

People of the Curse

by Steve Barwick

Are Christians under God's curse for failing to support the Jews? That claim seems to be a constant theme among Christian preachers nowadays. But what if I told you it's quite the opposite? What if I can show you – plainly and clearly, straight from the Scriptures – that “supporting the Jews” can actually put you under God's curse? Indeed, what if I can show you that just about everything you've ever been told about the need for Christians to “support the Jews” has been a lie? “No way!” you say? Well, here's the Bible study that just might change your mind...

Christians contact me from time-to-time and proclaim, “You just don't understand God's Word, Steve. America is now under God's curse because we no longer support Israel.” Some even go so far as to state, “America is under God's curse because we no longer support *the Jews*.”

Of course, America sends the Middle East nation of Israel over \$3 *billion* a year in aid, straight from the U.S. taxpayers. And that amount doesn't count the billions *more* dollars in military equipment we give them, at U.S. taxpayer expense. Plus additional huge sums of money in “off-the-books” aid.

So the idea that “America is now under God's curse because we no longer support Israel” is clearly erroneous. No one supports the modern-day nation of Israel more than America does. Which leaves us with the claim that “America is under God's curse because we no longer support *the Jews*.”

When I ask Christians where they get the notion that God will curse you if you don't “support the Jews,” they inevitably reply, “In Genesis 12:2-3 God says anyone who won't support the Jews will be cursed by Him.”

The problem is, when you rightly divide God's Word, you'll find that's *not* at all what God tells Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3. Let's take a quick look and see for ourselves:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless **thee**, and **make thy name** great; and **thou** shalt be a blessing:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless **thee**, and curse him that curseth **thee**: and **in thee** shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Do you see anything *at all* in those verses about being cursed for “failing to support the Jews”? No. You don't. It's simply not written. What the verses say is that if you bless Abraham, God will bless you in return, and if you curse Abraham, God will curse you in return.

So where does the erroneous notion come from that in order to avoid God's curse you have to “support the Jews”?

Christians generally respond to that question with the following answer: “In Genesis 12:2-3, God was looking into the *future* when He made that promise to Abraham. He ordained the nation of Israel to come forth from Abraham's loins. So the promise was made to Abraham and to his *posterity*, which is to say, to his descendants. And the Jews are Abraham's descendants, so those promises pertain to *them*.”

**Abraham's "Seed":
Physical v/s *Spiritual***

Well, yes. Our heavenly Father most certainly *did* make those promises to both Abraham and to his posterity. Which, of course, if we want to *continue* rightly dividing God's Word, brings us to the subject of Abraham's *seed*.

As it's written in that same chapter of Genesis:

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

And later, in Genesis chapter 13, when Abram had migrated to the land of Canaan at God's command, God reiterated that promise to him, stating:

Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall **thy seed** also be numbered.

Gen 13:17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

"Aha!" say my Christian friends to me. "There it is, right there. God gave that land to Abraham and to his "seed," meaning to his *direct descendants*. And those descendants later become the nation of Israel and inherited the land forever. So when God says he'll curse those who curse Abraham, He means He'll curse those who curse *Abraham's physical bloodline descendants*, which is the people of Israel known today as the Jews."

But as I've stated repeatedly, if we're going to study God's Word, we need to *rightly divide* that Word. As it's written in II Timothy 2:15, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" And if we *do* rightly divide His Word, it becomes quite problematic to attribute the above promises from Genesis 13:15-17 to the people calling themselves "Jews" today.

Why? Because the blessings God promised Abraham now belong to *faithful Christians*, and not to the Jews. As St. Paul explains, clearly and succinctly in chapter 3 of the great book of Galatians, the promises of God to Abraham now flow to the *spiritual* seed, and no longer to the *physical* seed. Here's what I'm talking about:

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

If you're a faithful Christian, you're not under the curse of the law. As the above verse explains, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law." And what was this curse? The curse of the law was that no one – and I mean *no one* – could perfectly keep the law. Everyone sins. And all sin leads to the death of the sinner.

The only person who ever *did* keep the law perfectly was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. So He, being without sin and perfect, gave His life on that cross at Calvary, that upon sincere repentance in His name we can have our sins forgiven. Rather than cursed, you're blessed with *redemption* from the curse of the law. Christ *paid the price* for your sins. He became the curse, on that cross, so that as long as you believe on Him and remain faithful to Him, and repent of your sins, that curse *cannot* fall on you. As it is written in Galatians 5:18, "*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*"

However, anyone who claims to believe in God's law, and who *rejects* Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, is *still* under the curse of the law. As it's further written, "*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them*" (Galatians 3:10).

You understand that, right? If you reject the only way out from under the curse of the law – which is Christ Jesus -- then you remain *under* the curse of the law yourself. That's because you're obligated to obey the entire law, all of the time, without fail. And no one can do it. No one *ever* has, except for Jesus.

It's the Jews who – as a central tenet of their religion – *reject* Jesus Christ and claim righteousness from their supposed obedience to the law. They don't accept Christ as the Messiah. They don't believe He's the way out from under the curse of the law. And thus they remain *under* the curse of the law, quite willingly, in spite of the fact that not one of them can keep God's law perfectly.

Neither can you. Nor I. But as a Christian, you have a way out from under the curse of the law through sincere repentance of your sins in Jesus' name. And quite simply put, the Jews *don't*. What's more, it's by their own choice. They *choose* to stay under the curse of the law through their rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah of God. Let's see what else St. Paul has to say about this subject:

Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;
that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

In other words, Christ took the curse of the law upon Himself as He died on that cross, so that we could be redeemed from that curse, the price paid, our sins forgiven, the curse done away with as long as we remain faithful to Him.

But not just that, beloved. He *also* gave His life on that cross "that the blessings of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ."

Whoa! Don't read over that. What you've just learned is that through Christ, God's blessing and promises to Abraham *were expanded to the Gentiles*, which is to say, to the non-Israel peoples of the world, as long as they embrace Christ's Gospel message in sincerity and truth.

In short, the blessings of Abraham are no longer the exclusive domain of the flesh descendants of Abraham. All races – as long as they're *Christian* -- are considered to be inheritors of God's great promises to Abraham in the book of Genesis, as well as all of the blessings contained therein.

And there's even *more*. Let's see what else God's Word reveals on this subject through the writings of the beloved St. Paul:

Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

Here, Paul says that, leaving God out of the picture for just a moment, when men ratify a contract between each other, it becomes law and cannot be arbitrarily canceled or changed. Therefore, how much more will God keep His promises to us, since He's far more righteous to keep His promises than mere men are to keep their contracts?

Here comes the clincher, beloved. Paul continues:

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

In other words, in Genesis 12:7, and again in Genesis 13:15-17, when God told Abraham his "seed" would be blessed, the word "seed" was not plural, but instead, *singular*. It referred to Christ Jesus, the promised seed of God. It is to that specific "seed" the promises were made. And that's *all of the promises*, including the promise from Genesis 12:2-3 which states that God would bless all who bless Abraham, and curse all who curse him.

Biblically speaking, *Christ Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham*. You can't fit "the Jews" into that promise, for they have *nothing to do with Christ*. Indeed, as a matter of religious doctrine, to this very day they hate, loathe and despise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's even *against the law* in Jerusalem for Christians to preach the Gospel to the residents thereof.

As the promise states, God will indeed bless all who bless Abraham and His "seed" *Jesus Christ*. And God will indeed curse all who curse Abraham and His "seed" *Jesus Christ*. In other words, the promised curse so many Christians stand on today was *not* a curse from God against those who would "fail to support the Jews," but instead, a curse against those who would curse *Christ Jesus, the true seed of Abraham*.

It's no longer the physical flesh "seed" of Abraham that God's promises pertain to. Instead, it's the *spiritual* "seed" of Abraham, which is Christ.

Now you can argue with that all you want. But beloved, you'll *not* be arguing with me, but with God's very Word. Let's confirm what we've learned with a second witness from the Word of God. We'll see that God considers *all believers in Christ to be the children of Abraham*, regardless of their race. As St. Paul explained once again:

Gal 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

There you have what I've been trying to clarify for you, clearly and succinctly, and straight from God's Word. Our heavenly Father considers "they which are of the faith" to be the children of Abraham. And what faith? Faith *in Christ*, of course. Let no one ever tell you differently. There's no other way to inherit the promises of God to Abraham but through *faith in Christ Jesus*.

Put succinctly, in God's eyes those who believe in Jesus Christ and have faith in His Holy name are now "the children of Abraham." As it is written in Galatians 3:29, "*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*" Your heavenly Father couldn't make it any clearer than that, beloved. The inheritance goes to *Christians*. It's Christians who are considered by God to be "Abraham's seed."

