

**Some thoughts on the
concept
of
JUDAEO - CHRISTIANITY!**



**Peter J Gadsden
Independent Reformed
Ministries**

Some thoughts on the concept of Judaeo - CHRISTIANITY!

Once upon a time, the media was very good at presenting factual news. However, in the 21st century that has all changed as the media has become a tool for propaganda and indoctrination which is seen in almost every area of life, ranging from the advertising of questionable products, to even more questionable matters of education. The art of persuasion has replaced the simple virtues of truth, the media has fallen into the wrong hands, and is being used as the tool to drive our nation ever farther down the wide pathway of destruction. Politicians on the whole cannot differentiate truth from error, anymore than can many of today's Church leaders.

Joseph Goebbels (right) said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." This is true in so many areas of life, not least of all in church circles. One such area is found in the well worn phrase "Judaeo Christian Religion," or "*Judaeo Christian Religion*". This im-



plies that Christianity arose out of the religion that was dominant in Judea during the time of Christ, which was Judaism, a term coined originally by Flavius Josephus, (left) the historian who lived about 37-100 AD..



The earliest use of the term "*Judaeo-Christian*" in the historical sense, dates back only to 1829 and is first found in the *Missionary Journal* of Joseph Wolff. Joseph was the son of a rabbi who later converted to Christianity. Whether or not he was converted to Christ is another question, as conversion from one religion to another is very different from coming into a living and loving relationship with God through His

Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Wolff (right) worked as a missionary among the Jews, and became known as the eccentric missionary.



An interesting incident in his life is worth mentioning at this point: apparently, at the age of seven, he was boasting to an elderly Christian of the future triumph of Israel at the advent of the Messiah, when the old man said kindly, *"Dear boy, I will tell you who the real Messiah was: he was Jesus of Nazareth, whom your ancestors crucified, as they slew the prophets of old. Go home and read the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, and you will be convinced that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* He went home and read the scripture, wondering to see how perfectly it had been fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Were the words of the Christian true? *"The boy asked of his father an explanation of the prophecy, but was met with a silence so stern that he never again dared to refer to the subject."* I mention this because, these things remain in the mind and are very difficult to remove. In fact the Jesuit motto *"Give me a child until he is seven and I will give you the man,"* comes to mind. The implication is that the best opportunity to indoctrinate a person in a lifetime of belief and devotion to religious dogma is when they are young. So, unless the Lord graciously brought Joseph Wolff to the truth, and eradicated this idea from his mind, it would have had a conscious effect on future work.



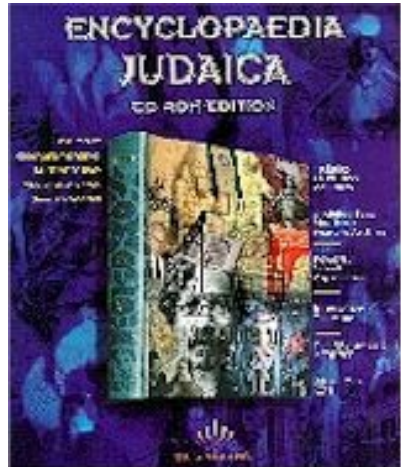
Just as interesting, if not a revealing fact, is that Rev Wolff met his first wife, Lady Georgiana Mary Walpole, a descendant of Robert Walpole, (left) through a mutual friend, Edward Irving. Irving was a man of questionable theological standing, an advocate of Jesuit doctrine, and a charismatic, and it was through his ministry that the separation of Church and the State of Israel was furthered. It should also be born in mind that Robert Walpole was the



first Jew to become Prime minister of Britain and Georgina's father was Horatio Walpole, the 4th Earl of Orford (left) who represented himself as "The wandering Jew".

The expression "*Judaeo Christian*" gained credence and caught the imagination of the media in the 1940's, when it was promoted by groups which were involved in the National Conference of Christians and Jews, an American organization founded in 1927.

The Encyclopaedia Judaica, along with the Universal Jewish Encyclopaedia and the Jewish Encyclopaedia, the oldest of these being the Jewish Encyclopaedia, gives a correct perspective on the inner teachings of Judaism. A grasp of this is important as most Christians believe that the faith of the Old Testament is the same, or similar to Judaism today. Yet the Jewish Encyclopaedia in its article on Judaism says: "*Modern Judaism and the Judaism of the Old Testament are very different.*" "*After Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah in the*



sixth century BC and led the Jews to distant Babylon, the Jews were faced with challenges to their faith that they had never before experienced. Ever since the time of Solomon the religion of Israel had centred around the magnificent temple in Jerusalem with its sacrifices and ritual. The question now became how could one be a true Jew in a very foreign and hostile environment? The need arose for a certain class of lay priests called scribes to interpret the law in this new setting and make it workable. In time the scribes became what the New Testament calls "scribes and Pharisees" the greatest legal authorities of Israel for all ages." Now we should remember that the Lord Jesus did not have a very high view of these people.

