

# Juifs et Chrétiens- Parlons des incomprehensions

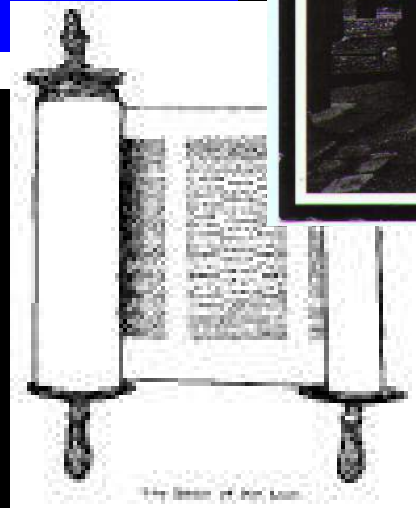
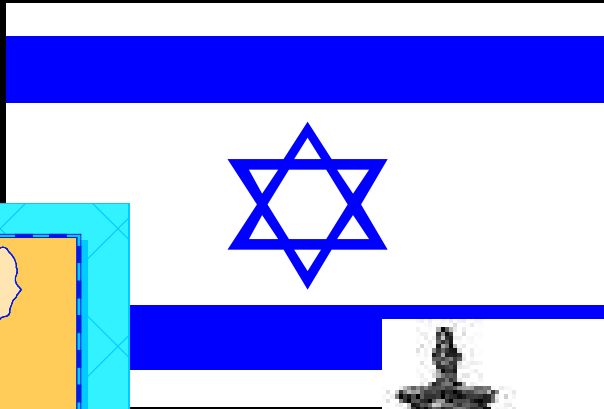
Richard Harvey  
[r.harvey@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:r.harvey@allnations.ac.uk)

Aim – to empower the church to cultivate, develop and maintain a love for the Jewish people

- Understand the history
- Repent of the past
- Remove the obstacles
- Reconcile enemies
- Restore relationship
- Rejoice!

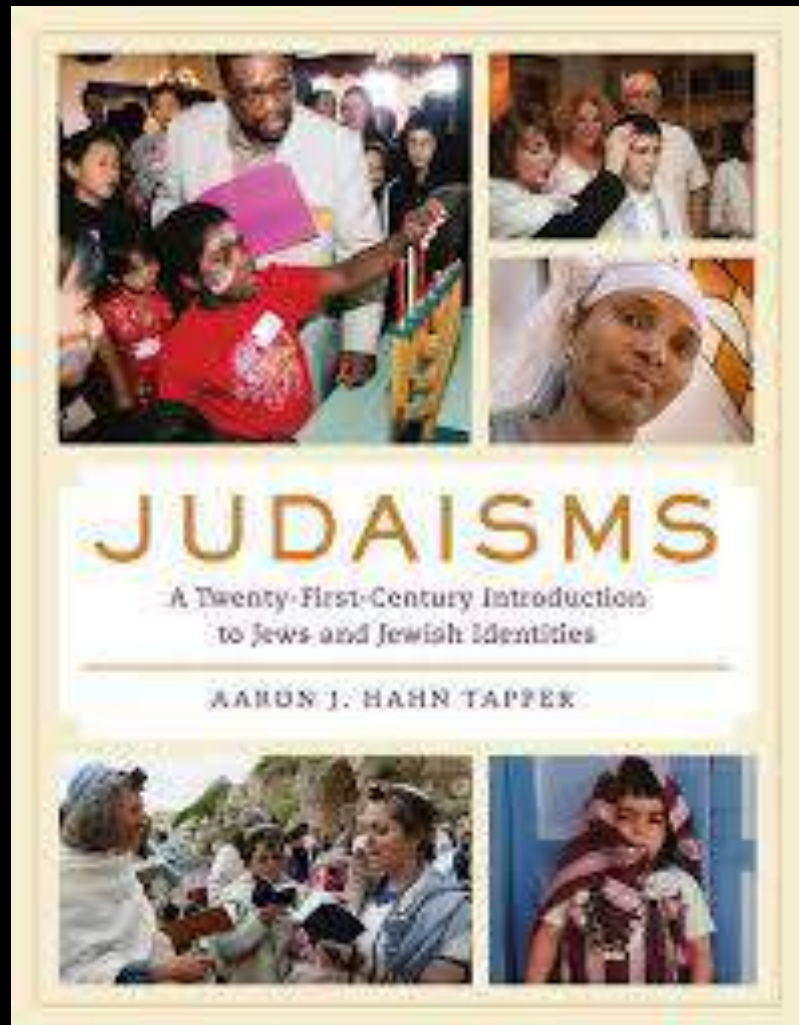


# Worldviews of Judaism



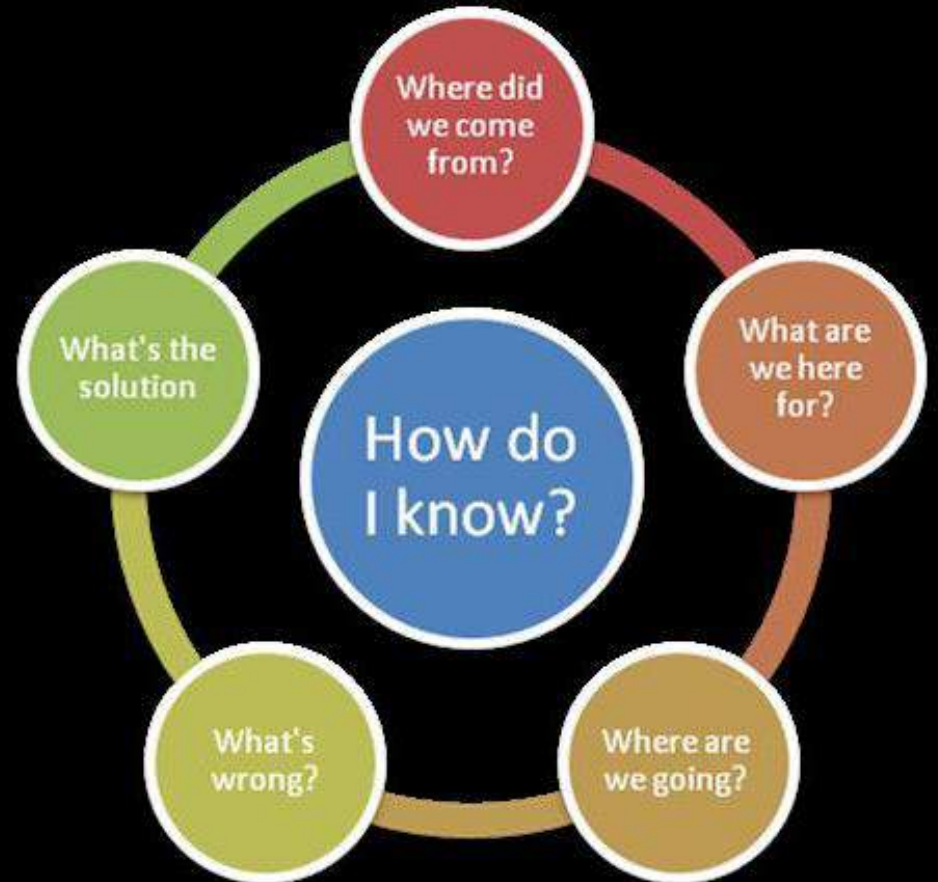
# Outline

1. Why Worldviews?
2. Why Judaism(s)?
3. Story
4. Questions
5. Symbol
6. Praxis



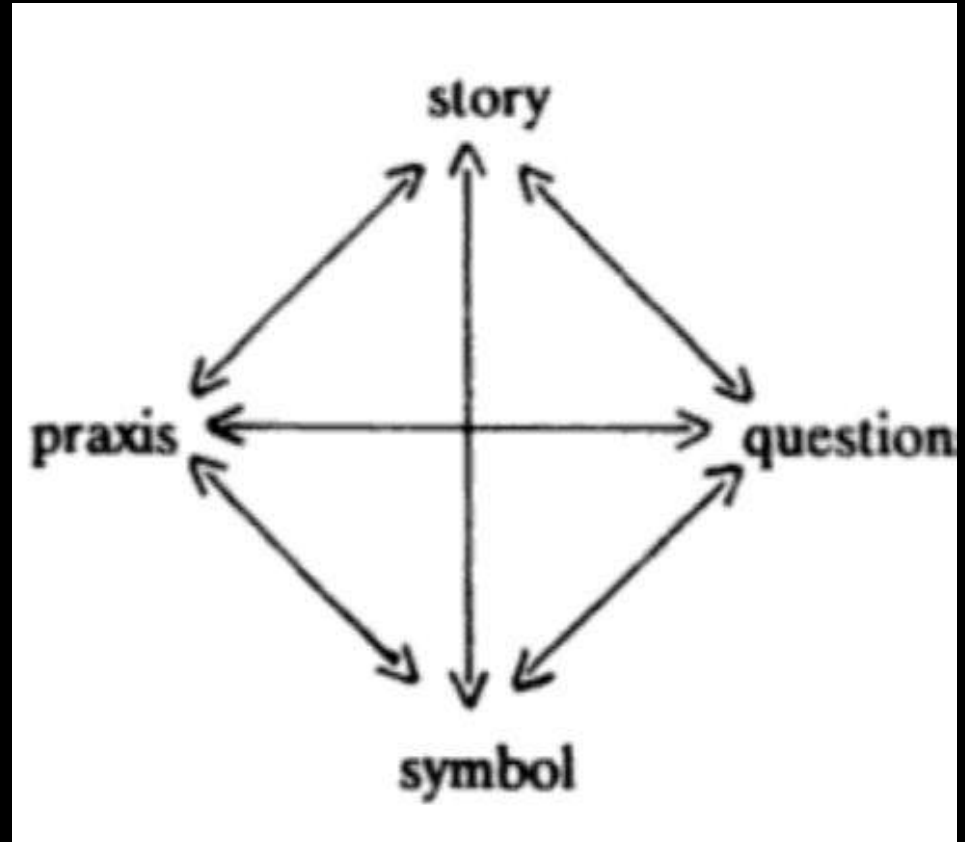
# Worldview Questions

- Who are we?
- Where are we?
- What is wrong?
- What is the solution?
- What time is it?



# 1. Why worldviews?

‘Worldviews are the basic stuff of human existence, the lens through which the world is seen, the blueprint for how one should live in it, and above all the sense of identity and place which enables human beings to be what they are. To ignore worldviews, either our own or those of the culture we are studying, would result in extraordinary shallowness.’  
(NT&POG: 124)



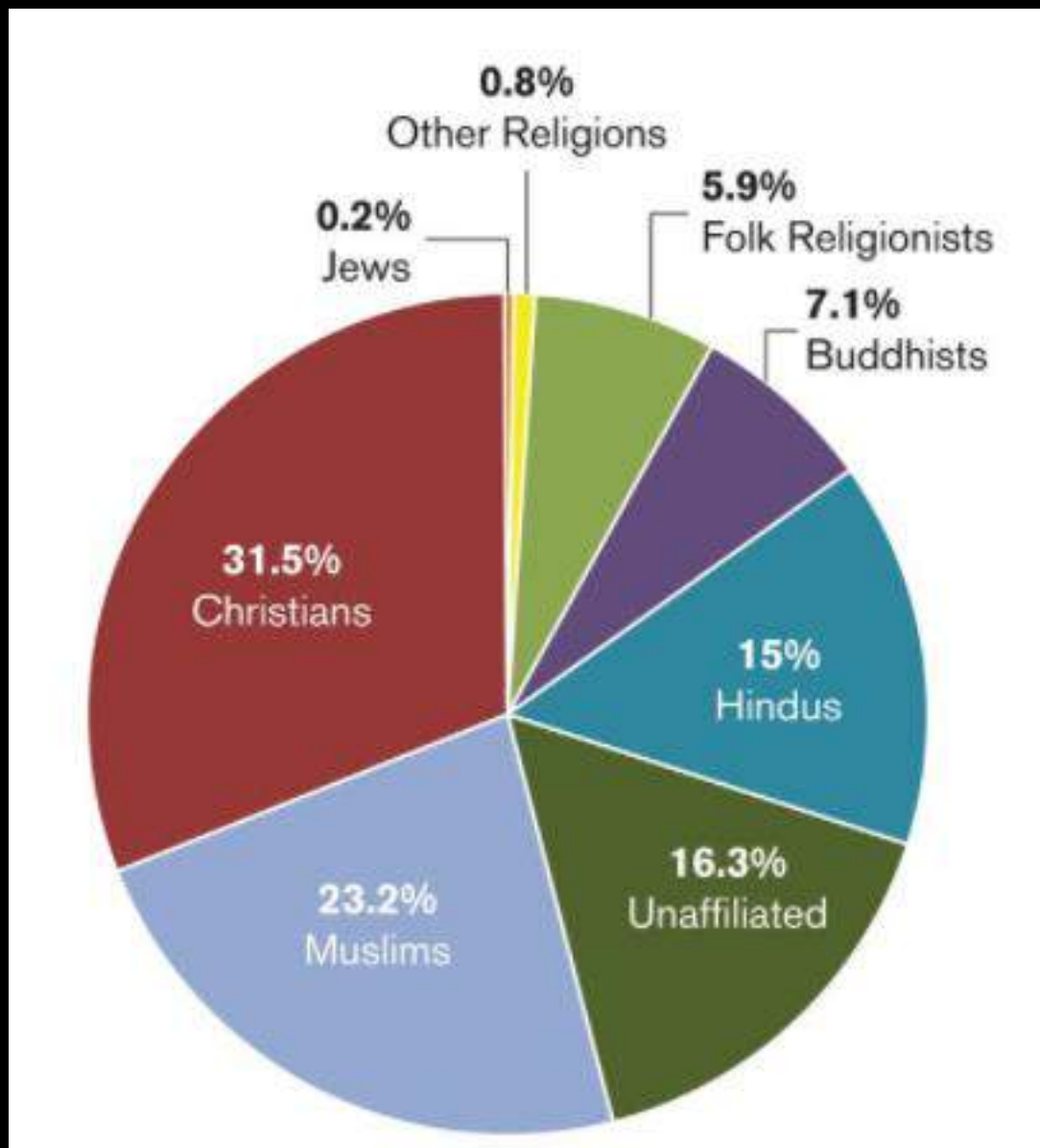
# Worldview Components

1. Stories through which human beings view reality. Narrative is the most characteristic expression
2. Basic questions that determine human existence: who we are, where are we, what is wrong , and what is the solution?'
3. Stories and the answers provided to the questions are expressed in cultural symbols'
4. Worldviews include a praxis, a way-of-being-in-the-world (NT&POG 124)



## 2. Why Judaisms?

- Religion?
- Culture?
- Ethnicity?
- Race?
- Religious Civilisation?