It's no longer a matter of flesh bloodline. It's a matter of *spiritual* belief. You have to move from the carnal thinking to spiritual thinking, or you completely lose your understanding of God's Word. There's no other way to inherit God's promises to Abraham, except through spiritual faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. You have your heavenly Father's Word on it, beloved. No one inherits God's promises to Abraham through imperfect works of the law, as the Jews still maintain. They can only be inherited *through faith in Christ Jesus*.

The bottom line is this: At Christ's death on that cross at Calvary, God's promises to Abraham became *no longer exclusive to Abraham's flesh descendants*. They became available to *all* people through Christ, and *only* through Christ, the true "seed" of Abraham. Anyone who truly loves and embraces the Gospel message of Jesus Christ becomes a recipient of those covenant and associated promises.

Gal 3:8 And the scripture, **foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham,** saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

St. Paul explains that way back in Genesis 22:18 when God told Abraham that in him all nations would be blessed, *God was delivering the Gospel message to Abraham*.

In other words, it is through faith in the Gospel of Christ that *anyone of any nation or race* can become an inheritor of God's promises to Abraham, and receive the blessings thereof. And it is *only* through faith in the Gospel. And quite literally all nations would be blessed by that Gospel of Christ, because it would (and did) *transform the world*. The world has never been the same again, since Christ's death on that cross. It changed everything. It's affected every nation.

So all people of all races of all nations who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are blessed with the promises God made to Abraham. But any people who *refuse* to accept Christ are *not* blessed with the promises God made to Abraham. It's that simple. And if you don't believe that simple Bible truth, then you don't believe God's Word on the matter. You're putting your faith in some preacher or in the empty teachings of some church system, and *not* in what God's Word actually says.

And yes, beloved, that includes the promise from Genesis 12:2-3, which states "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." If someone curses Jesus Christ, the "seed" of Abraham, or if someone curses *Christians*, who are the spiritual children of Abraham, then God will in turn *curse them*, just as Christ cursed that unfruitful fig tree in Matthew 21:18-22, which stood figuratively for the nation of Israel in open rebellion to God's great plan to save His children through Jesus Christ.

So you can't make God's promises to Abraham fit the narrow confines of "the Jews" or their religion of Judaism. It just won't work. They *don't* have faith in Christ. To this day, the vast majority of the

Jews vehemently reject salvation through Christ Jesus. And they do so as a *central tenet* of their religion, just as most of them rejected Him 2,000 years ago.

The inheritance God promised to Abraham was offered to the Jews first, through Christ Jesus, in accord with the Old Testament promises. But the Jews rejected it outright, crying “*Crucify Him, crucify Him*” at his trial (Luke 23:21). And when Pontius Pilate saw that the Jews were adamant that Christ be crucified, “he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it” (Mt. 27:24). And the Jews answered, “*His blood be on us, and on our children*” (Mt. 27:25).

And at that point, short of repentance, the promises of God to Abraham were removed from the “Jews” who despise and reject God’s great plan to save His children through Jesus Christ, and those promises were *expanded* to the Gentiles, which is to say, to all peoples who would love and embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:9 So then **they which be of faith** are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Paul reiterates once more that God’s blessings on faithful Abraham now fall on those *whose faith is in Jesus Christ*. In other words, *Christians* – regardless of race -- are the inheritors of God’s promises to Abraham. That was always God’s intention, right from the beginning. It’s why He delivered the Gospel message to Abraham (see Galatians 3:8, Genesis 12:2-3) in the first place, telling him that through his seed – Jesus Christ – all nations would ultimately be blessed.

Don’t Blame the Jews?

Now, some will say, “Steve, you still don’t understand. You can’t hold today’s Jews accountable for what their ancestors did 2,000 years ago when they crucified Christ.” And I agree. You can’t. You can only hold them accountable for what they do today. And what they do today is *continue in the tradition of their forefathers* by rejecting and despising Christ Jesus.

There’s simply no disputing it. It’s a *reality*. They not only have no faith in Jesus Christ, but as a central tenet of their religion of Judaism they adamantly continue to reject and despise Him.

In fact, in the Babylonian Talmud and associated Talmudic texts – which the Jewish religious leaders of *today* hold in even higher esteem than the Old Testament – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is openly cursed as a blasphemer who practiced magic and led Israel astray (see tractate Sanhedrin, folio 43a), but is now being punished in hell by being suspended in boiling human excrement (see tractate Gittin, folio 57a). What’s more, the same book also claims the Blessed Virgin Mary was a whore (see tractate Sanhedrin, folio 106a), and in associated Talmudic texts it’s claimed that Mary cheated on Joseph with a Roman soldier named Pantera who was the true father of Jesus Christ (see *Shabbat 104b; Tosefta Hullin 2:24; Qohelet Rabbah 1:8(3); Mishnah [104b]*).

In other words, the Jews curse Christ openly and with impunity, even in their most cherished religious texts. Therefore, the Jews do *not* bear fruit for God, having vehemently rejected the “seed” of Abraham (i.e., Christ) through which all spiritual “fruit” is brought forth. And as a direct result, the Middle East nation of Israel and its Christ-hating residents remain *cursed* of God, just as the fig tree was cursed by Christ for its lack of fruitfulness.

We'll learn more about that curse, in just a moment. But let me first emphasize one important fact: I'm *not* saying the people we know today as "the Jews" can't receive God's promises to Abraham. They most certainly *can*. And it should be our goal to bring them the Gospel message through which God's promises to Abraham flow. But just like the rest of us, *they have to accept the Messiah of God wholeheartedly, and repent of their sins in His name, in order to inherit those promises.*

Again, anyone who tells you differently is contradicting the Word of God. And anyone who contradicts the Word of God should *not* be listened to by a true man or woman of God.

Basic Bible 101

Now this is Basic Bible 101. It's *Christians* who are considered *by God* to be the children of Abraham. Not non-Christians. It's believers. Not non-believers.

And unfortunately, the vast majority of today's "Jews" are vehemently non-Christian. They're non-believers. They have no faith in Christ whatsoever, but instead, as a central tenet of their religion, they openly reject, deny and disdain Him. And in so doing they deny and reject God's great plan to save His children, which is precisely why they remain under God's curse to this very day.

Indeed, they're the "unbelievers" St. Paul specifically referred to in II Corinthians 6:14-18, when he warned Christians to come out from among them and "be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers":

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye [i.e., Christians] are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Beloved, if you want God to be a Father to you...if you want to be considered His sons and daughters (which is to say, if you want to be considered one of the children of Abraham, through your faith in Abraham's "seed" Jesus Christ)...if you want to be part of His Holy temple, in and through which He walks among you...then you'd better heed His Word on this matter.

Come out from among those who -- as a central tenet of their religious beliefs -- outright reject Jesus Christ. Why? Because as the above verses from II Corinthians 6:14-18 explain, your heavenly Father considers those who reject Christ to be unrighteous infidels, so unclean they're not to be *touch*ed much less spiritually "yoked together" with.

Unfortunately, all too many Christians today unwittingly continue to embrace the erroneous belief that they must "support the Jews or be cursed by God." It's just not true. Indeed, as you can see if you're actually "hearing" God's Word with understanding, such thinking is in *direct opposition* to God's Word of truth.

As Christians, we can bring the Gospel message *to* the unclean – which is to say, to the Jewish non-believers and any other non-believers, as well -- in hopes of drawing them to Christ and bringing them into His many-membered body where they too will indeed inherit the promises of God to Abraham through sincere faith in Christ.

But we're not to allow ourselves to be drawn into *their* camp. We're not allowed to yoke ourselves to them or to have communion or religious fellowship of *any* kind with them as long as they remain in rejection of Jesus Christ. "Supporting the Jews" is not a prerequisite for God's blessings. In fact, since the Jews vehemently hate, loathe, despise and reject Christ Jesus, supporting them is considered by God to be an act of *disloyalty to Christ*. As it's written, we're not to so much as wish them Godspeed if they won't accept the Gospel message:

2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine [i.e, the doctrine of salvation in Christ], **receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:**

2Jn 1:11 **For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**

In other words, if they don't carry the Gospel of Christ, don't allow them into your Christian house, or church. Most certainly don't wish them Godspeed in their religious works, because those works are largely *against Christ*.

