



How Should I Witness to a Jewish Person?

By Kurt von Schleicher

First make sure that your Jewish friend is not already born again in Christ—many are. Show genuine love and understanding to all Jews. Jews need true friends just like you do. There are still many anti-Semitic people out there; especially some Moslems who want abolish them so friendship will go a long ways.

We need to recognize that one of the reasons why we live in such a blessed nation is because America has pretty much stood with Israel against evil and aggression for many years to protect the Jews. May it always remain this way! If we learn the facts, we will have good reason to show compassion and to understand these precious people, even though there seems to be an increasing number of leaders and media outlets that are not at all empathetic towards Israel. We hear a lot of misinformation in the liberal media, so know the facts of history and sensitive in how you discuss it.

Demonstrate to your Jewish friend that you really care about them. Affirm the fact that you appreciate their Jewishness and never want to try to change that. Many think you want them to quit being Jewish and “join another organized religion” but you want them to join up with a Person. Yes, allow your friendship and the Word to serve as a foundation for everything you discuss with them. Be straight forward with them. They need to know that you are a follower of Yeshua (a.k.a. Jesus Christ, God the Son). Never come off as deceptive or coercive to anyone. Be yourself. Ask good questions. Learners can plant seeds. There is no need for you to know everything or act like that. Show interest in their non-sinful interests—they will have several. Most people like to share their opinions, so ask about theirs. This can be a good way to steer the conversation towards spiritual matters. Asking about the nation of Israel, Judaism, an upcoming religious holiday or even their views of the Scriptures from the Old Testament are all good. Ask if they would like to hear how you became a Christian. The reality of God in your everyday life can be a powerful witness. Many Jewish people think that you were born a Christian in the same way that they were born Jewish, but no one is born the first time into God’s family and they need to know this. Hearing how God has answered some of your prayers can provoke your Jewish friend to jealousy (see Rom. 11:11). Never be afraid to respond to their questions with a verse from the Bible and a contextual explanation about it. Encourage them to read the New Testament to be well-rounded. Most Jews people have never even read the New Testament, but most Jews who have been born again, got saved after reading the New Testament. Don’t rely upon your self, keep praying in faith persistently. If

you get a negative reaction, don't give up. You are friends. Looking and listen for opportunities to serve. Seek to introduce your friend to another victorious Jewish believer. God might lead you to give some books or other literature. The evidence is overwhelming, so expect them to turn. At the right time, ask them to make the decision to repent and trust Christ. Help them understand how to do this.

I want to challenge you to be proactive in kind-hearted, long-term friendship-evangelism with Moslems, Catholics, Mormons, Lutherans, Jews and other lost Protestants etc. They all understand loyal companionship. I would also encourage you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the Jewish people you are acquainted with, that they will soon come to enjoy the peace that passes all understanding in the Prince of peace. They, like anyone can enjoy such peace in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I would exhort you to have good ethics, courtesy and courage to discuss key Bible verses with your Jewish friend if they are open to this. Use you ears to listen, your mind to learn and your feet to serve them ...just like you would in witnessing to any religious unregenerate person.

If you don't know what to discuss, here are some detailed prophecies about the identity of Yeshua the Messiah that might help you. Remember this needs to be a dialogue and that in proving to a Jew that Jesus Christ is their Messiah, an effective approach is to start with broad prophecies and then narrow the field down to include increasingly specific and detailed prophecies. You might use circles to graphically illustrate your points as you share these prophecies. Stuart Dauermann has given us seven detailed "circles of certainty" that include:

- 1. Messiah's humanity (Genesis 3:15).*
- 2. Messiah's Jewishness (Genesis 12:1-3; 28:10-15).*
- 3. Messiah's tribe (Genesis 49:10).*
- 4. Messiah's family (2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 23:5-6).*
- 5. Messiah's birthplace (Micah 5:2).*
- 6. Messiah's life, reception, and death (Isaiah 52:13; 53).*
- 7. Chronology of Messiah's appearing (Daniel 9:24-26).*

Scriptural Evidence of Yeshua's Crucifixion

Did God give any scriptural verification that His Anointed One (Jesus Christ—His only sinless Son; see Ps. 2) might be murdered?

Jesus Christ, Himself talked about the bronze snake which Moses had lifted up and nailed to a pole in the wilderness (see Num. 21:5-9). And whenever an Israelite experienced "that curse" so to speak, of being bitten by a poisonous serpent in the wilderness, he or she could merely look upon that bronze snake and then live. Yeshua said this historical event was a

foreshadowing or type of His own crucifixion to come (when He was nailed to the wood and lifted up). Yeshua took the curse of sin and the judgment for sins (without ever having sinned Himself) upon Himself. Yeshua came *"in the likeness of sinful flesh"* (Rom. 8:3) and became a sin offering for you and for me (Isa. 53). The contrast to the story in Numbers is that those who look to Yeshua would be granted eternal life rather than eternal separation from God.