# JEWISH POPULATION

BY COUNTRY

## 14,500,000

WORLD TOTAL

## 83%

LIVE IN ISRAEL AND  
THE UNITED STATES



CORE 2016 POPULATIONS SOURCED FROM JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY

# World Jewish Population

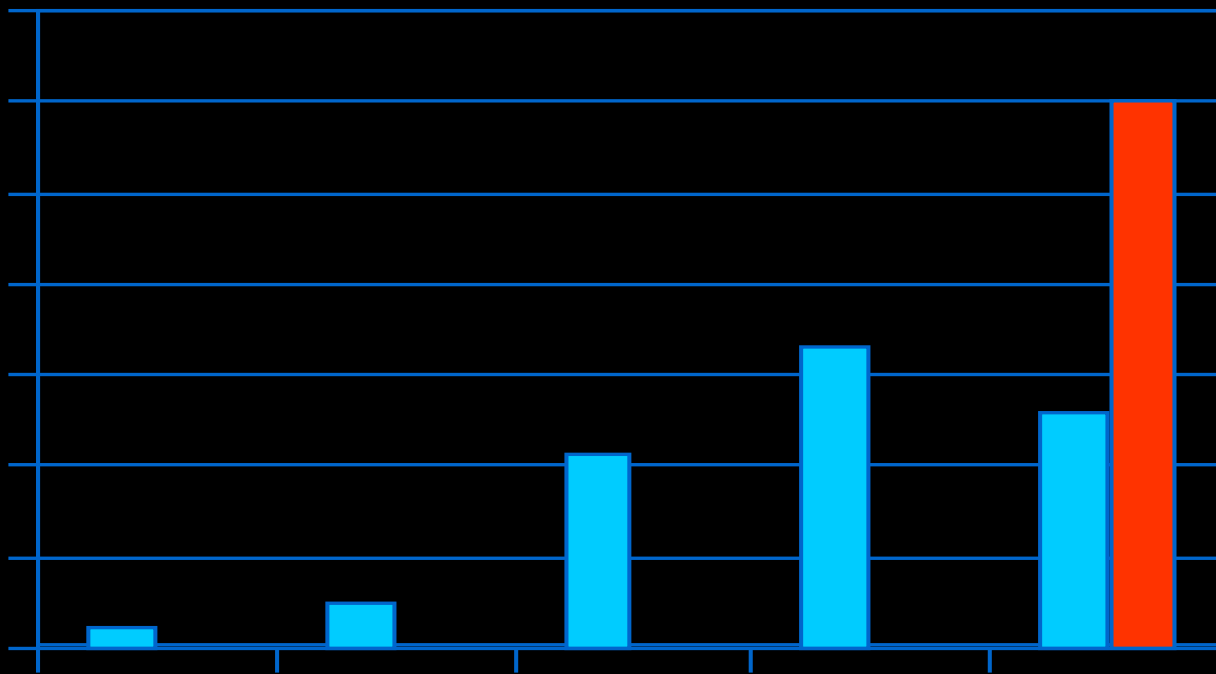
Millions

35  
30  
25  
20  
15  
10  
5  
0

1700 1800 1900 1940 2000

Year

Actual  
Projected



# Ashkenazi/Sephardi



# Main Cultural Divisions

- Ashkenazi (Germany)
- Russia, Poland, N. Europe
- Different culture
- Different liturgy
- Different pronunciation of Hebrew
- Oy, oy, oy
- Sephardi (Spain)
- Spain, Portugal, N. Africa
- More established
- More scholarly (Rambam, Caro)
- Less successful in Israel
- Ai,ai, ai!



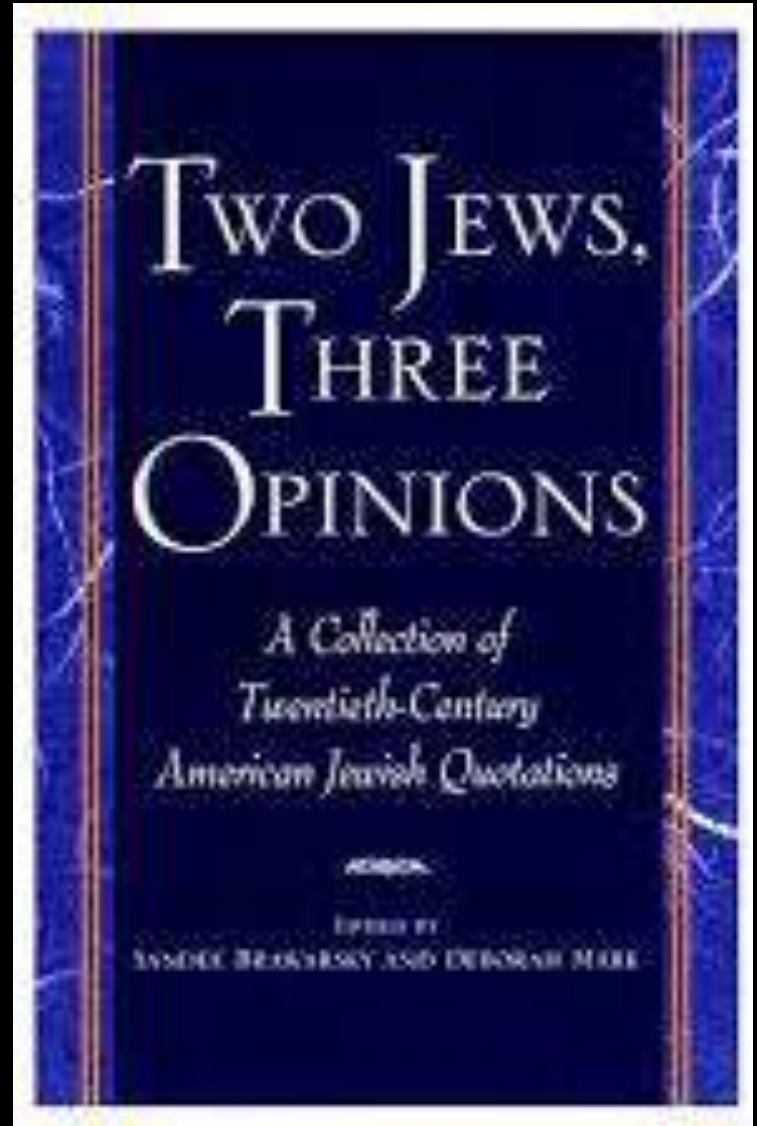
**Two Chief Rabbis!**

**(David Lau – Yitzak Yosef)**



# Why Judaisms?

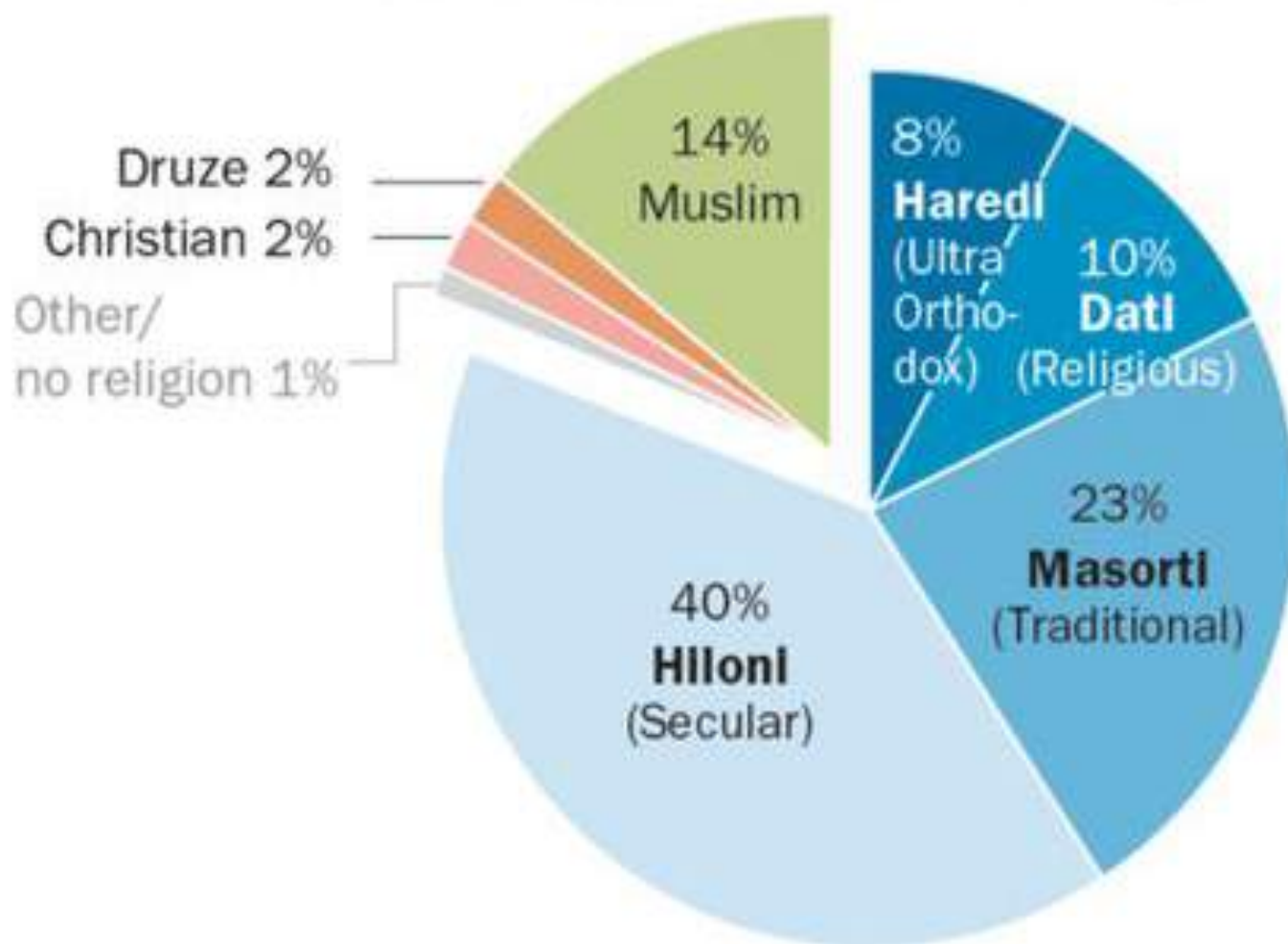
- Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi)
- Orthodox (Dati)
- Traditional (Masorti)
- = Conservative (USA)
- “Traditionist” (Israel)
- Reform (USA)
- Liberal (UK)
- Reconstructionist (USA)
- Secular (Hiloni)
- Messianic