The majority of educated Judeans were domiciled in Babylon, and had been there since the time of Nebuchadnezzar 600 years earlier. Babylon became the acknowledged land of refuge for world Jewry. In Babylon Judaism flourished for another 1000 years under the leadership of the Pharisees. Great academies of the rabbis were established and thousands of new laws were formulated by the Pharisees, which were known as the "Oral Law". It was this Oral law or Tradition of the Elders that the Lord Jesus rebuked, and it was this sect along with others that had the Lord Jesus crucified. These people remained the undisputed rulers of Judaism. In Babylon the Pharisees codified their oral law and traditions into what is known as the Babylonian Talmud. The Talmud revealed how deep the apostasy was, they had turned their backs on the old way of revealed truth, as given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and the Prophets, and produced the Talmud, a work which has aptly been called "a monument to human folly".

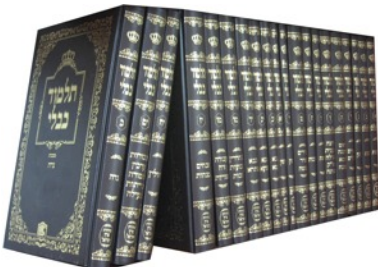


When Jesus came on the scene his reaction was to denounce this counterfeit system, and he said that: *"The Pharisees (left) by their tradition had made the law of God of none effect."* He considered the Pharisees "the most dangerous leadership Judah ever had". Jesus condemned them by

saying, *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,"* Matthew 23:27-29.



When Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., the Jewish Encyclopaedia describes the new role of the Pharisees: "*With the destruction of the Temple the Sadducees disappeared altogether leaving the regulation of all Jewish affairs in the hands of the Pharisees. Henceforth Jewish life was regulated by the Pharisees. The whole history of Judaism was reconstructed from the Pharisees' point of view. Phariseism shaped the character of Judaism and the life and part of the Jew for all of the future.*"



The Talmud confirms Christ's words, as it contains an extensive passage describing the right of the Pharisees to kill anyone, just as long as it is done indirectly. In such an indirect manner the Pharisees killed Christ, manipulating the Romans to actually wield the sword. The Pharisees claimed, as their descendants do to-day, that the Romans were the direct cause of the death of Christ, not the Jews.

Gradually, over the centuries, most ordinary Jews have abandoned, at least superficially, the immoral practices of the Talmud. In fact most are so ignorant of the Talmud itself that they do not even know that such teachings exist within their sacred literature.



This traditional, or Talmudic Judaism, was very different from the true faith, which we find in the Old Testament. The late Rabbi Stephen S. Wise (left), who was the chief Rabbi of the United States, expressed this so clearly that I cannot improve upon his words. He said: "*The return from Babylon and the adoption of the Babylonian Talmud, marks the end of Hebraism and the beginning of Judaism.*"

Since the true Faith of the Old Testament was the religion of the true Hebrews (Israelites), the learned Rabbi was, in part, quite right in calling it Hebraism, and noting that it was abandoned when the Talmud, or tradition of the elders, was adopted. This also constitutes the beginning of Judaism, a religion that is opposed to Christianity, one that was despised by Christ. The roots of Christianity go far deeper, and into the very soul we might say, of Hebraism as defined by Rabbi Wise, although that is not strictly correct, as the word Hebrew, embraces more than just the Israelites.

The name Hebrew is derived from Shem's descendant Eber, it is therefore a valid point to look at in a little more detail, albeit briefly:

Eber Genesis 11:14 was a Shemite, in that his lineage was from Shem Genesis 11:19 and called Heber, therefore he was the first Hebrew, but not an Israelite as they did not exist then.



Abraham was Eber's great-great-great-great grandson who was also a Shemite and a Hebrew, but not an Israelite, as such did not exist.

Isaac, Abraham's son, was a Shemite and a Hebrew, but not an Israelite as they did not exist.

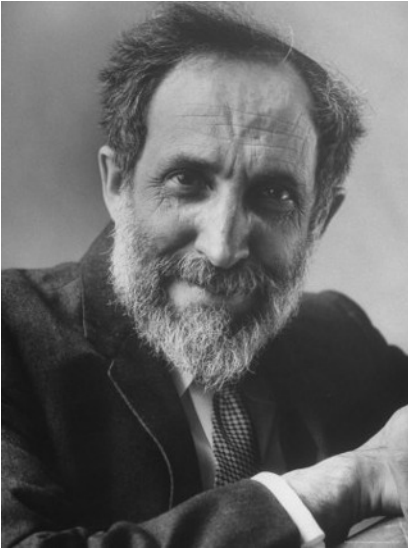
Jacob, who God renamed Israel, was Isaac's son. Jacob was also a Shemite and a Hebrew, and his descendants were rightly called Israelites.