Further evidence comes in the binding of Abraham's son Isaac. God called on Abraham to go sacrifice his only son, in whom he loved. And the New Covenant verses of the Bible use the exact same language to speak of the sacrifice of Yeshua. The Father God was sacrificing His one and only Son (Ps 2; Jn. 1:14), whom He really loved. And, just as Yeshua carried the wooden cross to Golgotha for his own execution, Isaac carried the wood that would be used for his own sacrifice in obedience to his father. Of course many other parallels are there in Scripture, between the two accounts. Most striking is that when Isaac asked about the animal for their offering, *"Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering"* (Genesis 22:8). And that is exactly what God did. God stopped Abraham from offering up his son Isaac as the sin offering and provided a perfect substitute sacrifice—Jesus, the lamb of God *"who takes away the sin of the world"* (Jn. 1:29).

Consider the sacrificial system under Moses. This is a lot just like the binding of Abraham's son Isaac is another way of showing that the Messiah would be offered for man's sin. The many animals, bulls and goats that were offered were a part of that sacrificial system showing us that salvation had to come by way of sacrificial blood. As we know, one could not enter the Lord's presence (in the Holy of Holies) without a blood covering at that time. But of Yeshua/Jesus it is written, *"For Messiah did not enter a holy place made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"* (Heb. 9:24-26).

Jesus Christ was and is the perfect Messiah for every Jew and for all of Israel. Look at the life stories of Joseph and Moses for they too are indications of what the Messiah's life would look like. They foretold us that Jesus the Messiah must be initially rejected by Israel and then go away for many years before He will redeem Israel. He must offer His life for the salvation of others. The Bible ask, *"Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His Son's name? Surely you know!"* (Prov. 30:4).

Who Exactly is a Jew?

A Jew is a gifted person, a person who God will keep His promises to. In fact the Bible calls the Jewish people the apple of God's eye.¹ The Jew is one who adheres to and believes in the faith of Judaism. I know that's basic. While most Jews are born a Jew, a person can opt to become a Jew religiously speaking—they can still convert to Judaism. Many Jews today even though they profess to be righteous before God, do not embrace the Scriptures as authoritatively coming from God as we might presume they would. Therefore, it is often challenging to witness to, or to reason with them about Yeshua being their Messiah. But what is impossible with man, is possible with God so never be discouraged in praying or in fishing for them.

There are a lot of *Messianic Jews* in America today. They are born again spiritually and are our brothers and sisters in God's family. In fact more Jews believe in Jesus today than at any time in all of history. And think about this: Most of them gained their initial interest in Christ by way of some bold, willing, and sensitive saint who was obedient to witness by life and by deed—yes, the spiritual impact arrived via an ordinary Christian like you and me. That should encourage you.

You will definitely want to do your fishing-homework, first on your knees and in reading to prepare yourself, but you certainly don't have to gain evangelistic expertise as some prerequisite to getting involved in this type of outreach venture. Simply go ask permission from a Jew and see if they wouldn't mind you briefly explaining to them what Christ did in your life. Tell about what happened—when and how it all played out as you came to faith in Christ! A consistent Christian lifestyle is in itself a great testimony to a Jew, but as with any people group it also helps to know something about the background of the people to whom you want to reach.

In some ways Jewish people are the same as anyone of us. They experience the same common hopes, struggles, problems, troubles, fears and joys as do all of humanity, sometimes with greater intensity too. One Jewish humorist said it like this: "***Jews are the same as everybody else—only more so!***" They have the same value to God and are birthed the same spiritually—they're sinners in need of a Savior. Just like you and me, if they were born right the first time, they wouldn't need to be born again. But we all do need to be born again!

In some ways, Jewish people are way different than other people! Many of them choose to live in harmony with their old, distinctive cultural traditions that started back in Israel or in Egypt. They have certain religious beliefs, practices, opinions and figures of speech as well. Most Jewish people do not believe in Jesus. Many practicing Jews put more credence in what their Jewish commentators say about Old Testament Scriptures than in taking what God said at face value. Three major influences have helped them come to this. **1.) Influence of the Lord:** The Jews were called by God to be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6), his witnesses to the nations (Isaiah 43:10), a light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 49:6) and a missionary blessing of sorts to the whole world (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). God loves the Jews and He is so involved with their history that the very idea of deity is very hard to erase from their consciousness, even though many Jewish people claim to be agnostic or atheistic. **2.) Influence of Judaism:** For most of the time since the wrecking of their Jewish temple and the time of the diaspora,² as the Jews were literally scattered geographically in AD 70, the traditions of Judaism that the rabbis passed along were the means of keeping Jewish people distinct from the other people groups and nations that they lived among. Because they have been the possessors of the Torah of God who are careful to apply what is said, many Jews have been known for moral uprightness and a concern for the needs of others. **3.) Influence of Persecution:** The devil, a real unseen entity, just hates the Jews. And since the time of the Egyptian Pharaoh, fierce persecution has sadly been a part of Jewish history. And because of this, Jews have a strong sense of solidarity. Many are rightfully sensitive to criticism and unfairness shown to any people group because of this. The fact that so called Christians at times (many of whom were merely mean religious people) have both inspired and sadly co-operated in Jewish persecution through the years (with the Crusades, the Inquisition, expulsions, pogroms and during wars like the one led by Hitler who was a type of the anti-Christ to come). All this has unfortunately reinforced a conviction in some Jews that Jesus is not for the Jews. But in reality, all that religious killing