# Israel's diverse religious landscape

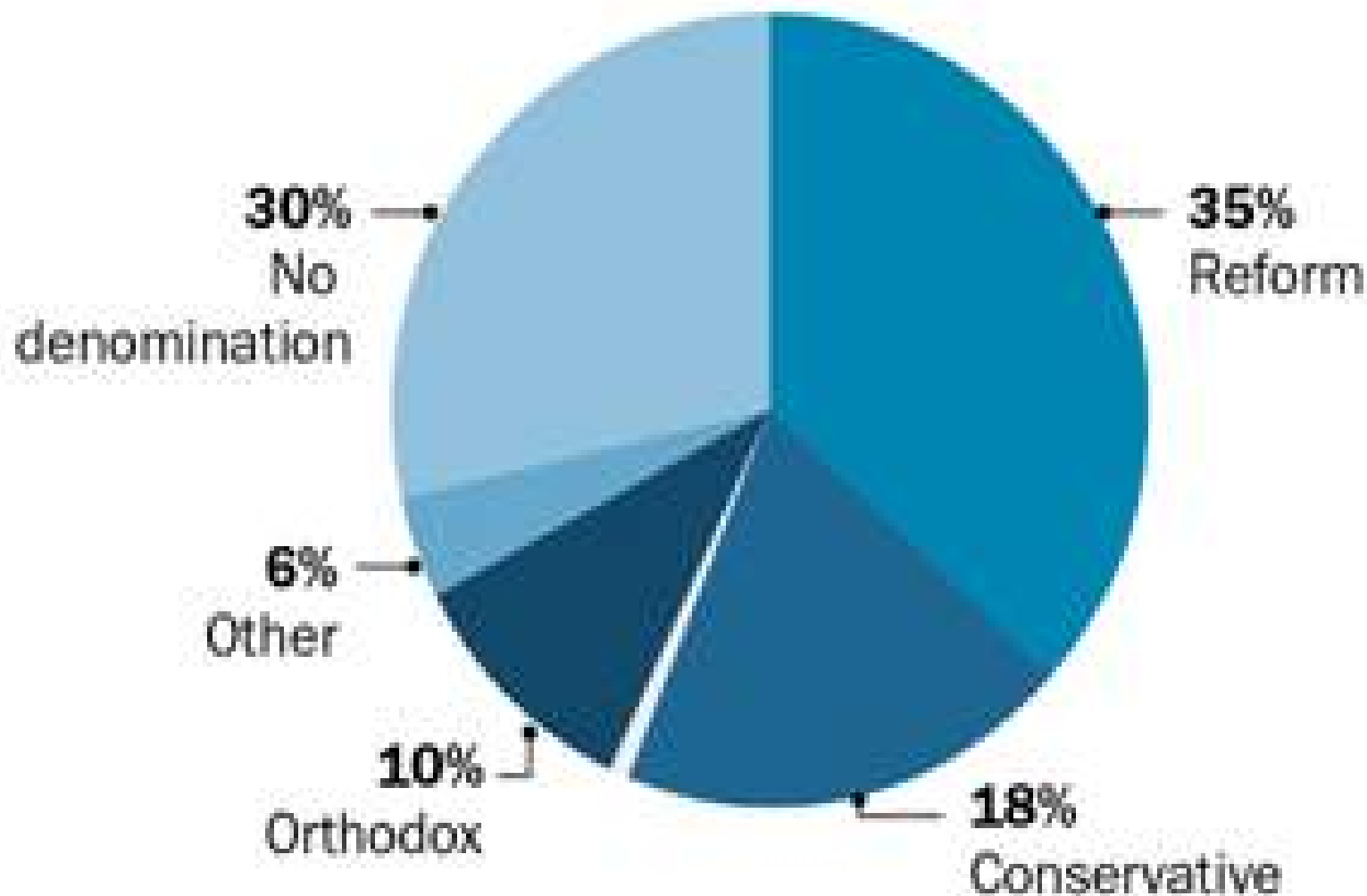
*% of Israeli adults who identify as ...*

**Non-Jewish : 19%    Jewish: 81%**



# Jewish Denominational Identity

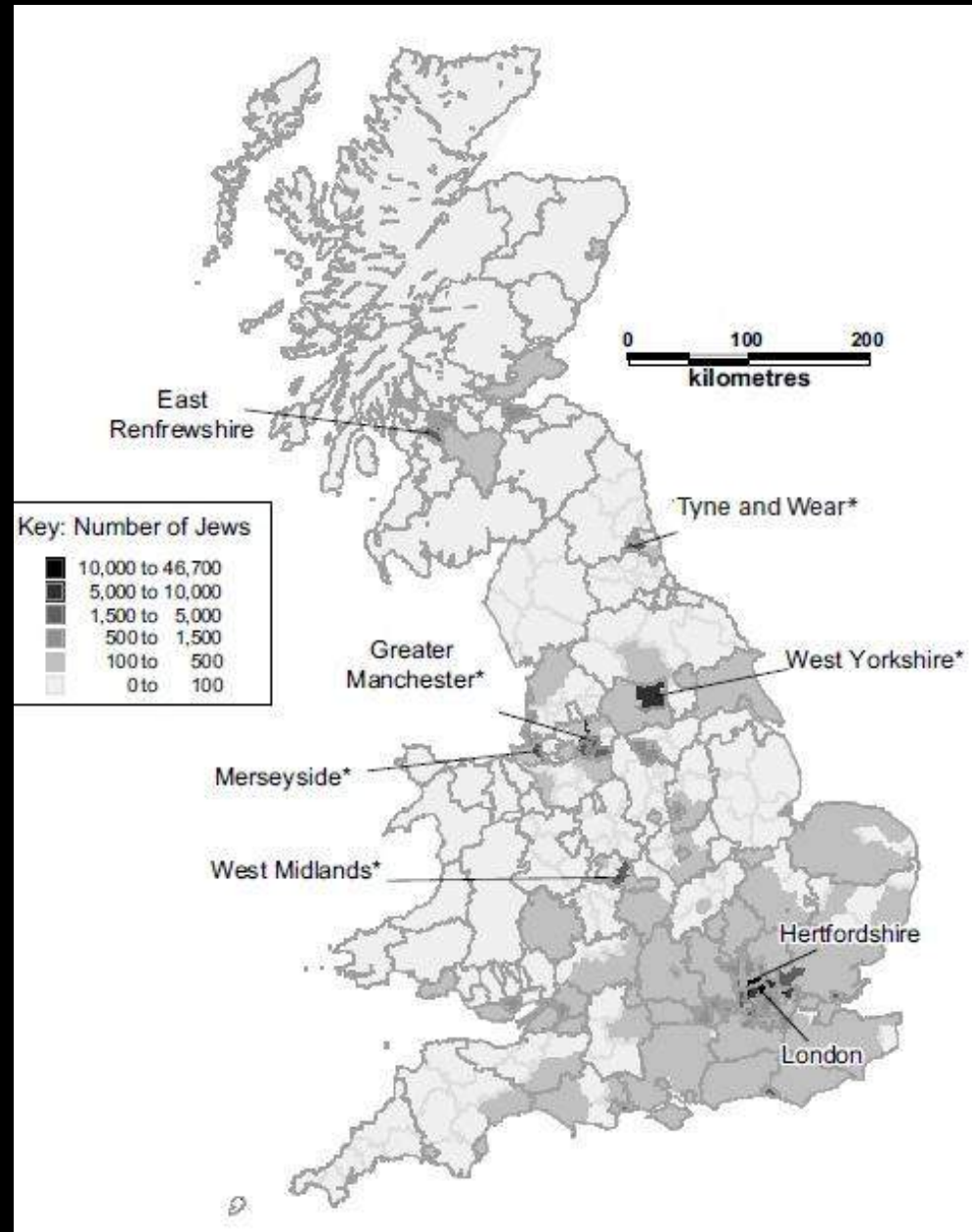
A



# UK Jewish community

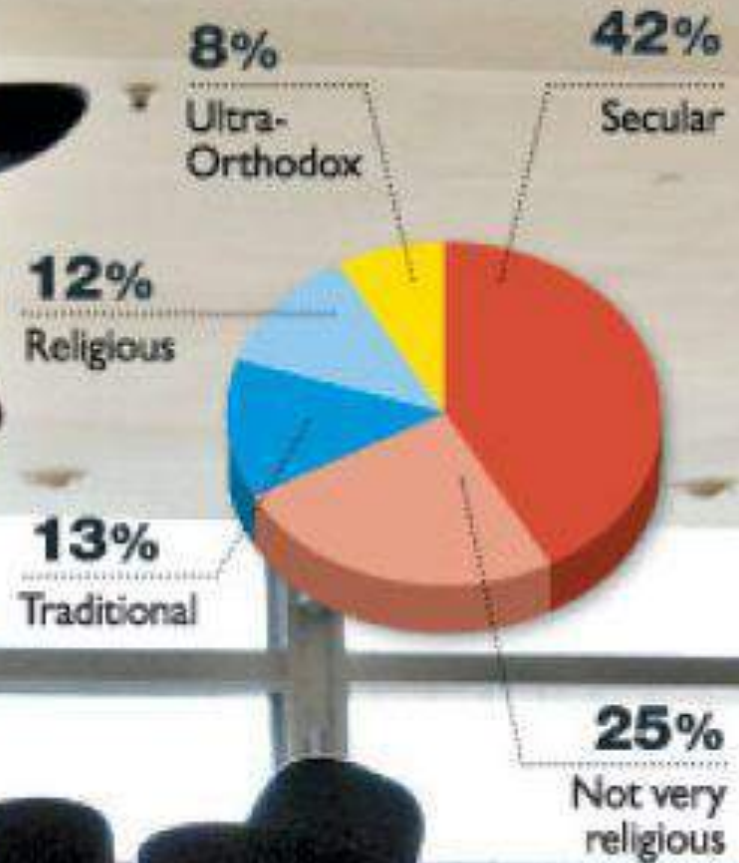
- 10.9% Ultra-Orthodox
- 54.7% Orthodox
- 19.4% Reform
- 2.7% Masorti
- 8.7% Liberal
- 3.5% Sephardi

263,346 (2011 Census)





# How Israeli Jewish adults identify themselves\*



\*Data from 2009 Central Bureau of Statistics report

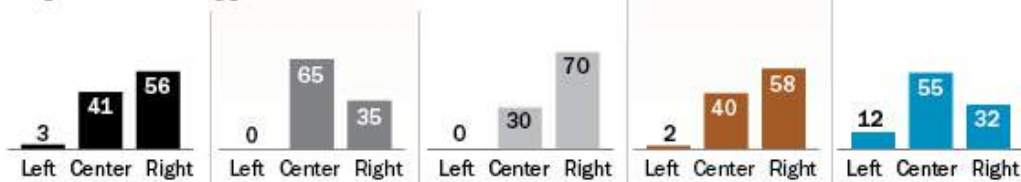
- Problems with “Orthodox” and “Secular”?
- “Traditionalist” and “Traditionist”?
- Challenge to Religion/Politics/Ethnicity discourse (Yadgar)

# Kipperology

Among Israeli Jewish men who wear each type of kippa (or no head covering),  
% who say their religious identity is...



Among Israeli Jewish men who wear each type of kippa (or no head covering),  
% who say their political ideology is ...



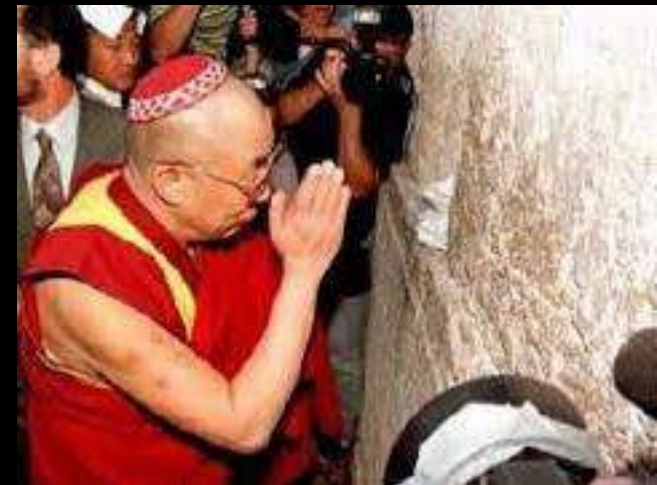
Note: Based on respondents who provided a political ideology. Respondents in the survey were asked to place themselves on a political spectrum from 1-6, with 1 representing the left and 6 representing the right. For purposes of analysis, 1 and 2 make up the "left" category, 3 and 4 are "center," and 5 and 6 are "right." Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.



Women rabbis

LGBTIQ

Messianic



# 3. Story – The Standard Narrative

- Contemporary Jews are descendants of the biblical Hebrews, who, starting with Abraham, were the first people to accept monotheism, the belief in a single God.



Tracing their lineage through the Bible, from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob (later named Israel) and his 12 sons (a.k.a. the children of Israel) and continuing on through Moses and Joshua, the Israelite slaves escaped to freedom, going on to wander in the desert wilderness for 40 years.



This epic tale involves an evil emperor (Pharoah), a miraculous escape through a major body of water that splits into two creating a pathway, a revelation from God Mount Sinai, receipt of a moral code (the 10 commandments) and passage to a land promised to them by God, a geographical area loosely correlated with the current borders of the state of Israel.





Throughout history Jews have been persecuted, oppressed and murdered simply for being Jewish. Exiled from their the homeland a number of times, most significantly in 586 BCE and 70 CE, when their first and second Temples were destroyed - this resilient community has persevered and survived over and over again, against all odds.

Though there have been many attempts to annihilate them, most notably the Holocaust or Shoah (the European Jewish genocide of World War 2) they wondrously returned to their birthplace, the land of Israel, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in 1948 established a new country, a Jewish state, where they continue to fight for their existence today.

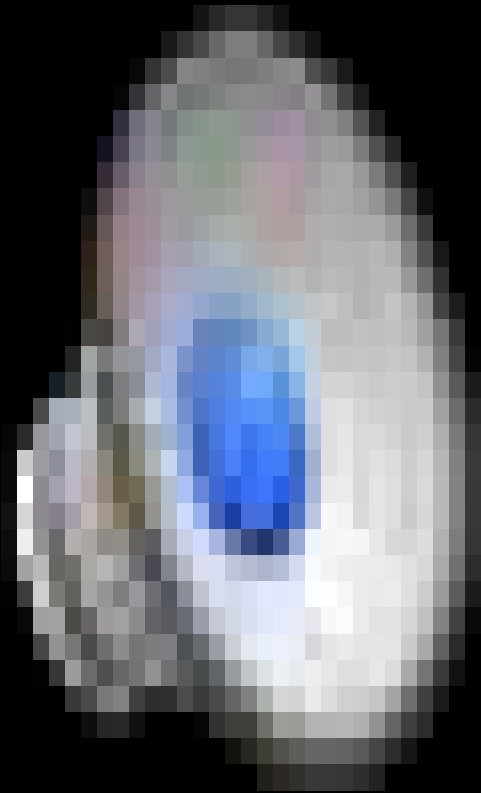


# Fiddler on the Roof Questions

1. Why is tradition important?
2. Why do men cover their heads to pray?
3. What is required of a father? mother?
4. What special characters there?
5. How is the Czar seen? The Church?
6. What historical period is being described?
7. How does it relate to other periods in Jewish history?
8. How does it relate to Jewish people today?
9. How does it affect you? What did you feel? What did you learn?
10. What does the violin solo mean?