Indeed, it's because of this unwitting embrace of the Christ-hating Jews that Christians too end up under the *same* curse the Jews remain under. And why? Because they've unwittingly trampled underfoot the Word of God on this matter, wishing the very enemies of our Lord and Savior "God speed" in all of their doings, while replacing what God's Word actually says with a decidedly false religious tradition that exalts those who openly hate, loathe and despise the risen Savior.

This is why it's commanded by our heavenly Father that we "*come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.*"

Is the Land Really Theirs?

Another claim many Christian preachers make today is that the Middle East land of Israel was given by God to the Jews forever. But what does the Scripture actually say? In Genesis 15:18 our heavenly Father makes the following covenant with Abraham:

Gen 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto **thy seed** have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Unfortunately, many Christians to this very day cannot cease thinking in the flesh, which leads them to conclude from the above verse that our heavenly Father gave the land of Israel to the people we know as the Jews, forever. I've seen preachers teach entire sermons on this message.

But did God *really* give the Middle East land of Israel to the Jews, forever? You'll note from the verse above that He gave the land to Abraham's "seed." And what have we learned about Abraham's "seed"? We've learned that, spiritually speaking, Abraham's "seed" is Jesus Christ. We know this for a fact from Galatians 3:16, where it's written, "*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*"

What's more, we know for a fact from Galatians 3:7 that "*they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*" In other words, it is *Christians* who are considered by God to be the children of Abraham, and inheritors in Christ of all of the promises made to Abraham.

In short, it's Christ and His many-membered body to whom the middle east land known as Israel actually belongs. And it's Christ and His many-membered body who will *occupy* that land and dwell therein *for the eternity* when He returns at His Second Advent.

This therefore means the current occupants of the Middle East land of Israel, being in open rebellion against Christ, are *usurpers* of land – mere squatters. They no more own the land than do Eskimos or Martians. In rejecting and despising Christ – the true "seed" of Abraham -- they've rejected and despised God's promises to faithful Abraham.

Why I Cringe

So do you see why I cringe whenever I hear Christians say, "America is under God's curse because we no longer support Israel"? Or as some Christians even state, "America is under God's curse because American no longer supports *the Jews.*"

Listen up: America is the greatest *Christian* nation that's ever existed on the face of the earth. We're imperfect. No doubt about it. But it's not *us* who are under God's curse, at least, not to the extent that we continue in faith under Christ Jesus, without wavering.

Instead, those who will be cursed by our heavenly Father are those who curse the true spiritual "*seed*" of Abraham, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as anyone who curses Christians since we're the true spiritual *children* of Abraham. That's what your heavenly Father's Word actually says. And any preacher who says otherwise is either a liar, or remarkably ignorant of the Word he (or she) claims to be teaching.

The People of the Curse

Beloved, as I've repeatedly pointed out in this study, there's only *one* religion on the face of the earth that, as a central tenet of their religious doctrine, curses Jesus. And that's the very "Jews" that Christians have been duped into believing they must support at any cost lest a curse from God come upon them.

In other words, modern Christians have been duped into casting aside God's very clear Word on this subject, and substituting a completely carnal and inarguably *false religious tradition* in its place – a false religious tradition that basically says if you don't support the Christ-hating Jews, God will curse you.

But what does God's Word say about those who reject our Lord and Savior?

1Co 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be **Anathema Maranatha.**

If you want to know who's cursed by God, and who isn't, there's your litmus test, beloved.

If a person doesn't love Christ, he or she is considered to be "Anathema Maranatha" (i.e., *accursed with divine judgment*) all of the way to His second coming.

So, yes, when hatred and rejection of Jesus Christ is a central tenet of your religion, you carry the curse of divine judgment on your very soul, all of the way to the Second Coming, after which comes the judgment.

Short of sincere repentance, which requires a complete reversal of thinking, you're doomed to suffer God's judgment. Let's take a closer look at that phrase, "Anathema Maranatha" in the original Greek language:

G331

α' ν ᾱ θ ε μ α

anathema

an-ath'-em-ah

From G394; **a (religious) ban** or (concretely) **excommunicated** (thing or person): - **accursed**, anathema, **curse**, X great.

G3134

μ α ρ ᾱ ν α' θ ᾱ

maran atha

mar'-an ath'-ah

Of Chaldee origin (meaning *our Lord has come*); *maranatha*, that is, **an exclamation of the approaching divine judgment**: - Maran-atha.

St. Paul is *not* speaking of mere atheists, beloved. He's speaking of those who openly *deny* Christ as the Messiah of God, and therefore hold no love for Him whatsoever, but instead, only hatred and disdain.

Again, I must once more emphasize that the people who most hate, loathe, despise and deny Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior are the very Jews we're told by all too many Biblically illiterate Christian preachers we'll be cursed if we don't throw our full support behind.

And again, let me re-emphasize, the "Jewish" religion is the only major world religion whose *central tenet* is hatred of Jesus Christ. The Buddhists don't hate Jesus. The Hindus don't hate Jesus. Even the religion of Islam doesn't hate Jesus, but instead, considers him to be a prophet of God.

But mention the name of Jesus to a hard-core disciple of Judaism, and if he doesn't bite your face off for it, he'll mutter curses under his breath in accord with the Talmudic prayer, the *Birkat ha-Minim* in which they call upon God to "bring low, break and destroy" Christians and all other non-believers of their Talmudic law.

Indeed, the Jewish curse know as *yimakh shemo* – said to be the strongest of Jewish curses -- quite literally means "May his name be obliterated." Or consider the variant of this curse, *yimakh shemo ve zikhro*, meaning "Obliterate his name and his memory". While this curse is often used of *any* enemy

of the “Jewish” people, it’s most often pointedly directed at Christ and Christianity. In fact, the name used for “Jesus” in the Jewish Talmud, Sanhedrin 107, is *Yeshu*, instead of Yeshua. Scholars say the name Yeshu is used by the Jewish religious leaders for a special reason, i.e., because it’s an acrostic for the Hebrew phrase "may his name and memory be blotted out," created by taking the first letter of each of the words in the original Hebrew language.

What’s more, according to Dr. Israel Shahak, an Israeli citizen, former WWII concentration camp inmate and founder of Israel’s Human Rights League:

“Dishonoring Christian religious symbols is an old religious duty in Judaism. Spitting on the cross, and especially on the crucifix, and spitting when a Jew passes a church, has been obligatory from around 200 A.D. for pious Jews...The increasing strength of the Jewish nation has caused these customs to become more open again but there should be no mistake: the spitting on the cross for converts from Christianity to Judaism, organized in Kibbitz Sa’ad and financed by the Israeli government, is an act of traditional Jewish piety.”

In other words, spitting on Christian symbols like the crucifix is part and parcel of the Jewish religion.

Shahak goes on to say, *“Pious Jews object to the international plus sign for it is a cross, and it may, in their opinion, influence little children to convert to Christianity. . . It would then be difficult to ‘educate’ them to spit on the cross. . . In all Hebrew elementary schools (and now many high schools as well) the international plus sign has been forbidden.”*

According to Lura Maiman Beckford, a Jewish Christian missionary in Israel, and Schmulik Eitan, a secular Jew and tour guide of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, harassment and discrimination against Christians is a daily event throughout Israel.



Jews spray "Jesus is a monkey" on the wall of the Trappist monastery in Latrun, near Jerusalem in 2012. The door of the monastery was then set ablaze.

Beckford writes of the small Christian church she attends in Israel, *“The congregation meets on Saturdays and the parishioners need to go through a gauntlet of curses from 40 or more Haridim [i.e.,*

orthodox Jews] standing in front of the entrance. All through the service, screams, chants and curses can be heard from outside."

Beckford goes on to say, "*It's amazing -- in the Jewish state of Israel, you can be a Buddhist, a Bahai, a gay or lesbian -- and your democratic rights are fully protected and upheld. But if you are a Messianic Jew [i.e., a Jew who believes in Jesus Christ – ED], the authorities will do nothing for you unless they absolutely have to.*"

Indeed, from the time of the writings of the Gospels to this very day, Christ and Christianity are cursed and blasphemed *three times daily* in Jewish synagogues, in a prayer known as *Birkat ha-Minim*. Though the prayer has been watered down in modern times with specific phrases like "the Nazarenes" – a clear reference to Christians -- being changed to non-specific phrases such as "the wicked," it is still repeated daily, and the ever-so-pious Jews are still well aware of *who* (i.e., Christ) and *what* (i.e., Christianity) is being cursed.

Yet in spite of this overwhelming evidence of Jewish hatred against Christ and Christianity, and against all other non-Jews, as well, Christians are taught to believe that they "must support the Jews" and "must support the nation of Israel" lest *we* fall under the curse God described to Abraham.