Esau, Isaac's other son, Jacob's brother was also a Hebrew, later known as Edomites, but Hebrew nevertheless, but not an Israelite. Therefore, to call the ancient faith Hebraism is deceptive as it would have to embrace the Edomites, and their religion, of which little is known. However, we know from the Bible these people were enemies of Israel and subsequent history shows they were enemies of the true Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore rather than using the all embracing term "Hebraism" to define the faith of ancient Israel, would it not be more biblical to call it the church of God under the Old Covenant, or the Revealed Faith given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and the Prophets?

It is also of no little interest to note that only people who are direct descendants of Shem, are Semites, or Shemites. Therefore so-called anti-Semitism takes on a very different look. People from the lineage of

Ham or Japheth cannot be identified as Semites, however that is another subject.



Furthermore Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, head of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in the Foreword to the First Edition of his classic work, *'The Pharisees, The Sociological Background of Their Faith'*, states: "*Pharisaism became Talmudism, Talmudism became Medieval Rabbinism and Medieval Rabbinism became Modern Rabbinism. But throughout these changes in name, the spirit of the ancient Pharisees survives, unaltered ... From Palestine to Babylonia; from Babylonia to North Africa, Italy, Spain, France and Germany; from these to Poland, Russia and eastern Europe generally, ancient*

Pharisaism has wandered, demonstrating the enduring importance which attaches to Pharisaism as a religious movement." Rabbinism has been the main form of Judaism since the 6th century A.D.

Harold Wallace Rosenthal, (right) a personal assistant to New York Senator Jacob Javits states in 1976, that "*Most Jews do not like to admit it, but our god is Lucifer ... and we are his chosen people. Lucifer is very much alive.*"

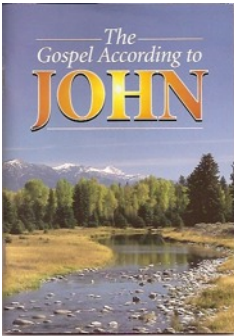


True Christianity is not a "*Judaeo Christian Religion,*" in that it is not related to Judaism. Rather it is the extension or ongoing work, of God's grace with His people throughout all ages. The Judaism at the time of the Lord Jesus and as it is today, is diametrically opposed to the true faith of

ancient Israel and Christianity having little, if any bearing on the truth as revealed in the Holy Bible.

Rather than "Judaeo Christian" the more correct definition, surely is "The Church of God under the Old and New Covenants!" Just as another point of interest in the New Testament the word *ecclesia* is translated as "church," it is also the same word that is used to translate the Hebrew word *qahal*, so we see that the same title given to believers from Genesis to Revelation.

The root of Christianity is not Judaism, but in the Covenant God made with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, which slowly evolved through the line of Seth, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and was fulfilled through the Tribe of Judah, in a Judahite, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was a Nazarene, not a Judean (Jew).



If still in doubt, what else did the Lord Jesus say about these people? In John Chapter 8 we see where the Pharisees were telling Jesus that Abraham is their father. His response was *"If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."* John 8:39-45

**Jesus says Abraham is not their father.
Jesus says they cannot hear His word.**

**Jesus says they are of their father the devil.
Jesus said they will do the lust of their father.
Jesus said their father was a liar and there is no truth in
him.**

In Matthew 23:15 the Lord Jesus says "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*" The word proselyte, in this context it means a convert to Judaism.

John Chapter 10-26-27 "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." You will notice that Jesus did not say at this time because of unbelief etc. He said they were not His sheep.



To Summarize: Judaism did not begin in Genesis with the promise to Abraham, as some believe. As we have seen it is much younger than that, as recent as about 2,000 years old, having its beginnings shortly before the time of Christ. At that time, it was called Phariseeism and was rejected by the Lord Jesus. This later developed into what is today known as Judaism, and is far removed from the revealed faith of the

Children of Israel as recorded in God's Word.

Therefore, to claim that Christianity evolved from a religion which Christ despised and rejected, is tantamount to blasphemy. It is true, however, to say, that the Tribe of Judah played a major part in God's plan of salvation, for our Lord Jesus is designated "*The Lion of the Tribe of Judah*". However, that is very different from Judaism or the religion that is practiced today.

**Peter J Gadsden
Independent Reformed
Ministries**

www.indrefmin.org.uk

Email

gadsden1@freenetname.co.uk



**"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and
the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem"
(Isaiah 2:3)."**