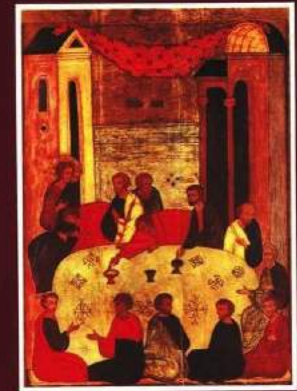




# Jewish Worldview at the time of Jesus

	NT Wright – 1 <sup>st</sup> century Judaism -
Who are we?	We are Israel, the chosen people of the creator god
Where are we?	We are in the holy Land, focused on the Temple: but, paradoxically, we are still in exile.
What is wrong?	“We have the wrong rulers; pagans on the one hand (Romans), compromised or half-breed Jews (the <u>Herodians</u> ) on the other. We are all involved in a less than ideal situation.”
What is the solution?	“Our God must act again to give us all the true sort of rule, that is, his own kingship exercised through properly appointed officials (a true priesthood; possible a true king); and in the meantime Israel must be faithful to his covenant charter.”
What time is it?	“It is the eve of the Day of the Lord, the dramatic deliverance of the God of Israel.”

**THE  
NEW TESTAMENT**  
AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD

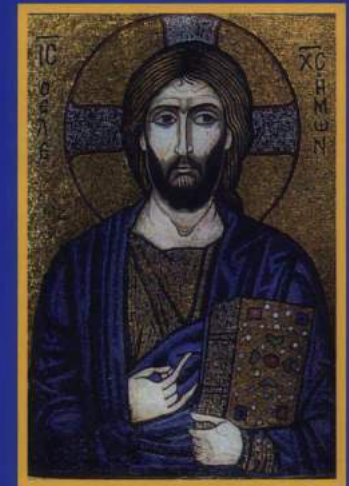


**N.T. WRIGHT**

# The Worldview of Jesus (acc. N. T. Wright)

	Jesus' worldview
Who are we?	+ We are the real, the true Israel, in the process of being redeemed at last by this god, over against the spurious claimants who are either in power or mounting alternative programs (JVG 443)
Where are we?	We are still in exile, we are still slaves, but we are at last being freed, the meek will inherit the land, the hungry and the thirsty will be satisfied. (JVG 445)...Jesus would have done remarkably little on the Land- more importantly by far within Jesus' mindset was his analysis of Israel's plight, his offer of the solution, and his reading of the signs of the times.
What is wrong?	Israel and the rest of the world are in the grip of <u>satan</u> ...Jesus redefines the battle for the kingdom...it was because Jesus refused to fight the battle that his contemporaries wanted him to fight that he found himself fighting, from his point of view, <u>the true battle</u> - against them, or rather, as he said, against the real enemy, whom he perceived to be operating through them. (448 JVG)
What is the solution?	Israel is experiencing the real return from exile and YHWH is now at last returning to Zion (in Jesus); the judgment of YHWH will shortly fall not only on Gentiles but also on those who failed to be truly loyal (JVG 371)
What time is it?	Time for the Son of God to complete his mission

## JESUS AND THE VICTORY OF GOD



N.T. WRIGHT

# Jewish Worldviews Today

	Ultra-Orthodox <u>Haredi</u>	Orthodox <u>Dati</u>	Traditional <u>Masorti</u>	Reform	Secular <u>Hiloni</u>	Messianic
<i>Who?</i>	Israel, but only a remnant	Israel, but most ungodly	Israel – nation, people, covenant community	Israel – ethnic, cultural, political, philosophical	Whatever – Zionist, post-Zionist, surviving, opposing <u>Antisemitism</u>	Part of Israel, part of Church
<i>Where?</i>	In exile, in darkness	Judea and Samaria	In Israel and Diaspora	In Diaspora	Secular Zion	Israel and Diaspora
<i>Wrong?</i>	Humans cannot bring Messianic age	Israel not yet redeemed	No peace in this age	Injustice and oppression	Anti-Semitism, Persecution	Sin
<i>Solution?</i>	Messiah	Messiah	Messianic Age	Messianic age evolves	Peace – any possible solution	Repentance, reconciliation, restoration
<i>Time?</i>	Very soon	Soon	One day	Maybe	Whatever	Inaugurated Eschatology

# Symbol

- Temple
- Jerusalem
- Land
- Torah
- “Racial identity”



# Temple – Blessing 17

- Orthodox – Temple to be rebuilt by Messiah
- Reform – No need/maybe
- Secular – No need
- Messianic –
  - Dispensational Premillennialism
  - Historic Premillennialism
  - Amillennialism
  - Israel-Christiology

עֲבוּדָה:

רְצֵה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּעַמּוֹךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבִתְפִלָּתָם.  
וְהָשִׁב אֶת הָעֲבוּדָה לְדָבִיר בֵּיתְךָ.  
וְאֲשִׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּתְפִלָּתָם בְּאַהֲבָה תִקְבַּל בְּרָצוֹן  
וּתְהִי לְרָצוֹן תָּמִיד עֲבוּדַת יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹךָ.  
וּתְחַיֶּינָה עֵינֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבְךָ לְצִיּוֹן בְּרִתְמִים.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, הַמְּחַיֵּיר שְׁכִינָתוֹ לְצִיּוֹן.



Accept Your people, O Lord our God, and receive their prayer. Restore the most holy service of Your house and accept in love the offerings and prayers of Israel. May it please You always to want to accept the service of Your people Israel. May our eyes see You return to Zion in mercy. Blessed are You, O Lord, Who restores His Presence to Zion.

# Jerusalem – Blessing 14

- Orthodox – Holy City of King David
- Reform – Capital of Jewish people
- Secular – Needs peace process
- Messianic - varies

בְּנֵין יְרוּשָׁלַיִם:

וְלִירוּשָׁלַיִם עִירָךְ בְּרַחֲמִים תָּשׁוּב, וְתִשְׁכּוֹן בְּתוֹכָהּ  
כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ, וּבָנָה אוֹתָהּ בְּקָרוֹב בְּיָמֵינוּ  
בְּנֵין עוֹלָם, וְכִסֵּא דָוִד מְהֵרָה לְתוֹכָהּ תִּכְיֶן.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, בּוֹנֵה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.



Return in compassion to Your city, Jerusalem, and rest within it as You have said. Rebuild it speedily, and in our days, a structure forever. And may You establish the throne of David within Jerusalem speedily. Blessed are You, Lord, the Builder of Jerusalem.

# Land of Israel

- Ultra-Orthodox – in exile without Messiah
- Orthodox – Eretz Israel – Judea and Samaria
- Reform – Negotiate
- Hiloni – Aliyah – Land for peace? Two-state solution?
- Messianic – Reconciliation?

קִיבוּץ גְּלוּיֹת:

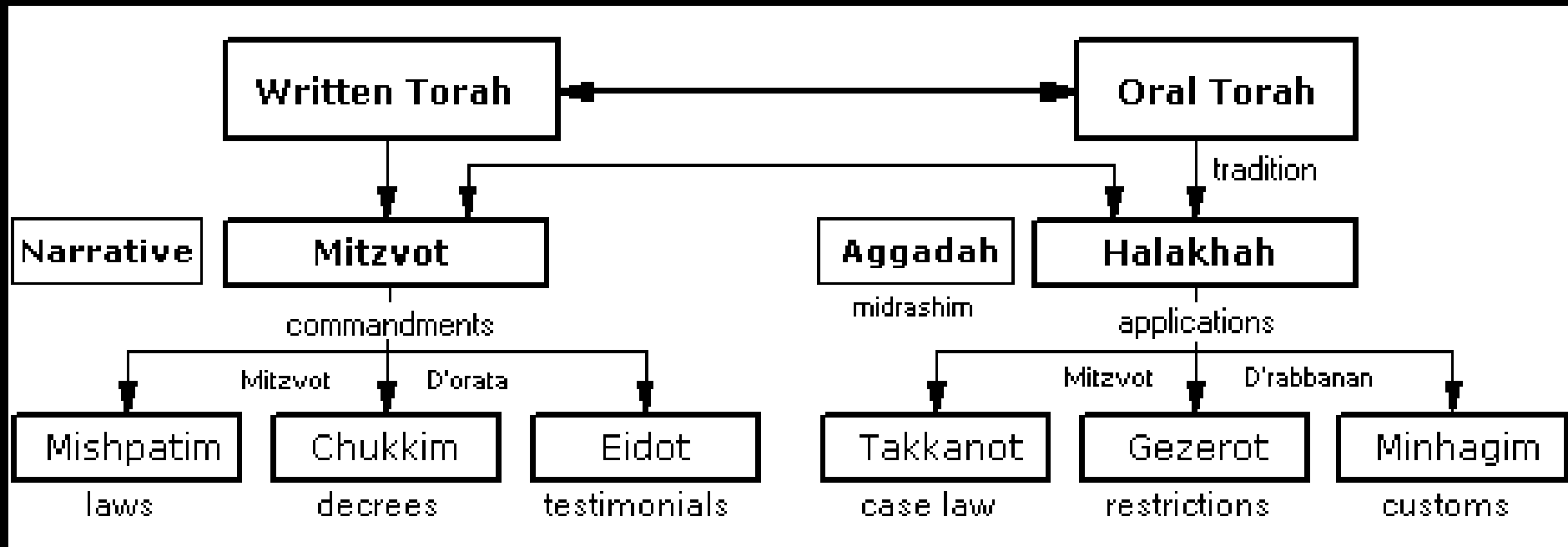
תִּקַּע בְּשׁוֹפָר גָּדוֹל לְחִירוֹתֵינוּ וְשֵׂא נִס לְקִבּוּץ  
גְּלוּיֹתֵינוּ, וְקַבְּצֵנוּ יַחַד מֵאַרְבַּע כַּנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מִקְבֵּץ גְּדוּחֵי עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.



Sound the great shofar for our freedom and raise a banner to gather our exiles and unite us together from the four corners of the earth. Blessed are You, LORD, who regathers the scattered of His people Israel.



# Torah



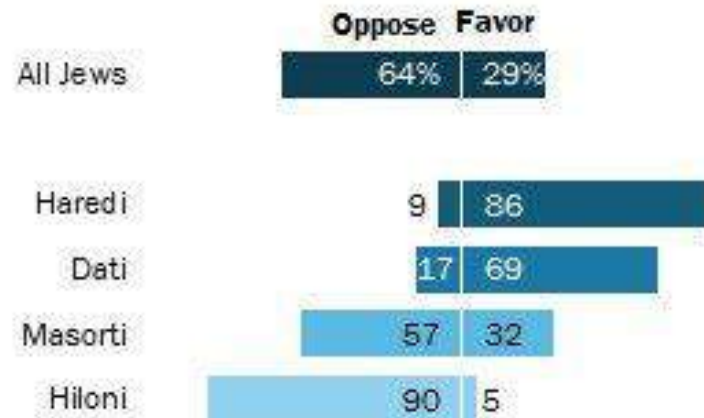
- Orthodox – Inerrant, Inspired, unchangeable - Dual Torah – Written and Oral
- Reform – Human and Divine
- Hiloni – Literature embodying Jewish and Zionist values
- Messianic – Revealed and renewed in Yeshua

# People of Israel

- Orthodox – “all Israel has a share in the world to come” (B.San. 11a)
- Reform – patrilineal and matrilineal descent
- Hiloni – Israelis – Jews, Arabs, others
- Messianic – remnant now – all Israel will be saved

## Large divide among Jews on whether halakha should be state law

*% of Israeli Jews who favor/oppose making halakha state law for Jews*



Source: Survey conducted October 2014-May 2015. Don't know/refused responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Praxis

- Worship and Festivals
- Study and Learning
- Torah in Practice



# Articles of faith

Main Jewish denominations

	Source of the Torah*	Authority of religious law ( <i>halacha</i> )	Ritual and practice	Zionism and Israel	Definition of Jewishness
Ultra-Orthodox ( <i>haredi</i> )	Dictated by God to Moses	All God-inspired and thus immutable	Minutely regulated by <i>halacha</i> and therefore unchanging, though emphasis may shift	Originally opposed to Zionism but most now accept Israel. Significant immigration to Israel	Jewish mother, or converted by ritual immersion, circumcision (males), accepting the <i>mitzvot</i> †
Modern-Orthodox	As above	As above but interpreted more flexibly	As above, but some scholars are pushing for change, especially regarding women	See Zionism as a divine manifestation and Israel as religiously significant. Substantial immigration	As above, but accepting the <i>mitzvot</i> interpreted more flexibly
Conservative	Inspired by God but interpreted by humans	Binding but being continuously developed by rabbis	<i>Halacha</i> significantly modernised; women and gay rabbis; ritual non-discriminatory	Support Zionism and Israel. Not much immigration	As above, but <i>mitzvot</i> commitment interpreted much more flexibly
Reform	As Conservative	No longer binding, except for its ethical aspects	Early radical changes but recent restoration of some rituals and practices	Originally opposed to Zionism. Reversed position in mid-20th century. Not much immigration	Jewish mother or father. For converts, some rabbis require immersion and circumcision but not <i>mitzvot</i> acceptance