As usual, Christians have their Father's Word backwards and upside down, all at the same time. They completely ignore the Bible passages that clearly explain God considers *Christians* to be the children of Abraham, and heirs to His promises to Abraham. And they replace God's Word on this matter with an empty, thoroughly non-Biblical church tradition that inextricably yokes Christians together with the very people and nation who curse and blaspheme Christ and His followers the most.

As a result, Christians unwittingly end up *embracing* in spiritual fellowship the very people who curse and despise Christ and His many-membered body as a central tenet of their religion -- and who, as a result, fall squarely under *God's* curse against those who reject and despise Christ, the true "seed" of Abraham, and Christians, the spiritual children of Abraham.

Let's see what St. Paul further had to say about this matter, in the great book of First Thessalonians:

1Th 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, **even as they have of the Jews:**

1Th 2:15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

1Th 2:16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: **for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.**

St. Paul says in no uncertain terms that the Jews "killed the Lord Jesus" as well as the prophets who God had sent to them to help them understand His Word. He also says the Jews "please not God," and are "contrary to all men." Wow. Did St. Paul end up under God's curse for failing to support the Jews like that? Of course not. Instead, St. Paul was blessed by God for telling the truth without fear or favor to anyone. He ended up writing most of the New Testament.

What's more, St. Paul explains that the Jews work to stop the plan of God from unfolding in regards to the long-promised salvation of the Gentiles, *which, as we've seen in this study, is what God's promises to Abraham were all about in the first place.* And as a direct result the Jews have God's fiery wrath upon them "to the uttermost," as stated in verse 16 above.

Do you really want to spiritually yoke yourself to a group of people upon whom, short of sincere repentance and embrace of Christ Jesus, have God's burning wrath upon them, and who are destined to have that burning wrath come upon them "to the uttermost" at Christ's Second Advent?

It's important to understand that the word "wrath" in verse 16 above is translated into English from the Greek word *orge* (i.e., Strong's G-3709), meaning "justifiable abhorrence," and by implication, "punishment: - anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath."

G3709

ο' ρ γ η̄

orge

or-gay'

From G3713; properly *desire* (as a *reaching* forth or *excitement* of the mind), that is, (by analogy) violent *passion* (*ire*, or [justifiable] *abhorrence*); by implication ***punishment: - anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.***

What's more, the word "uttermost" in the above verse is translated into English from the Greek word *telos* (i.e., Strong's G-5056), meaning "all of the way to the conclusion of things."

G5056

τ ε λ ο ς

telos

Thayer Definition:

1) end

1a) **termination**, the limit at which a thing ceases to be (always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time)

1b) the end

1b1) the last in any succession or series

1b2) eternal

1c) **that by which a thing is finished, its close, issue**

1d) **the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose**

2) toll, custom (i.e. indirect tax on goods)

In other words, God's justifiable abhorrence of "the Jews" for their continued rejection of Jesus Christ, and for their continued rejection of His great plan to save His children, lasts *all of the way to the conclusion* of this flesh earth age, when, short of sincere repentance, our heavenly Father will pour out His fiery indignation upon them at Christ's Second Advent.

I can't emphasize it enough, beloved, that's the Word of God on the subject...*not* the word of Steve or of some other preacher.

Except for the Jews?

Go ask your local preacher why he or she believes the “Jews” are to be uncritically and *in perpetuum* supported even though they blaspheme and curse both Christ and Christianity as a central tenet of their religious beliefs. I dare you.

Inevitably, when pushed into a corner, Christian preachers revert to the idea that the “Jews” have “their own covenant” with God, which somehow doesn’t include Jesus. In other words, they’ll tell you when Jews are involved, there’s an *exception* made.

But when Christ said in Mathew 12:30 “*He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad,*” did He add a codicil saying, “except for the Jews”?

If the “Jews” are the exception to the rule that you’re either for Christ, or against Him, then why did “Jews” like St. Peter even bother to become Christian? What was the point in Jews becoming Christians if the Jews have a separate salvation of their own?

Why did St. John bother to become a Christian? What about St. Jude? St. James? St. Matthew? St. Mark? St. Luke? St. Paul? Or what about the initial 3,000 “Jews” who became Christians after the first Pentecost (Acts 2:41)? Or the subsequent tens of thousands of other Jews who became Christians and helped spread the Gospel message to the rest of the world?

I’ll tell you why all of these Jews became Christians: They became Christians because they knew it’s the *one* and *only* way into the kingdom of God and the eternal family household of God. And they knew it’s the only way out from under the curse of the law. They knew there’s no “other way.” There’s no “other covenant.” There’s no exception for anyone.

The first covenant – which we call the Old Testament -- *was fulfilled* at Christ’s death on that cross at Calvary. And the second covenant encompassed and updated it, taking it from the realm of the *flesh* to the realm of the *Spirit*. And the Jews of old who became Christians *knew* it. And so should *you*. And so should your local preacher. (But don’t count on it, for if your local preacher were indeed to point out what God’s Word actually says on this subject of the Jews, he’d be fired overnight.)

The bottom line is this: If you’ve fallen for the “except for the Jews” lie, you’ve fallen into Satan’s trap. Satan *wants* you to embrace the people of God’s curse, those rejecters and deniers of the Son of God. Indeed, he wants you tied so closely together with them that when Christ arrives He’ll be forced to allow His wrath to fall upon *you*, too, because you’re so tightly yoked to His most cursed enemies.

You see, when you embrace Christ’s adversaries rather than follow your Father’s Word to “come out from among them and be ye separate...” you too end up *under the same curse*. As we’ve seen repeatedly in this study, if you so much as wish “God speed” to the rejecters of the Gospel message, you become a “partaker of their evil deeds” against the Gospel message.

As Christ Himself had stated directly to the Jews in John 8:47, “*He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*”

And as St. John would later state in his second epistle, “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son*” (II John 1:9).

And as Christ Himself would say in John 15:23, “*He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*” And again in Luke 10:16, “*...he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.*”

In other words, if they don’t believe in Christ -- if they reject, hate and despise Him -- they don’t have God the Father, either. So they cannot be “God’s chosen.” And they cannot be saved by some other means. No one can. Salvation is by faith in Christ, period. So by their very actions, they’re the enemies of the Gospel of Christ.

St. Paul would later state of the Jews, “*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*”

There’s no “middle ground,” beloved. There’s no “separate salvation.” You either love and embrace Jesus Christ with all of your heart, mind and spirit, or you don’t. And if you don’t, you’re considered by God to be “reprobate” (i.e., Strong’s G-96, “rejected, worthless, cast away”). You’re considered by God to be *Anathema Maranatha*.

As St. John would state regarding the Jews who so vehemently hate, reject and deny our Lord and Savior:

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

If you want to identify who the deceivers are, look to their *characteristics*. Their chief characteristic is that they “confess not the Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.” In other words, they refuse to accept Him as the Messiah of God. Do you really think God is going to lay a curse on you for failing to support a “deceiver and an antichrist”? Quite the contrary.

2Jn 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

St. John herein warns that failing to recognize the deceivers who “confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” could cost you your *eternal reward*, which is to say, your very salvation and your position in the kingdom of heaven.

2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, **hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, **he hath both the Father and the Son.****

If they refuse to abide in the doctrine of Christ, they don’t have God. It’s that simple. Even if they call themselves “God’s chosen people,” they’re a bunch of imposters if they don’t embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And without Christ Jesus they don’t have God, no matter how much they might protest to the contrary. That’s your Father’s Word on it. So who are you going to believe: God’s Word, or man’s?

2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

We covered this verse earlier. But it's an important verse, so we'll take another quick look at it, here. If they don't have the doctrine of Christ – which is to say, the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ -- we're not to so much as bid them God speed.

In other words, because they stand in *opposition* to Christ, wishing them God's blessings puts *you* in opposition to Christ, as well. It puts *you* under the spiritual curse *they're* under.

2Jn 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

If you wish them God's speed, you're wishing them success in their vehement opposition to Jesus Christ, which is their chief religious characteristic.

Yet unwitting Christians routinely pray for God's blessings upon these deceivers and deniers, and demand their fellow Christians support them, as well. It's an abomination to God. And it's one of the main reasons Christianity is in such horrific decline today. Christ simply will not bless *any* Christian who wishes His most vehement enemies God speed, which is to say, God's blessings.

St. John broke it down for Christians so plainly, a child could understand it. But full-grown Christians who have sat in church pews for decades still don't understand this simple truth which is spelled out throughout God's Word. As St. John would further write on this matter:

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

There are two main spirits in this world, beloved: the Holy Spirit of Christ, and the deceptive spirit of the antichrist. God's faithful servants carry the Holy Spirit of Christ. But the false prophets (which is to say, false teachers) carry the deceptive spirit of the antichrist, which is the spirit of Satan himself.

