. It is thoroughly engaging, lucidly written, and in many ways highly original. Though written from a Jewish point of view, it is also profoundly respectful of Christian sensibilities. Coming at a time when Christians and Jews are in some ways moving closer than ever before, this thoughtful and provocative book represents a genuine effort to heal the ancient rift between these two great faith traditions.

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