# Evangelism

- Friendship the key
- Apologetics can help
- Discipleship vital
- Most churches ill-equipped
- Resources available –  
Jewish ministries
  - Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE)
  - Testimonies
  - Strategies
  - Education and training
  - Statements

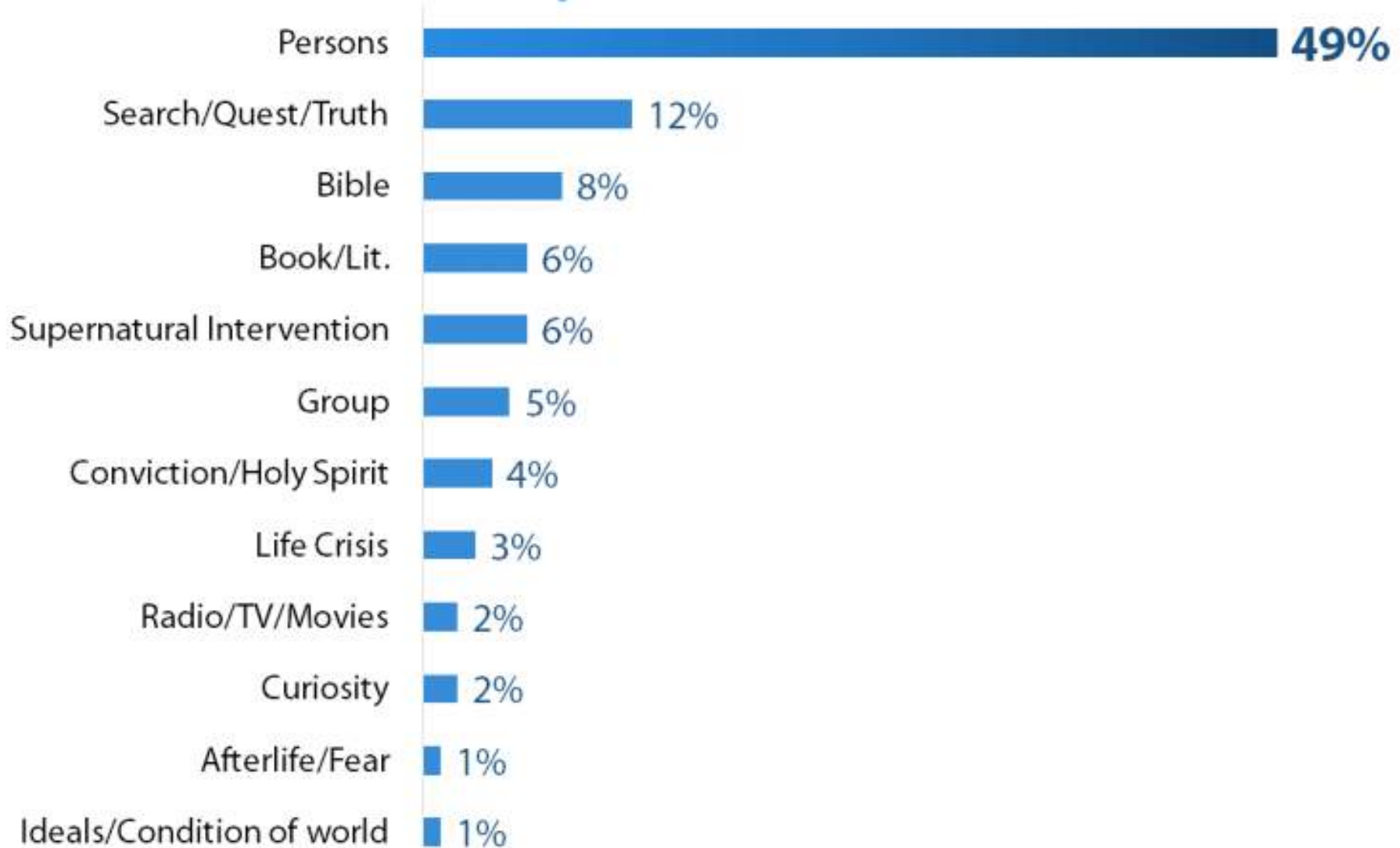
lcje.net

LCJE Responds

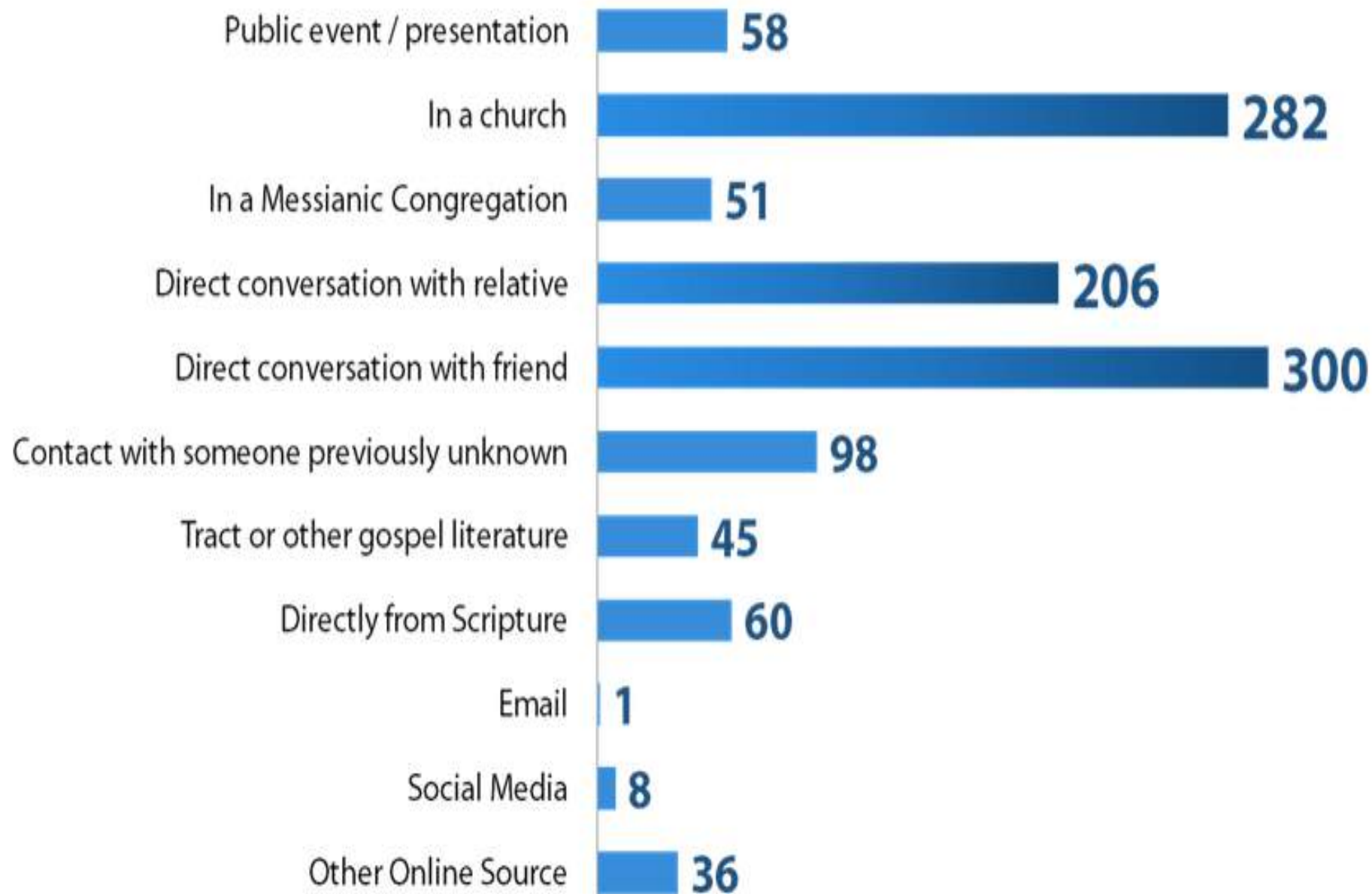
BY GOD'S GIFTS AND HIS CALL ARE  
IRREVOCABLE  
Romans 11:29