St. John warns us not to believe every spirit, which is to say, every *spiritual pronouncement*, but to test (i.e., "try") the spirit behind the pronouncement, in order to determine whether it's of God or of Satan. And how do you tell the difference?

1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

There's your answer. Short, simple and to the point: If the individual confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, then the Spirit that person is operating under is of God. But what if they *refuse* to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? What if, as a central tenet of their religion they deny His Lordship, claiming He was not the Son of God in the flesh? As it is written:

1Jn 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth **not** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is **not** of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Again, simply put, those who reject and deny Jesus Christ as the Son of God come in the flesh, are “not of God.” How much simpler can your Lord put it? And when are you going to start listening to *Him*, and not to some preacher trying to yoke you spiritually with God’s Christ-hating enemies?

After all, Jesus Christ is *God incarnate*. You can’t deny the Son of God, and still have God the Father. It’s a physical and spiritual impossibility. They are one and the same person (John 10:30). As Christ would state to St. Philip in John 14:9, “...*he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father...*”

So if an individual “confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh,” then the spirit behind that individual is the spirit of the *antichrist* himself. And if they won’t accept God’s Word regarding the Messiah, Jesus Christ, then they’re not of God, beloved. It’s truly that simple.

Those who hear and embrace the Gospel message are of God. And those who *refuse* to hear it and embrace it are *not of God*. You can’t get any plainer than that.

Even if they claim to be “God’s chosen people,” their rejection and hatred of the Gospel of Jesus Christ betrays them to be under the direct influence of the antichrist himself.

Christ’s Sentence Upon Those Who Reject His Rulership

In Luke chapter 19, our Lord and Savior is beginning to make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem before His crucifixion, and as usual, He was teaching the multitudes in parable form as He went.

He knew that many of those following Him expected the kingdom of God to be ushered in immediately. So He used a parable to explain there would be two separate advents and that between the first and second advents His faithful servants would be expected to *produce fruit* in the form of spreading His Word throughout a largely hostile world.

Finally, He also used the parable to teach what will happen to those who openly and vehemently reject Him in spite of His open arms to them. As it’s written:

Luk 19:11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

He always spoke to the multitudes in parables, which are stories that have a much deeper meaning below the surface than they do on the surface. That way, only those with eyes to see and ears to hear would understand the full meaning of the message. The weak in faith and understanding would not, because of their immaturity in His Word. Let’s see if *you* can understand the message:

Luk 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

This “certain nobleman,” of course, is symbolic of Christ Jesus, coming to this earth at His First Advent to receive the Kingdom. And He *would* have received it at that time, if the people had believed the words of John the Baptist and Christ Himself. But the people ultimately allowed John the Baptist to be killed, followed by Jesus on that cross at Calvary.

Luk 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

In other words, this nobleman knew he'd be leaving the kingdom for a long time, but would eventually return, just as Christ knew He was about to be delivered up to death on that cross at Calvary, and would rise from the dead and return to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God until His enemies are made His footstool (Luke 20:43; Hebrews 10:13), at which point He would return to this earth for His Second Advent.

But before leaving, this nobleman (i.e., representing Christ Jesus) distributed *ten pounds* among his ten servants. In other words, he made an *investment* in them, if you will. He also gave his ten servants the command to "occupy till I come." The word "occupy" in this verse is closely related to our English word *occupation*, as in what one does for a living. In other words, the ten servants were to occupy themselves in the *investment trade*, which is to say, working to increase the value of the "one pound" investment the nobleman had left in each of their hands.

Of course, the number "ten" in Biblical numerics is the number of *testimony, law and responsibility*. So the ten pounds are symbolic of God's Word, with the 10 commandments being the crux thereof. So we're supposed to see here the parallel between a nobleman giving his ten servants one pound each with which to invest and produce increase until he returned to rule over his kingdom, just as Christ would give His faithful servants the Gospel message, expecting each of us to increase its reach to the whole world by teaching it to others until Christ returns the *second time* to rule over His kingdom.

Luk 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Remember, this is symbolic of the kingdom of God. Our heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son to rule over the kingdom. But His Son was rejected and despised by the very people our heavenly Father first sent His Redeemer to – the Jews. They utterly rejected and disdained Him.

Are you beginning to get the message? Just as the ten servants of this nobleman were supposed work openly among the spiteful citizens of the kingdom to increase the investment they'd been entrusted with, so today Christians are supposed to work openly among those who refuse Christ's rule, spreading the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to them with the goal of bringing as many of them as possible into the family household of God.

Luk 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

This is called accountability. The ten servants were supposed to have invested the money he'd entrusted them with, and made gain on it, which is to say, increased the value of the investment. Again, this is symbolic of our responsibility as Christians to occupy ourselves in God's Word, first *learning* it and afterwards *spreading* it to others so they too can join God's eternal family household.

Going a little bit deeper, this verse is representative of Christ's Second Advent (i.e., "when he was returned"). And what's going to happen at that time, when He arrives? He's going to check to see whether or not His servants were faithful stewards of the investment He made in them. Did they take

the knowledge He gave them and use it to help bring even more of God's wayward children into the eternal family household of God? Or did they squander their opportunities out of fear of being hated by the people of the kingdom, just as their Master was so vehemently hated?

Luk 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

This guy was a pretty good investor, wasn't he? He made *ten times* the money his master had left with him to invest. And he didn't let the hatred of his master by the citizens of the kingdom get in his way, either.

Speaking symbolically, this productive servant is representative of a faithful Christian who, knowing Christ will indeed be returning to reign over His kingdom, works hard to spread the Gospel message in its fullness, so others too can be brought into the eternal family household of God through Christ. And as a result of this faithful Christian's efforts, ten more people were added to God's eternal family household. Get it?

This is what your heavenly Father expects of *you*, in return for His blessings. He expects you to go out among those who hate Him – which is most of the world today, including most of the “Jews” -- and spread the Good News in hopes that at least *some* of them can be saved.

Luk 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

These “cities” the nobleman is giving this faithful servant authority over are representative of cities of the world which have yet to be saved, but will be given that opportunity one last time during the Millennium teaching period directly after Christ's Second Advent. In other words, they're the “cities” where Christ's rulership is most disdained. And He's looking for Christians with a *proven track record* of spreading His Word to the unsaved, because He knows these unsaved “cities” are going to be some tough nuts to crack.

Because the servant had shown great initiative and skill with the investment his master had made in him, *not fearing to increase his master's wealth among the people who hated his master the most*, he was given rulership authority over ten “cities” during the Millennium. Why? Because the nobleman (i.e., Christ Jesus) now knew from *personal experience* that this particular servant could be trusted to do a good job in the final phase of God's great plan to save His children.

Likewise, when the Millennium teaching period arrives, beginning the day of Christ's Second Advent, how many “cities” of unbelievers will *you* be found worthy enough to be placed in a teaching position over? The answer lies in how well you handle the truth you've been given *now*, and how willing you are to help spread it to others.

This is what our heavenly Father is looking for, from His servants. He wants to see us wisely yet enthusiastically spreading His Word among those who have yet to accept his rule through Christ, so that at least *some* of them can be brought into the fold, which is to say, into His eternal family household. His entire plan revolves around saving His wayward children. And if you're entrusted with His truth, He expects you to plant seeds of truth into the minds of His wayward children so they can indeed be saved.

In other words, just as the nobleman's servants were working to make a monetary investment grow in *value*, in like manner faithful Christians are supposed to be working to make God's eternal family household in Christ grow in *numbers*. As it is written in Mark 16:15, "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*"

Luk 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

This servant increased the value of the investment entrusted to him by a factor of five. In other words, symbolically speaking, this faithful Christian took God's Word and planted enough seeds in the minds of men that five more individuals came into the family household of God through Christ. How will Christ respond to the success of this faithful and productive servant?

Luk 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

The nobleman (i.e., Christ) saw that this servant, too, had shown great initiative and skill with the investment. And as a result, knowing he could trust the servant, he placed him in charge over five cities.

Again, I must ask: When the Millennium teaching period arrives at Christ's Second Advent, how many "cities" will *you* be found worthy enough to be placed in a teaching position over? After all, you *have* God's Word. You *know* God's Word. The question is, have you been working to *spread* God's Word throughout this world that's largely hostile to His rule?