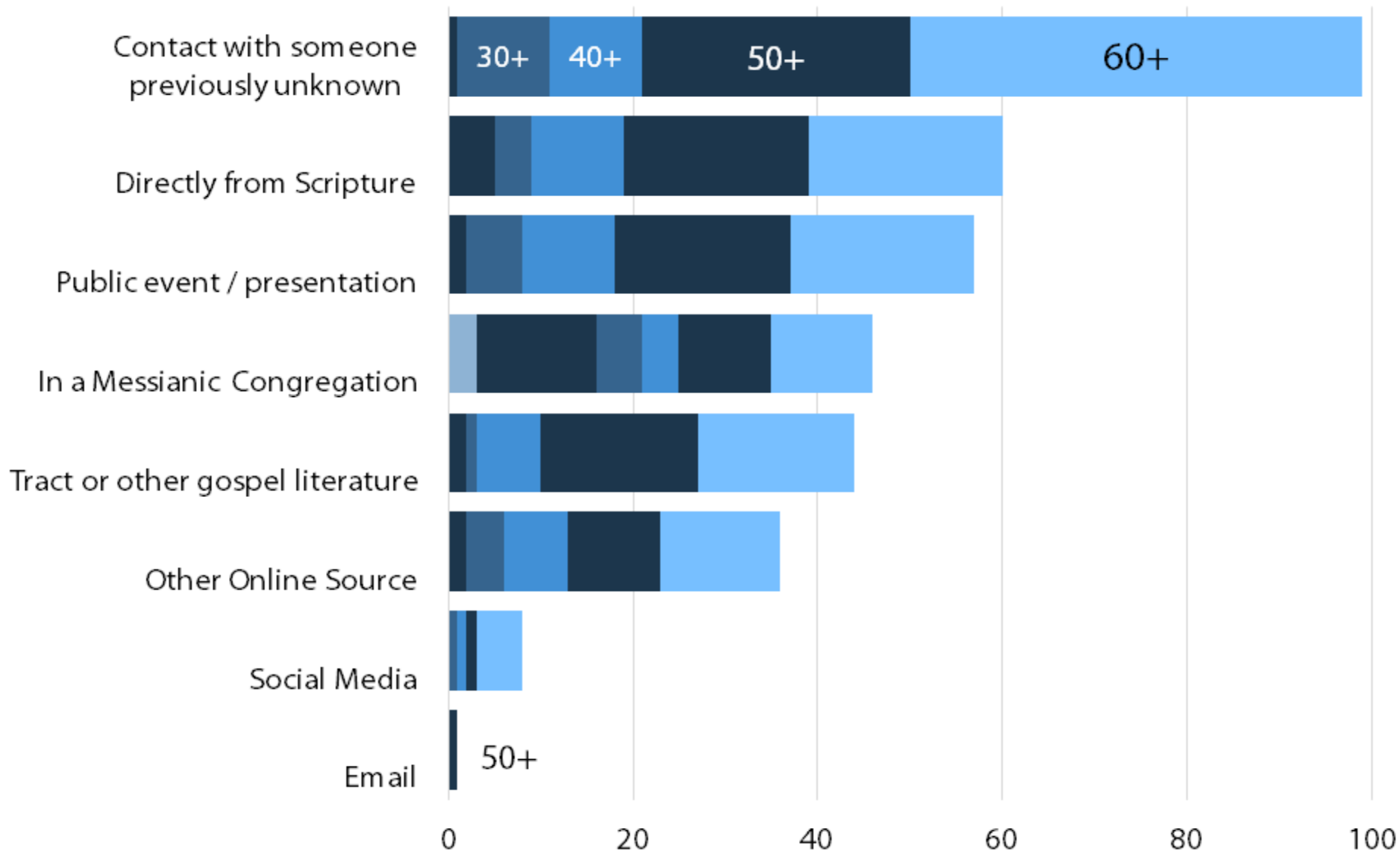
to Vatican Document

## Initial Attraction to the Gospel (1983)



## First Heard the Gospel (2013)

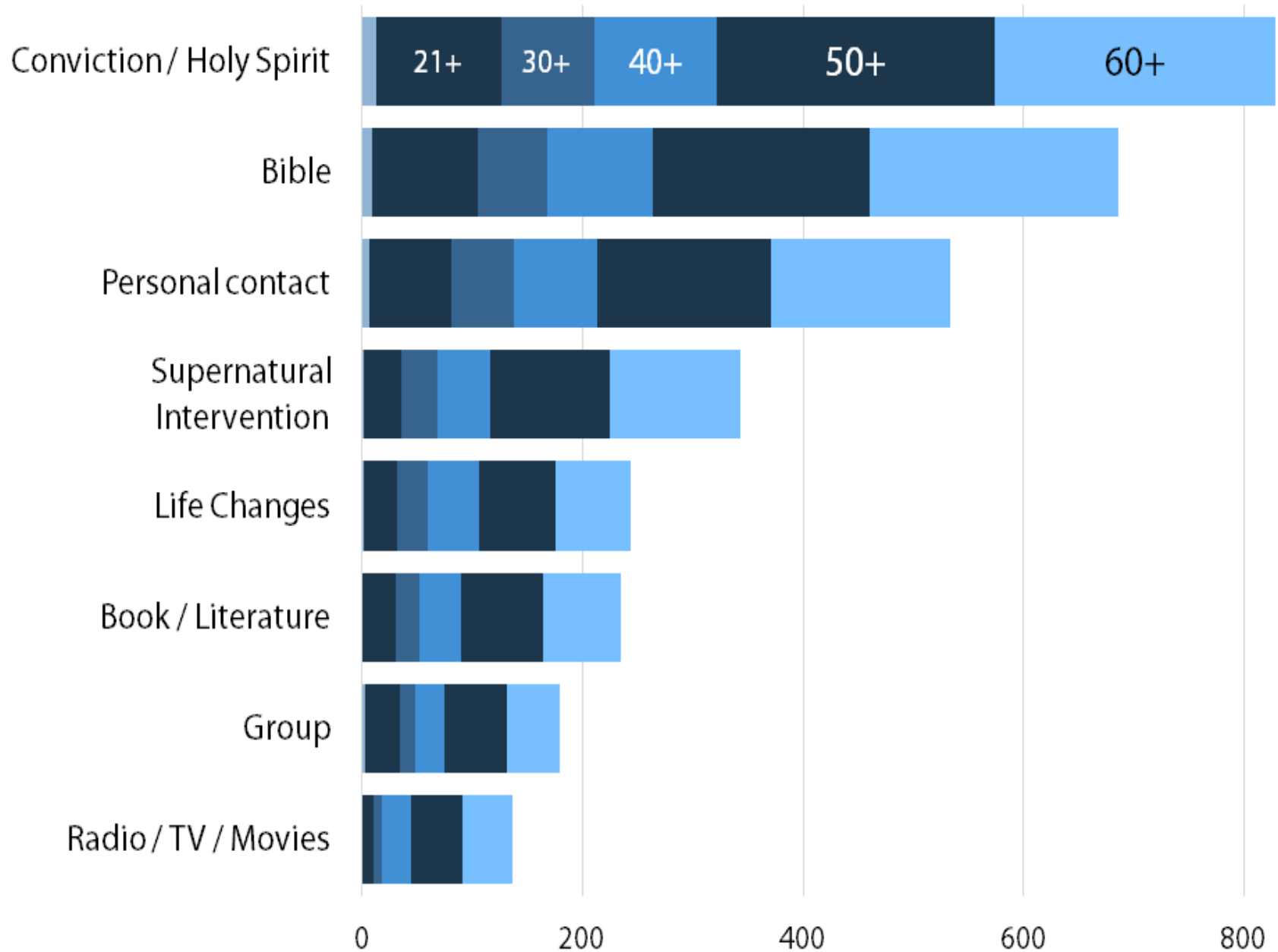




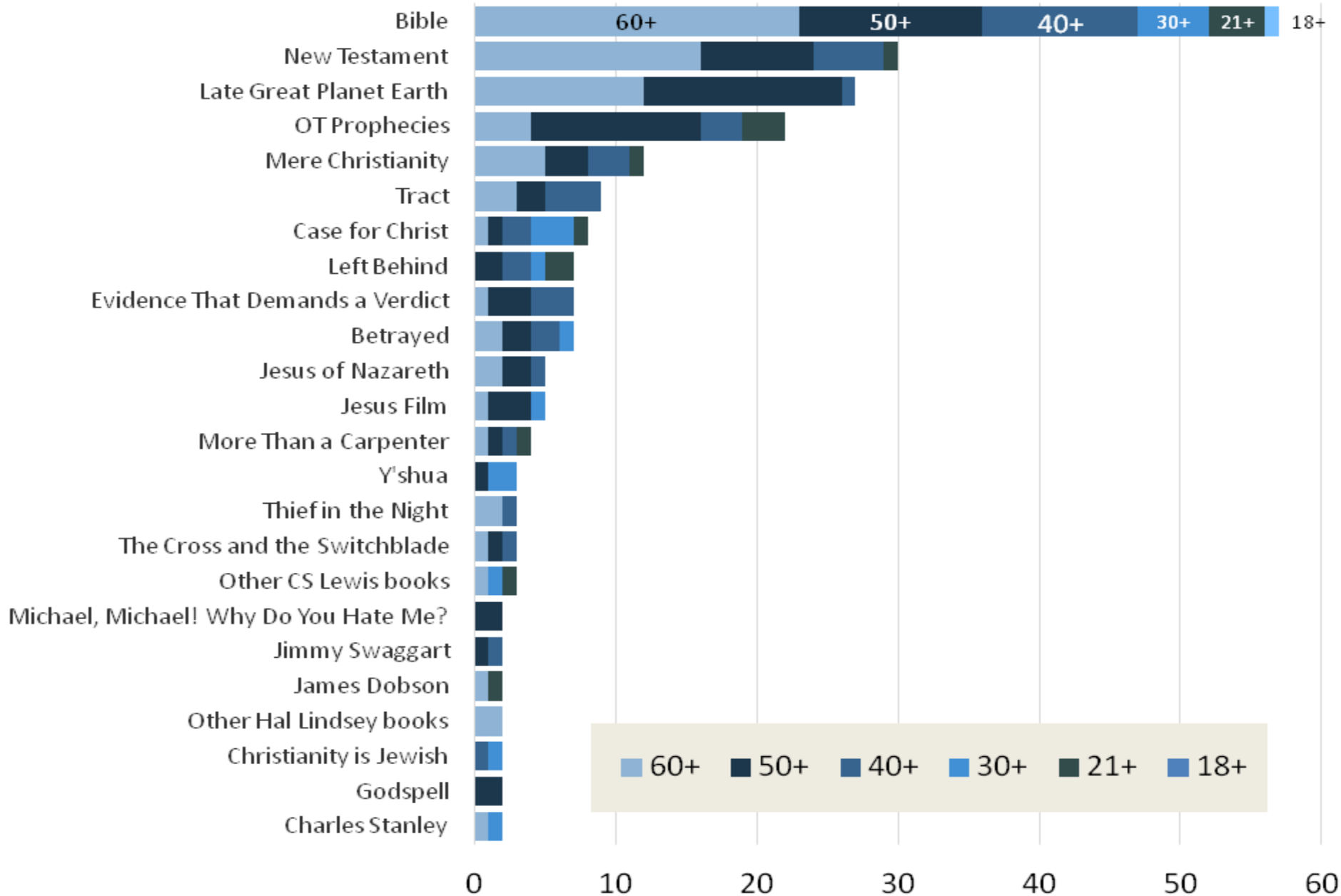
## Context and the Gospel



# What helped to convince you?

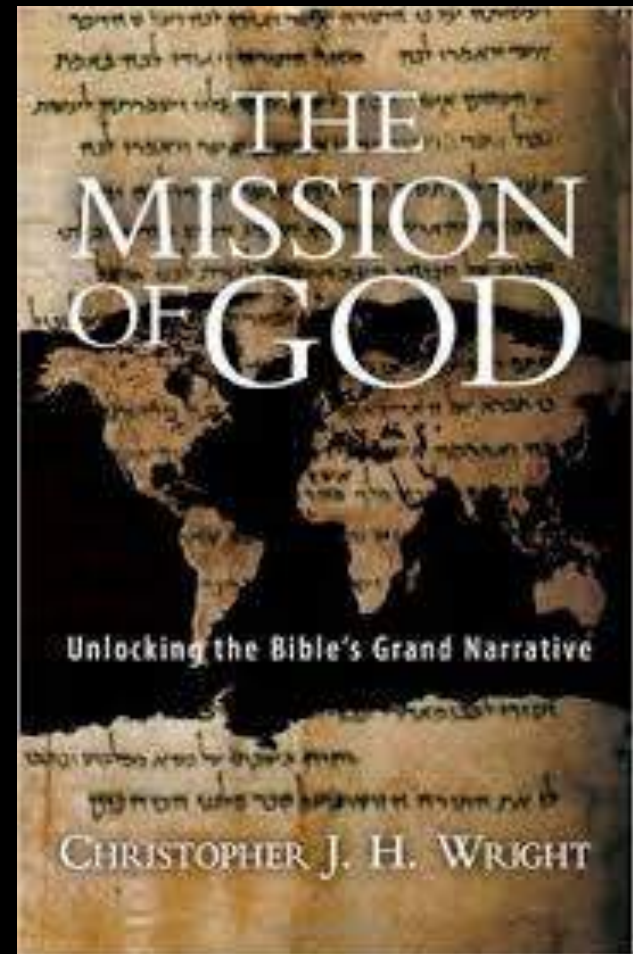


# Which book most helped you?



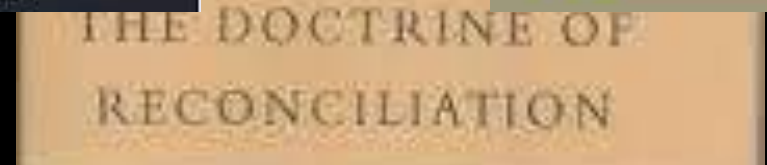
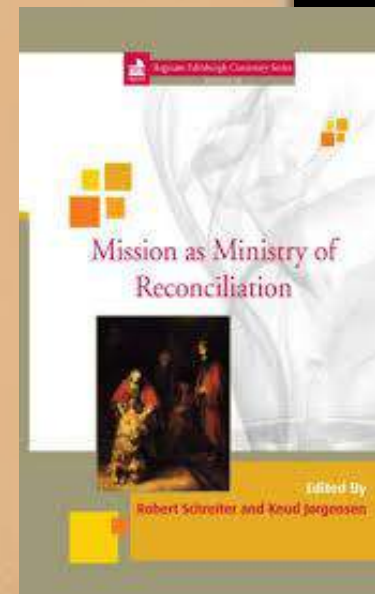
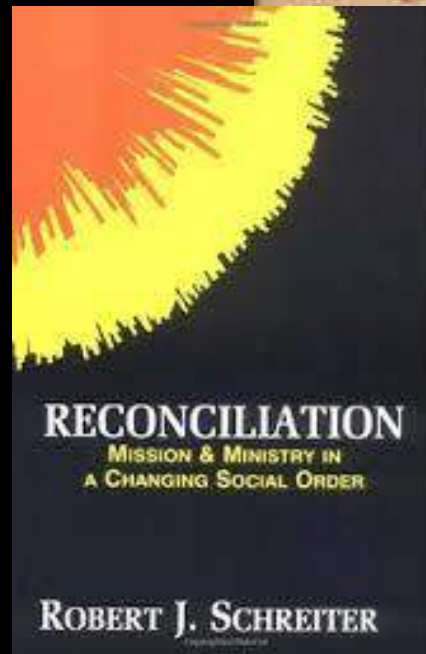
# Key term – katallagé - καταλλαγή

- **Reconciliation with God**
- Created to worship
- Separated by sin
- Called through Abraham
- Redeemed through Messiah
- Restored for the Kingdom
- Renewed in New Creation



# Reconciliation as the Mission of God

- God was in Messiah reconciling the World to Himself (2 Cor. 5)
- Yeshua is the supreme reconciler and model of reconciliation
- Doctrine of reconciliation the heart of the Gospel message



# What is Messianic Judaism?

- A Jewish form of Christianity
- A Christian form of Judaism
- 150,000 worldwide of 14m Jewish people
- 300 Messianic Congregations
- Jewish identity, faith and practice in light of Messiah



## 6. How can we respond today?

- A. Forgiveness
- B. Repentance
- C. Reconciliation  
between Christians  
and Jews
- D. Restoration of  
relationships
- E. Relocation of  
Wittenberg Judensau



# A. Daily Prayer of Forgiveness

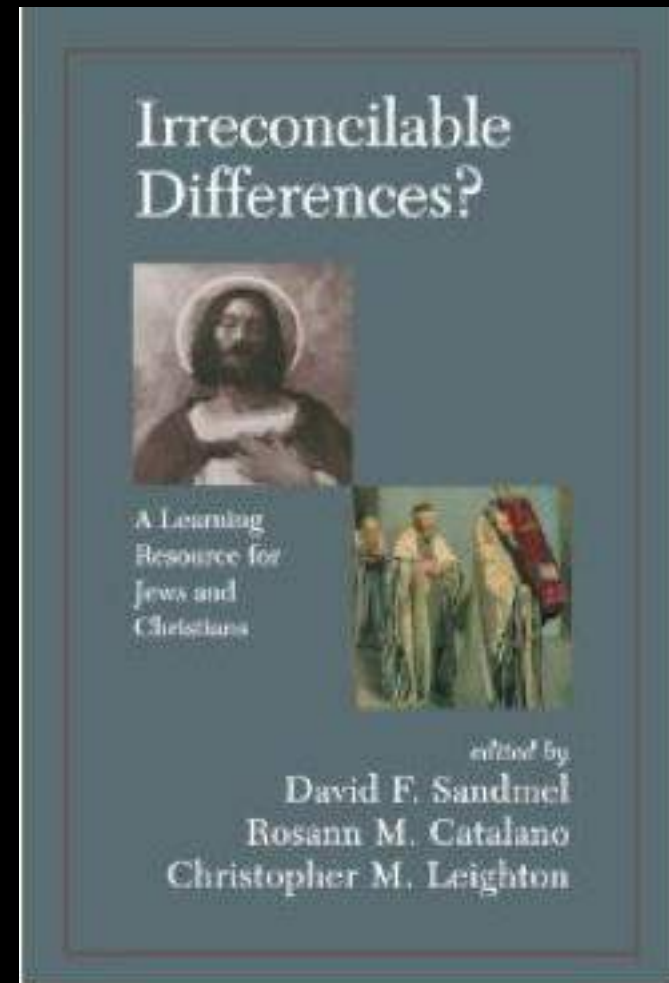
I hereby forgive anyone who has angered or provoked me or sinned against me, physically or financially or by failing to give me due respect, or in any other matter relating to me, involuntarily or willingly, inadvertently or deliberately, whether in word or deed: let no one incur punishment because of me.