Luk 19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

So that you get the fullest impact of this statement, mentally substitute the word "truth" in place of the word "pound," i.e., "Lord, behold, here is thy *truth*, which I have kept laid up in this napkin."

This servant hid his master's investment in a napkin, and did absolutely nothing with it. This is symbolic of Christians who learn a deeper Bible truth and keep it to themselves. Sometimes this is done out of pure laziness. But more often it's done out of fear they'll be ridiculed or ostracized for teaching a Bible truth that conflicts with empty church traditions or that "offends" non-believers such as the Jews.

Our Lord and Savior tells us that when we learn the truth, we're not to cover it up in a napkin like this unprofitable servant did, but quite the contrary, we're to spread it far and wide. We're to let the light of truth shine as far as possible, so all can see it. As it's written in Luke 11:33, "*No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.*"

So this unprofitable servant *hid* the original pound, and did nothing. He didn't want to be seen working to increase the assets of the nobleman who was so hated by the city's inhabitants (i.e., verse 14), which of course is representative of the "Jews" utter hatred toward Christ. He was more worried about what everyone else would think of him than what his own master would think of him upon his return. This, just as many Biblically-illiterate Christians today refuse to work to bring the Gospel message to the "Jews" out of the erroneous belief they have their own salvation worked out with God through a separate covenant that doesn't require them to follow Jesus.

So when it comes to the “Jews,” the Gospel message remains “laid up in a napkin.” Rather than being preached to “every creature” (Mark 16:15) it’s essentially hidden from the “Jews” -- *by Christians* -- much as the current Pope Francis, when meeting with Jewish leaders in September of this year, shamefully used his hand to hide his crucifix so as not to “offend” the Jewish visitors.² Today, this man rules over the largest Christian denomination in the world. But at Christ’s Second Advent, how many “cities” do you think he’ll be given to rule over?



Luk 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

Look at the difference in attitudes between the first two faithful and productive servants, and this unproductive servant: The first two servants simply dug in and enthusiastically started tending to the investment they’d been given charge of. In spite of the fact their master was much hated by the local populace, they understood their job was to increase his wealth. And they worked diligently to do so. You might consider those first two servants to be symbolic of the faithful and productive churches of Philadelphia and Smyrna from Revelation chapters two and three, which were the only two churches Christ found no fault with upon surveying all of His churches in the final days of this flesh earth age.

But the less-than-enthusiastic servant immediately started making up excuses for his lack of productivity. *“Oh, I didn’t do anything with the investment because you’re such a severe man. You have others do the work for you, and you reap the profits from it.”*

Based on the context of the story, this worthless and unproductive servant did nothing with the investment he was entrusted with, because he feared what others would think of him if they saw him working to increase the net worth of the much-hated nobleman’s property. So he wrapped the pound up in a napkin and hid it away, just as many Christians today refuse to spread the truth of God’s Word to the Jews and other non-believers out of fear they’ll be hated, ridiculed or ostracized. And therefore, like this unprofitable servant, they’ll have no gain to show upon their Master’s return.

Luk 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

No matter what your excuse is, if you know Father's Word and you're not doing your part to help spread that knowledge to others – either by planting seeds, or by financially supporting a good seed-planting or broadcasting ministry – you're likely going to find yourself in the same shoes as this unprofitable servant at Christ's Second Advent.

Whatever your excuse is, God will judge you by that excuse. He'd rather have you *try*, and *lose*, than *fail to try* altogether out of fear of what others might think of you. As it is written in Revelation 3:16, “*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*”

If you're allowing fear to stop you from planting seeds of truth, or from supporting a ministry that does, then you don't really believe He can sustain and preserve you in a world where the vast majority of the people don't want your Lord in charge of them in the first place (see verse 14, above). You've got your eyes too much on the world, and not enough on Christ and His Word.

Throughout His Word your heavenly Father has told you many times that He watches over and takes care of His faithful servants when they're doing His bidding. “*Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I Am your God, I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*” (Isaiah 41:10). If you're failing to plant seeds of truth into the minds of men out of fear of rejection, or fear of making a mistake, or fear of not being good enough, or fear of “offending” others, or whatever fear you can conjure up in your mind and spirit, then perhaps your faith in God is not all you might think it is.

Luk 19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

The nobleman asks, why didn't you at least put my money in the bank, where it could have drawn interest?

Or, from a spiritual perspective, you might translate this, “If you feared teaching my Word of Truth personally, why didn't you at least *tithe* to a good truth-telling, seed-planting or broadcasting ministry where you'd share in the credit for all of the souls brought into the kingdom through the ministry?”

Luk 19:24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

The servant was undeserving of any further responsibility in the nobleman's kingdom, just as those who are given wisdom from God's Word, but who fail to share it with others, will be considered unworthy of any further responsibility in Christ's kingdom at His Second Advent.

This unproductive and unprofitable servant would likely have been given authority over at least one “city” had he produced even a minimum amount of gain for his master. Instead, the reward that should have gone to him had he been faithful in his work, was given to the faithful servant who had increased his master's investment by a factor of ten.

Luk 19:25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

Sometimes, even Christ's servants don't understand His utter fairness. Our Lord is a delegator of both responsibility and positions of authority. But He only delegates responsibilities and positions of authority to those who have *proven* they can handle it, i.e., those who have *earned* it.

He knew the first responsible servant who had increased His investment ten-fold could easily be trusted with the additional pound from the unprofitable servant, which means of course, with authority over an additional "city." So this faithful and fruitful servant now had authority over a total of eleven cities.

Not bad, right? So again I'll ask: During the Millennium teaching period, after Christ's Second Advent takes place, how many "cities" will Christ put *you* in charge of, as the final phase of His great plan to save His children plays out? It will all depend upon your fruitfulness – your faithfulness and productivity in spreading His Word to others *before* He returns.

Simply put, God is looking for men and women He can trust to help bring His Word to His wayward children, both now, and during the Millennium teaching period. The death of His Son on that cross at Calvary was the investment He made in *you*, and in all other Christians. How effectively you help tend to that investment determines the extent to which you'll be used during the Millennium teaching period, when God's elect "shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

You see, the job of God's elect during the Millennium teaching period is to help prepare God's wayward children for their final exam, so to speak, which takes place when Satan is released for that very short spell at the end of the Millennium to "*go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea*" (Revelation 20:8).

Christ is looking for faithful men and women who want to work within His will, which is to say, who want to help save His wayward children *by bringing the Living Word to them*. And if they've demonstrated an ability to handle the Word of God during this flesh age in which Christ is so hated, they'll be given even greater responsibility during the Millennium. God only gives His servants responsibility they've proven they can handle, which is to say, once again, you only get what you *earn*. As it is further written:

Luk 19:26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

Now, you might consider that stern. But it's not. It's prudent. Those who prove they can handle responsibilities on His behalf during this flesh age in which Christ is largely hated will be given great authority during the Millennium teaching period, and throughout the eternity. And those who have proven they *can't* handle any responsibility at all during this flesh earth age will be given no future authority. In fact, any authority already given to them will be taken away from them and given to someone with more zeal for the job.

It's that simple. God prunes the vine from time to time. Unfruitful branches are lopped off. But branches that produce fruit are given special care so that *more* fruit can be produced for the kingdom of

God. Get it? You must be a fruit-bearing vine for God, or you'll lose what little status and position you might already have in His eternal family household.

If you've been given insight, knowledge and understanding of God's Word, you're expected to bear fruit with the investment He's so graciously bestowed upon you. If you bear fruit for Him during this flesh earth age, you'll be given even greater trust, responsibility and authority – both now, as well as during the Millennium teaching period, and ultimately in the eternal kingdom to come.

But if you fail to bear fruit for Him now – after He's made such a profound investment in you through the shed blood of His only begotten Son -- He'll have little choice but to take the investment and trust He's placed in you, and give it to someone else, instead.

Luk 19:27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Now we get down to the nitty gritty. Christ's enemies are those who do *not* want Him reigning over them. In other words, it's those who reject Him as the Messiah of God, and despise His very name and authority. As I've pointed out previously, hatred and rejection of Christ are the central tenets of one major religion, and *only* one major religion on this earth: *Judaism*. Yet, Christians have been taught the most predominant Christ-hating religion on earth is composed of "God's chosen people," and that we must support them or be cursed by God. It is only the spirit of the antichrist himself, working deceptively within the churches, that could cause such convoluted thinking among otherwise intelligent Christians.

As you can see from Luke 19:27 above, Christ taught that the judicial sentence upon those who reject His rulership is *death* (short of repentance, of course). And why? Because in rejecting Christ they work against His will, which is to say, they actively work against His great plan to save His wayward children through Christ's shed blood. It's exactly as Christ Himself stated to the Jewish religious leaders in Matthew 23:13-15:

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.... 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."