*(Jewish Prayer Book, 294-5)*



# Christian Views

- “Redemption and salvation are grounded in God, who saved us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Raised up to new life by God, Jesus Christ still lives and works with us to redeem the world in this age and will come again for the final redemption in the age to come” (ibid.)





# Jewish Views



- “Through adherence to God’s commandments as revealed in the Torah, we work to bring the coming of the Messiah, who, as God’s servant, will redeem the Jewish people by bringing us back to the land of Israel, where national sovereignty will be established and God’s presence will shine forth from Jerusalem to all the world.”
- (Irreconcilable Differences? A Learning Resource for Jews and Christians, 156 )

# B. Ecclesial Repentance

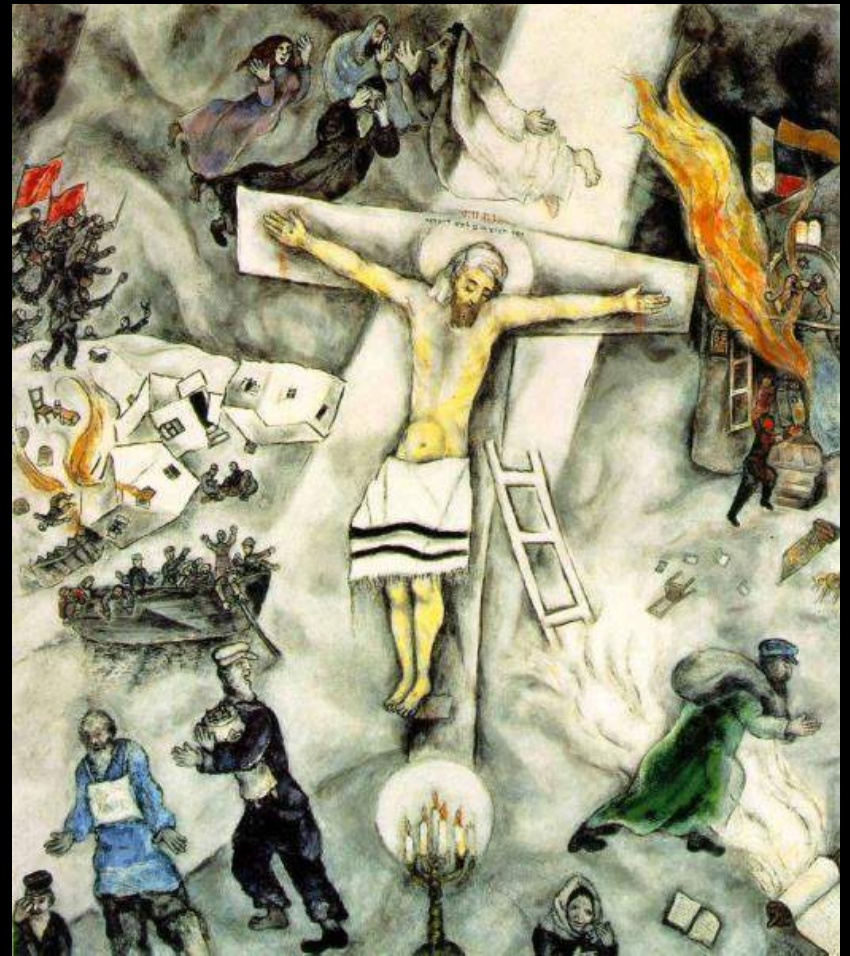
- “The act in which church/denominational bodies make official statements of repentance, apology, confession or requests for forgiveness for things which were official policy or practice”

”When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, **’Repent’** (Mt 4:17), He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”  
- Martin Luther



# C. Reconciliation

- I want my family to hear Good News from Christians!
- Christians and Jews together in dialogue and mutual blessing
- Reconciliation through Yeshua, Messiah of Israel and Saviour of all nations



# E. Relocate the Wittenberg Judensau!

“In 2017, the 500th anniversary of Luther's launching of the Protestant Reformation, it is time to remove this statue and replace it with something more honouring to the God of Israel, respectful of the Jewish people, and bringing dignity to a Christian place of worship instead of retaining a sculpture that is unseemly, obscene, insulting, offensive, defamatory, libellous, blasphemous, anti-semitic and inflammatory”

Patroning Petitioner: Dr. Johannes Block


## Verlegen sie die Wittenberger Judensau! (Main) Relocate the Wittenberg Judensau!

 **Dr. Richard Harvey** London, United Kingdom



**Share this petition**


7,793 supporters  
2,207 needed to reach 10,000

 Share on Facebook ^

Add a personal message (optional)

 Relocate the Wittenberg...

 Post to Facebook

 Send a Facebook message

 Send an email to friends

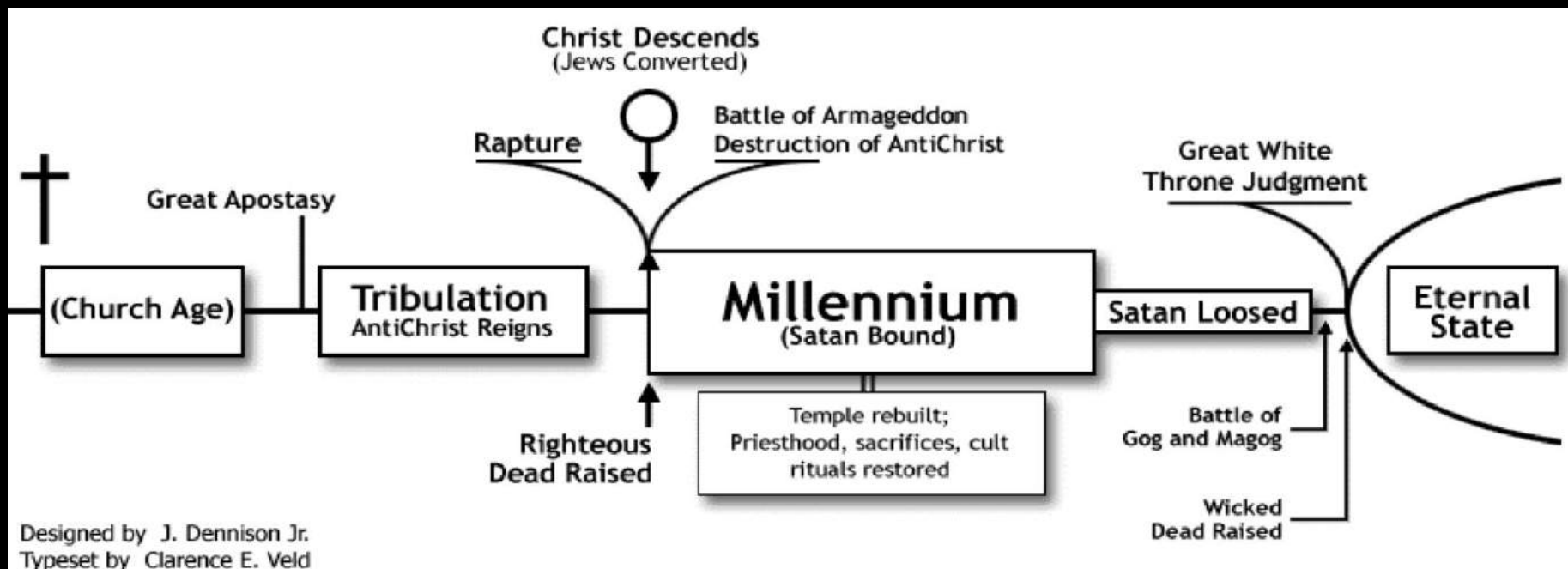
Relocate the Wittenberg Judensau! (Main)

[New short video](#)

[The Wittenburg Sow](#) (ZDF German national TV report - 2 minutes)

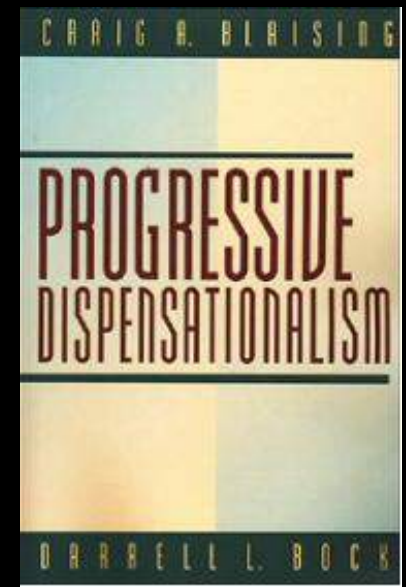
# Dispensationalism

- Literal (plain) interpretation of scripture unless clearly figurative
- Division of salvation history into periods – dispensations
- Distinction between Israel and the Church maintained
- Earthly kingdom of Israel will be fulfilled in Millennium



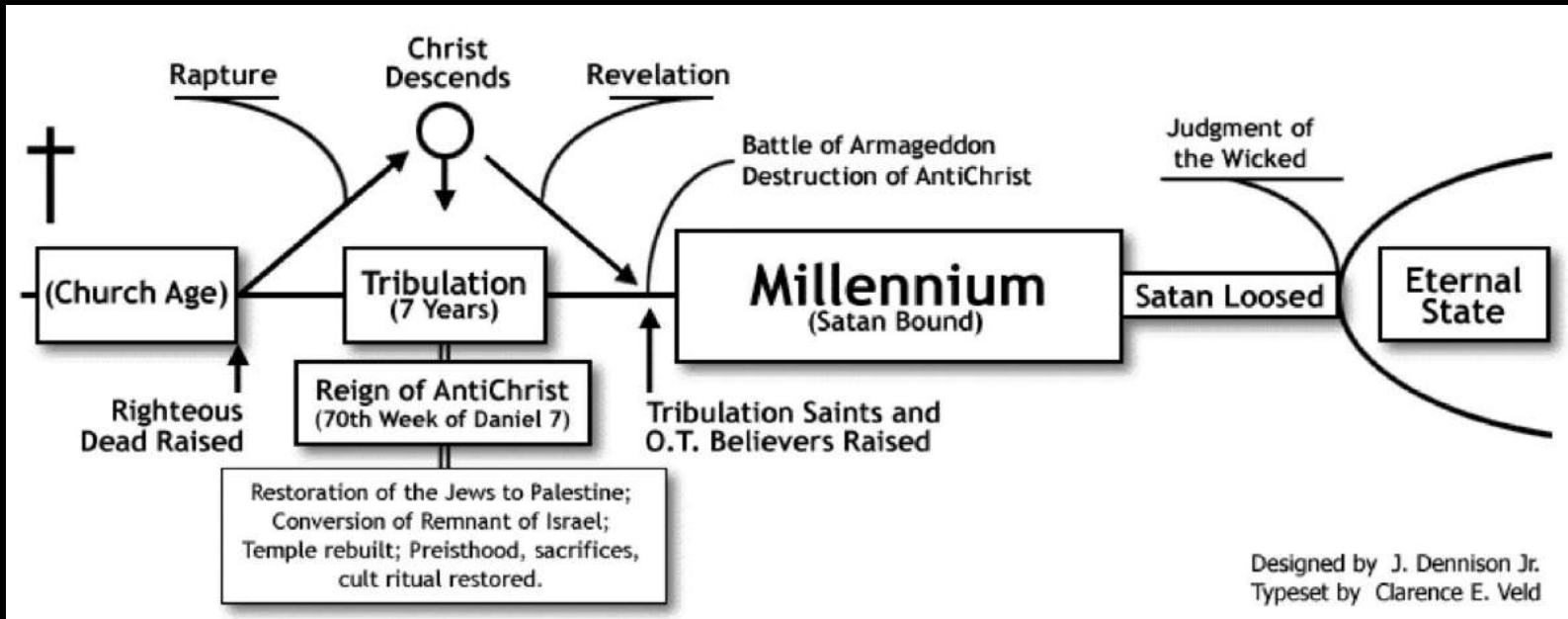
# Strengths and Weaknesses

- Strengths of Dispensationalism
  - Brings eschatology into focus
  - Brings Israel into perspective
- Weaknesses of Dispensationalism
  - Separates Israel and Church into two peoples of God
  - Built on weak hermeneutical foundations
    - spiritual/literal
  - Oversystematises what the Bible leaves unclear



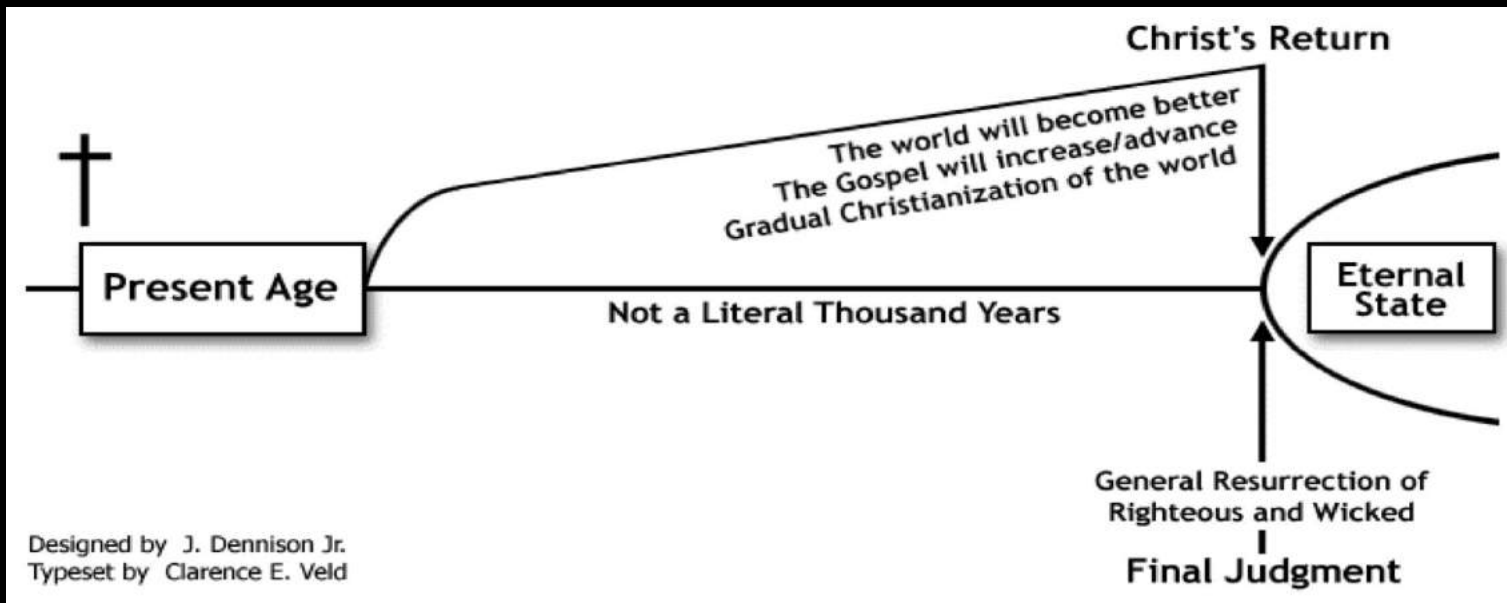
# Historic Premillennialism

- Method of interpretation: grammatico-historical.
- Israel and the church: The church is the fulfilment of Israel.
- Kingdom of God: present through the Spirit since Pentecost - to be experienced by sight during the millennium after Christ's return.