This is who Christ pronounces the death sentence upon, i.e., those actively working to stop God's children from coming to Him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. As He further stated of them in Matthew 23:27-28, *"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."*

That's where so many Christians get thrown off course. They see the Christ-hating Jews as righteous men. After all, they've been told by their preachers for decades that these are "God's chosen people." But we've seen that God's chosen people are those who *love Christ*. Period. Those who love and embrace Jesus Christ are considered by God to be Abraham's children, and are thus counted as "God's

chosen.” Those who refuse Christ are *not* Abraham’s children. And thus they *cannot* be counted as God’s chosen. As Christ would later say to them in John 8:39-47:

“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....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...And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convicteth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.”

Christ told the Jewish religious leaders that the fact they couldn’t hear His message with understanding proved they were “not of God.” After all, the words Christ spoke during His ministry on this earth came directly from God. And if God were truly operating in those calling themselves His “chosen people,” they would have understood that Christ was the long-awaited Messiah. But they didn’t. Instead, they rejected Him with great hatred and vehemence, and continue to do so unto this very day.

Christ would later go on to say of them, in Matthew 23:33-36, *“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.”*

You saw in Luke 19:27 above that God will ultimately place the *death sentence* upon those who refuse Christ’s authority over them. In the verse above from Matthew 23, we see that same death sentence being pronounced upon them. And again in Matthew 13:41-43, where Christ states, *“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*

But today, all too many Christians have been deceived into spiritually yoking themselves to God’s enemies, so that by the time Christ returns, they won’t be fit to enter into the eternal family household of God. That’s a major facet of Satan’s plan, i.e., to spiritually corrupt God’s children by getting them to yoke themselves together with those who hate Christ the most.

This is one reason *why* Christ warned that not every Christian will enter into the kingdom of heaven at His Second Advent. After all, all too many of them have been unwittingly wallowing at the feet of Christ’s enemies, erroneously thinking them to be “God’s chosen.”

In other words, they’ve fallen for the deceptive church tradition that they’ll be cursed by God if they don’t “support the Jews,” when in reality, it’s their fervent (albeit mistaken) embrace and support of the Christ-hating Jews that *estranges them from God* and brings them under the same death curse the Christ-haters are under. As it’s written:

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Not everyone who professes Jesus as their Lord will be able to enter the eternal kingdom of heaven at His Second Advent. Only those who “doeth the will” of Christ’s Father, God Himself, will be able to enter. And what is God’s will? God’s will is to save His wayward children from the devil who wants to drag God’s children down to hell with him through sin and corruption.

Satan uses false doctrine – empty church traditions such as “If you don’t support the Jews God will curse you” – to lead unsuspecting Christians into fervently embracing Christ’s enemies as “God’s chosen,” when in reality, their emphatic denial of Christ demonstrates they *don’t have God at all*.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

They thought they were true believers, beloved. They called Christ “Lord, Lord,” twice for emphasis. But what they *actually* believed were deceptive preachers who preached empty church traditions in place of God’s Word, and who as a result led them to respect, love and embrace the most vehement enemies of Christ.

They thought their religious works were going to be credited to them by Christ. But their embrace of the enemies of Christ betrayed them as unworthy of such credit. They were *not* overcomers. The spirit they had unwittingly embraced was the spirit of the antichrist. They *thought* it was the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit reveals the truth of God’s Word in Christ. The Holy Spirit does not lead Christians to yoke themselves spiritually to Christ’s *enemies*, the very people of God’s curse who killed His only begotten Son and continue to revel in it to this day.

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Again, why did Christ tell these professed Christians that He “never knew” them? It’s because their religious works were not borne of the Spirit of Christ, but of the spirit of the antichrist, instead. This will leave Christ no choice but to reject them as *unfit for the kingdom*.

Thankfully, misguided Christians like these will have the millennium teaching period through which to finally get it right. And it will be those who work to preserve God’s Word exactly as it’s written who will get to help teach them. As it is written regarding God’s faithful elect in chapter 44 of the great book of Ezekiel, “*And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean*” (Eze 44:23).

Yes, we’ll teach wayward Christians what God’s Word actually says, versus what empty church tradition says. And we’ll cause them to distinguish between the “unclean” (i.e., those who reject Christ as a central tenet of their religious belief) and the “clean” (i.e., those who embrace Christ as a central tenet of their religious belief).

Years of Bible Training?

I had one good Christian lady tell me some weeks back, “*Steve, every Christian preacher agrees that America is under God’s curse because we’re not supporting the Jews. And unlike you, these preachers have all had years and years of Bible training.*”

But please listen: It doesn't take "years and years" of Bible training to become a preacher in most Christian denominations. In fact, most churches require about 90 hours of Bible study. Yep, that's right. 90 hours. That's an hour a day for 90 days, which hardly equates to "years and years of Bible training."

Indeed, most Christians preachers today are so profoundly Biblically illiterate that they must prepare their Sunday sermons from church quarterlies or "lectionaries." Others use so-called "pulpit helps" or the ever-popular online "sermon" services that cater to "busy preachers." Once again, that hardly counts for "years and years" of Bible training.

So if "every Christian preacher agrees America is under God's curse because we're not supporting the Jews," then *every Christian preacher is dead wrong*. And their supposed years of "Bible training" were a complete and utter waste of their time, if that's all they got out of it, because it's simply *not* what the Bible says. Not even close.

I hope you've seen that, through your Father's Word as brought forth in this study. If America is under God's curse, it's because America is *turning away from its Christian roots*, toward atheism, socialism, acceptance of homosexuality (even right in the churches), and acceptance of "interfaith" religion, which is to say, bastardized forms of religion that seek to meld various religious beliefs and traditions together in hopes of attracting broader audiences.

It's *not* due to lack of support of "Israel," a country our taxpayers cough up well over \$3 billion a year to support, and basically pays for all of their military hardware, as well, which is billions of dollars more. And it's not due to lack of support of "the Jews." Indeed, quite the opposite. We could hardly be "cursed by God" for failing to support the Jews, when by His own words we're to "come out from among them, and be ye separate" (II Corinthians 6:14-18) if they're living in rejection of the Gospel message.

You see, just because Biblically illiterate preachers repeat what they've heard from other preachers over and over and over again, *ad nauseum*, certainly doesn't make it "true." Repetition does not automatically equate to veracity. Repeating a lie with solemn sincerity from a pulpit does not negate the fact it's a lie.

In 1926, the well-known writer and philosopher Aldous Huxley famously pointedly wrote, "*Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.*" I would not hesitate to add that Bible *truth*, as well, does not cease to exist simply because it's ignored by Christian preachers.

Offended?

Now, many Christians might be offended by the above information. But I guarantee you it's the truth, because it's right there in your Father's Word. And as a Christian, the truth is what you're *supposed* to be clinging to and helping others understand in this age of rampant deception and growing apostasy.

As Christ warned in Matthew 24:5-11, "*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*"

You see, it's from *within our own Christian community* that the deception of the end days is being brought forth – most often, right from the pulpits. So be very careful who you listen to, and what you accept as sound doctrine, beloved. Before you embrace a doctrine, *always* be sure to check it out in the Word of God, rightly dividing the Word in the process as we've done throughout this study.

Practicing supermarket Christianity like the super-preachers do, where they walk down the aisle of God's Word and select only those verses that fit their personal agenda, or the traditions of their religious denomination, can only get you in trouble. You have to take the *entire* Word of God into consideration, not just a verse here, and a verse there.

As St. Paul warned in I Corinthians 10:12, "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

In other words, it's *your* personal duty and Christian responsibility to compare what you hear from the pulpit with what God's Word actually says, and make sure it conforms thereto. And if it doesn't conform to God's Word, then you're to reject it, and "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

When the judgment of God comes, there will be no one standing between you and God, which is to say, no one to blame for the fact that in all of your time on this earth as a Christian you just sat there in that pew every Sunday and allowed a false preacher to spoon feed you empty church traditions without thoroughly checking him out in the Word of God to see which spirit he was operating under.

One Final Important Piece of the Puzzle...

At this point, the obvious question from any decent Bible student would be, "If all of this is true, then why do the 'Jews' continue to so vehemently reject Christ after all of these centuries; why don't they simply recognize Him as the Messiah of God, and enter into salvation?"