# Postmillennialism

- Method of interpretation: covenant-historical.
- Israel and the church: the church is the fulfillment of Israel.
- Kingdom of God: a spiritual entity experienced on earth through the Christianizing affect of the Gospel.
- The Millennium: a Golden Age now





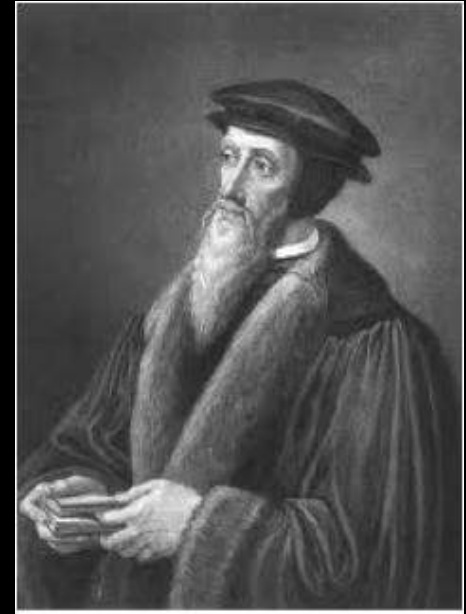
# Amillennialism

- Favoured method of interpretation: redemptive-historical.
- Church is eschatological fulfillment of Israel.
- Kingdom of God: spiritual reality Christians partake, seen presently by faith, to be grasped by sight at consummation.
- The Rapture: The saints, living and dead, shall meet the Lord in the clouds and immediately proceed to judge the nations with Christ and then follow Him into their eternal state.
- The Millennium: inaugurated with Christ's resurrection.



# Covenant Theology

- Strengths
  - Shows how plan of God applies today for Christians
  - Uses major biblical theme
  - Shows progression of God's revelation and purposes
- Weaknesses
  - Most covenant theology does not accept Israel as God's continuing covenant partner
  - Covenant theology not easily defined
  - Most covenant theology argues the Church is the New Israel



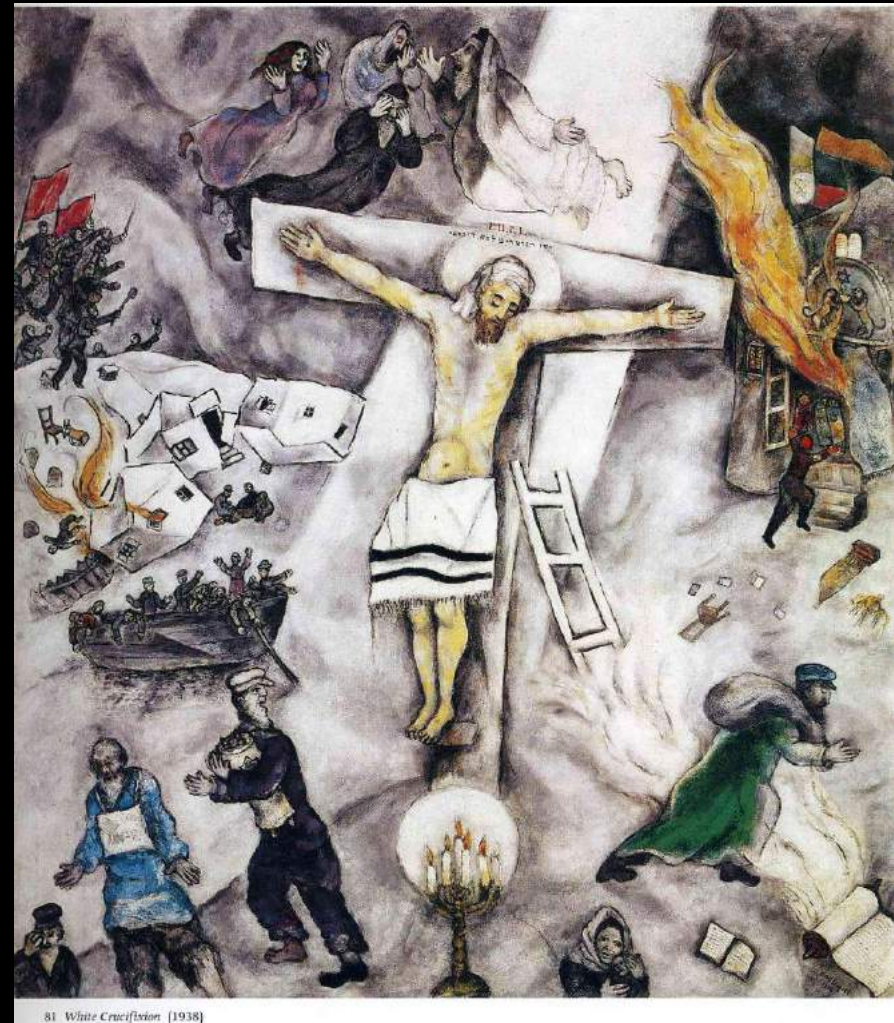
## 7. Reach out to our Abrahamic brothers and sisters

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers,[a] my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.



# Conclusion

- Love the God of Israel
- Love the people of Israel
- Visit the Land of Israel
- Share the Messiah of Israel



81 White Crucifixion (1938)

# Classic Pitfalls in J.E.

- Out-rabbi the rabbis
- Hate them into the Kingdom
- Love them into the Kingdom
- Preach the wrong mountain
- Fail to engage
- Fail to contextualise



# Key Terms to Avoid

- Mission
- Baptism
- Conversion
- Crusade
- “Christ”
- “Jew”
- Pharisee
- Hypocrite
- Jewish jokes, especially about money
- But “love covers a multitude of sins”!

בזזק יד הוציא ה' אתכם  
ה' אל ארץ הכנעני והחתי  
זלכ ודבש ועברת את הש  
זג ה' מצות יאכל את שב  
והגרת לבגך ביום ההוא לא  
ולזכרון ביך עיניך למען ת

# The Dirty Dozen

- How can Jesus be the Messiah when there is no peace?
- You Christians believe in three gods, we Jews believe in one
- You can't be a Jew and believe in Jesus
- How could I become a Christian after the Christians have treated us so badly?

- The genealogies in Matthew and Luke show that Christianity is full of contradictions, right from the start
- If Jesus is the Messiah, why don't the rabbis believe in him?
- Isaiah 7:14 is not about the virgin birth at all. It's a mistranslation of the Hebrew word *almah* which means "young woman"



- Isaiah 53 is not about Jesus, but about the Jewish people, suffering at the hands of the nations
- If Jesus is the Messiah, why don't Jews who believe in him still keep the law? They are assimilating and opting out of their responsibilities as Jews

# Key Objections

- How can Jesus be the Messiah when there is no peace on earth?
- You Christians believe in three gods, we Jews believe in one!

# NO PEACE

- If Jesus is Messiah why is there no peace?  
(Is 2:4, 11:6)
- Don't move the goal-posts!
  - The Rabbis redefined the peacemaking role of the Messiah in order to exclude the possibility that it was Jesus
  - Jesus' messianic manifesto speaks of one Messiah coming twice

# Monotheism

- **Yachid** : Singularity
  - Maimonides (Rambam) (1135 - 1204)
  - “I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be He, is a unity (Yachid).”
  - Gen 22:2, Ps 25:16
- **Echad** : **Composite Unity** (Gen 2:24)
  - *Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad* (Deut. 6:4)
  - Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one
- **SPIRIT OF GOD**
  - Gen1:2 , Nu 11:24-25, Is 11:2 , Is 48:16, Ps 51:11
- **SON OF GOD**
  - Is 9:5-6, Prov 30:4, Ps 2:7
- **Elohim - plurality** : Gen 1:26



# Social Objections

- You can't be a Jew and believe in Jesus!
- How can you become a Christian after the Christians have treated us so badly?
- If Jesus is the Messiah, why don't the Rabbis believe in him?



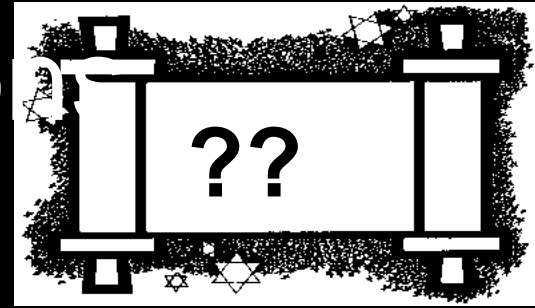
# It's not Jewish to believe in Jesus!

- Distinguish between Jewish and Judaism, between non-Jewish and Christian
  - One is Jewish if born of a Jewish mother (or father)
  - Christian if *born again*
- Jewishness does not depend on belief – eg Marx, Freud, etc.
- ‘There is nothing more Jewish than to believe in the Jewish Messiah’

# Persecution in the name of Jesus

- Christian Anti-semitism
- Antisemitism began well before the Christian era
- Would Jesus have agreed with the things done in His name?
- Our aim to put forward the claims of the Messiah, not defend the record of the Church

# Scriptural Objections



- Isaiah 7:14 is not about the virgin birth at all. It's a mistranslation of the Hebrew word *almah* which means "young woman"
- Isaiah 53 is not about Jesus, but about the Jewish people, suffering at the hands of the nations
- The genealogies in Matthew and Luke show that Christianity is full of contradictions, right from the start



# Isaiah 7:14 is about a 'young woman', not a 'virgin'

- *Almah* (young woman) & *Bethulah* (virgin)
- The Septuagint translates *almah* as *parthenos* = virgin ; cf Matt. 1:22-23
- Gen 24 Rebecca in v14 is *na'ara* (young maiden), v16 *bethulah*, v43 *almah*
- Ex 2:8 Miriam the sister of Moses is *almah*

# The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 Is The People of Israel

- How does the text read?  
Eg vv 5,8,9
- Jewish commentators  
say the servant is  
the Messiah (until Rashi  
– 12<sup>th</sup> c)



# Personal objections

- If I become a Christian, I will be thrown out of my home!
- If Jesus is the messiah, why don't Jews who believe in him still keep the law? They are assimilating and opting out of their responsibilities as Jews



# Israel's Salvation and Messiah's Return

- Moses prophesied national repentance (Deut. 4:30-31)
- Israel repents before establishment of kingdom (Zech 12.10)
- John the Baptist calls for repentance (Matt. 3:2)
- Jesus looks for repentance (Matt. 23:37-39)
- Peter says repentance is required (Acts 3:17-24)
- Paul foresees future repentance (Romans 9-11)

# LCJE/OP 7

“There is therefore a great responsibility laid upon the church to share Christ with the Jewish people. This is not to imply that Jewish evangelism is more important in the sight of God, or that those involved have a higher calling...

Yet we do call on the church to restore ministry among this covenanted people of God to its biblical place in its strategy of world evangelism.”

# Common Objections

- Just a good teacher, weak
- There is only one God, no human son
- Doesn't make sense - intellectual problems with miracles - resurrection
- Postmodern - no one truth
- There is no God - types of atheism
- One saved all people for all time?
- No peace on earth
- A psychological crutch
- I didn't ask him to die for my sin
- How can a loving God allow suffering?
- It will cost me my life, family
- The rabbis don't believe

# Variety of Results

- Fortress mentality
- Don't ask, don't measure
- Look at the harvest
- Look to the future



# Stages of Jewish Evangelism

- Original Jewish context (Nazarenes, Ebionites, Syncretism) 1st-5th c.
- Dark and Middle ages (Conversos, anti-Judaism) 6th-16th c.
- Colonialism (Jewish Christians) 19th-20th c.
- Contextualisation (Messianic)