That's a great question. After all, Christ came to them *first* with outstretched arms. He taught in their synagogues daily. Salvation was theirs for the asking. And while many "Jews" became His followers during that three short years of His ministry, in the end He endured the shame of the cross *alone*, with the shrill cries of judgment from the "Jews" still echoing in His ears -- "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Then, fifty days afterwards, at the Pentecost, three thousand Jews converted to Christ after hearing the astonishing message of repentance and salvation preached by St. Peter and the other apostles. And many more Jews followed. As it is written in Acts 2:47, "*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*"

From that point, the hearts of the Jewish religious leaders and those who followed their teachings in the synagogues were hardened even more so against Christ and Christianity. The more popular Christianity became, the more the Jewish religious leaders and their followers despised Christ and His faithful followers, and sought to disrupt their progress in bringing the Gospel message to both Israel and to the Gentiles which is to say, to the non-Israel nations.

Earlier in this study, we looked briefly at what St. Paul wrote about the intense opposition from the Jews that he and other Christian leaders had endured. But it bears a second look, for purposes of documentation:

1Th 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

1Th 2:15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

1Th 2:16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

So the Jews not only rejected Christ, but afterwards they also worked to hinder the ability of the apostles to carry the saving message of the Gospel to the Gentiles, that they too might be saved. In other words, the “Jews” – claiming to be children of Abraham -- worked *against* God’s precious promises to Abraham which, as we’ve seen in this study, embody and indeed constitute the Gospel message.

So why would the supposed “children of Abraham” work so diligently *against* God’s promises to Abraham? What if I told you they’re not Jews at all, but instead, *counterfeits*? And what if I told you that Christ knew this, and *taught* it, and so did the apostles?

You see, *real* Jews – which is to say, true descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, known as God’s People Israel – largely began converting to Christianity after the first Pentecost when the Holy Spirit of God began working through the apostles. As it is written in Acts chapter two regarding that Pentecost day and its aftermath, “*And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*”

So while there was vehement opposition to the bringing forth of the Gospel message from the Jewish religious leaders and their followers, there were also thousands upon thousands of Jews hearing the Gospel message and embracing it. So there were, in fact, *two* bloodline camps among the Jews. One, being true Israelites. And the other, being *counterfeits* with an agenda of their own and a “God” of their own who is not our heavenly Father. Christ revealed this little-understood secret when He disputed with the Jewish religious leaders in John 8:38-42. Let’s take a quick peak:

Joh 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Here, Christ explains there are *two* fathers – God Almighty, who is the Father of Jesus Christ, and another individual who was the father of these “Jews.” Who could that *other* father be?

Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

These “Jews” were indeed of Abraham’s seed, for they had intermingled with the people of Israel for centuries and had risen to positions of religious authority over them. But...their *character* was completely different from that of Abraham’s descendants. And it showed in their *works*. Abraham’s

descendants – people like Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Paul, etc. – both *heard* and *supported* God’s great plan to save His children through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But these “Jews” adamantly refused to hear it, and instead worked diligently and with great hostility against it.

Christ would later *repeatedly* refer to these false Jews as “hypocrites” (Matthew 23:13-29), a word which, in the original Greek language, means “actors under an assumed character” (i.e., Strong’s G-5273). In other words, these so-called “Jewish” religious leaders were playing the *role* of Jews. But in reality they had a completely different agenda than God’s – a *self-serving* agenda designed to *derail* rather than support God’s great plan to save His children. As Christ further stated to them:

Joh 8:40 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.

Why would supposed “children of Abraham” want to kill the very Messiah of God that Abraham had prophetically looked forward to with joy some 1,800 years earlier (Genesis 22:8; John 8:56)? Why would these “Jews” want to destroy a man who had worked such great miracles among them, healing the sick, restoring eyesight to the blind, curing the lame, and even raising the dead? Why would they hold so much hatred for a Man who had told them the truth straight from God? Why would they want to murder Him? If they were *true* descendants of Abraham, they *wouldn’t*.

Joh 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Here, once more, Christ tells them they have a different father than His own. But they instantaneously reply with the claim that *God* is their father. How would Jesus reply to that assertion?

Joh 8:42 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.

They had no love whatsoever for the Messiah of God, the promised “seed” of Abraham. In fact, their hatred of Him was so great, they would later cry “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” at Pilate’s hearing.

Here, Jesus tells them that their own *actions* betray the fact they’re not of God. Their profound lack of love for the only begotten Son of God proved the fact they were not of God, and most certainly were not of “God’s chosen people.” Again, they were *counterfeits* and infiltrators, playing the role of “Jews” for a very specific purpose. As St. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, would later state, “*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Jude 1:4).

And as Christ Himself would later reveal to St. John as He dictated the book of Revelation to him, “*I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan*” (Revelation 2:9). And again in Revelation 3:9, “*Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*”

The job of these counterfeit Jews was to *derail* the plan of God rather than to support it. And thus, erroneously thinking that Christ was getting ready to rise up and claim the kingdom for Himself, they

sought to kill Him, not realizing it would be His shed blood that would pay the price for the sins of many, and ultimately would *complete* God's great plan to save His children. So it was their own uncontrollable blood lust against Christ Jesus that ultimately would result in God's great plan of salvation being ushered in. Ironic, isn't it?

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

They didn't understand Christ's speech because God's Word was not in them. Period. They were on a different wavelength, so to speak. Christ had spoken daily to them in the temple, with great authority. But they simply did not have the ears to hear His Word *with understanding*. And why? Because they were tuned in to a different message. Or perhaps better stated, a different *messenger*. Who could that messenger be?

Joh 8:44 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.

They were tuned in to the wavelength of their own father, that great adversary of God, which is to say, the serpent himself, who is the devil (i.e., Revelation 12:9; 20:2).

Indeed, the very *first* prophesy in the Bible was actually about these deceivers who come from a father other than God. And that prophesy was spoken from the mouth of God Himself, directly after the serpent had seduced mother Eve. As it is written, "*And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*" (Genesis 3:14-15).

Yes, that old seducing serpent has "seed" -- which is to say, *offspring* -- on this earth. And the serpent's seed is *always* at enmity (i.e., chronic warfare) with the woman's seed, which is to say, with the holy bloodline that would bring forth Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and ultimately Christ Jesus the Savior -- the true "seed" of Abraham through whom we *as Christians* inherit the promises of God to Abraham.

God even explained that while the serpent's "seed" (i.e., the devil's descendants) would bruise Christ's heel (which is to say, on that cross at Calvary), the *woman's* seed -- being Christ Jesus -- would ultimately crush the serpent's head. This final defeat of Satan and his seed line will indeed happen after Christ's Second Advent at the time of the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20:10-15.

In short, the counterfeit Jews who ran the synagogues didn't convert upon hearing the Gospel message, because they're the *born enemies* of Christ, and in fact, of God and His great plan to save His children.

Joh 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

These false "Jews" were tuned in to *their* father's deceptive message. Thus, the truth was *offensive* to them. And they rejected it out-of-hand. Had they embraced Christ Jesus and His message of salvation, they too would have been saved. But they refused it. Thus, the Gospel message of salvation for all people and races and nations who will follow Christ Jesus was anathema to them. And because of that, they became anathema to God Himself.

Joh 8:46 Which of you convicteth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

These false Jews couldn't find any sin to convict Christ of. Not one. Yet though He spoke the truth without fear or favor to anyone, they wouldn't believe a word He said. They instead disdained and rejected His message, clinging to their claims of righteousness through their imperfect obedience to the law rather than through faith in God's only begotten Son.

Joh 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

And that's the bottom line, beloved. You either believe Christ, or you don't. Those who are of God, *hear God's words with understanding*. And those who are *not* of God, refuse to hear God's Word.

To this very day these counterfeit Jews call themselves "God's chosen." But God's true "chosen" is Christ Jesus. And all who are *in* Christ are part of that chosen body which carry forth the Gospel message to the world (I Peter 2:3-10).

Now can you better understand why the Scriptures place these counterfeit Jews – these rejecters of God's great plan to save His children through the shed blood of Jesus Christ – as the ones being under God's curse? And can you see why any person who has placed their faith in Christ – regardless of race -- are *free of the curse of the law* and are inheritors of God's promises to Abraham, *if* they indeed separate themselves from the rejecters of Christ and refuse to become spiritually entangled with them?

If you're new to this subject matter, and if it's something you'd like more detailed Biblical documentation for, I'd suggest obtaining a copy of the study, "A Strange Thing: Mystery in the Garden," which is available at www.HaveYeNotRead.com

You can sign up to receive Steve's periodic "News & Current Events from a Bible Perspective" email commentaries, and gain instant access to Steve's other in-depth Bible studies, at www.HaveYeNotRead.com

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