and harsh treatment really broke the Lords heart. He too as a Jew was hated and killed so He can fully understand.

Jews have been hounded, mocked, persecuted, killed, and dispersed by harmful men throughout the entire globe. They've had no home and no land to call their own... that is until May 14, 1948, when "*Eretz Yisrael*" was formed. That's when the Nation of Israel was restarted again! What a miracle. When over 6 million Jews were destroyed under Hitler's "Final Solution" (or what we know today as the Holocaust which had backing from the so called Christian Papacy ...and remember that Hitler and most of his evil buddies were Catholics too), it became obvious to real Christians that a demonic force was indeed at work. Satan's goal was, and still is, to annihilate the Jewish Nation, but we must be loyal to our Jewish friends.

Before the first advent of Jesus the Messiah, Satan's made an attempt to totally destroy the "Line of David", and thus prevent the actual arrival of this Person, Yeshua. In fact, he has attempted to do away with the Jews to accomplish this in many different ways over the centuries. That's one reason why Jews, Israel and Jerusalem are to be earnestly prayed for, and blessed in practical ways. We simply owe it to them. We have the Jews and God to thank for our Scriptures. Jesus is a Jew.

The unfortunate belief, even today, that the Jew has been "forgotten" by God, due to their not accepting His Messiah, is totally false. Sure the Church of Yeshua has temporarily become the "voice" of God to the people and nations, but the Jew most definitely has not at all been ditched by God. Not one promise that God has made to the Jews will fall by the wayside unfulfilled. God has a plan and purpose for the Jew, for all of Israel, and for ever real Christians!

There are basically three "types" of Judaism: 1.) **Orthodox** (The Orthodox Jew is the most "religious." They believe the entire Old Testament–The "Tanakh"). 2.) **Conservative**, and 3.) **Reform Judaism**. You need to know that Jews have two "Bibles" in a way, the **Tanakh** and the "**Talmud**", (which is a collection of Jewish teachings regarding ceremonial laws, etc, written from about the third century through the seventh century). To some, the Talmud is more important than the Tanakh. (The word "Tanakh" is an acronym, taken from the three "sections" of the Old Testament, 1.) The "Torah" or what we call the Pentateuch or first five books of Moses; 2.) The "Nevi'im", or the "prophets", and 3.) The "Ketuvim" or the "writings", i.e., Psalms, Proverbs, etc).

Ultra-Orthodox Jews, or "fundamentalist" Jews, don't even recognize the State of Israel which is stupid. They do not want the temple to be rebuilt because they believe that only the Messiah can build their temple. Many Jews believe that Christians worship "three Gods," (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) which is wrong. Some also have a problem with the Virgin Birth. Some have a problem with a God who can become man, and die.

Conservative Jews: This branch of Judaism believe in the practice of traditional rituals. They observe holy days, but not as strictly as the Orthodox. Most believe in the Old Testament, and also look for the "first" coming of Messiah. Conservative Judaism is a compromise between Orthodoxy and Reform, which are very liberal in their thinking and beliefs.

Reform Jews are committed to a "social" type of religion. They do not care about salvation or look for such. Basically they have no hope beyond the grave. Most Reform rabbis teach that the Old Testament is simply a "*great piece of literature*", but has no real meaning for a belief system or for everyday life.

There are many off-shoots of Judaism too.³ It's sad that present-day Judaism is nothing more than another dead religion, with a form of godliness but it's lacking the power of God. Yes, Judaism can save no one. The rabbis and the traditions are utterly incapable bringing forgiveness of sin or of satisfying the inner Jewish conscience. Only Christ, the true Messiah of Israel, can meet all the needs of Jewish people or others for that matter.

Jews have 613 laws to keep that were created by zealous Jewish rabbis from the ten laws that we know as the Ten Commandments. Man, that is a whole lot. Who can do all that? And with so many laws and rituals, it is no wonder the Jew is very difficult to win over to Messiah. This can only be done with a great deal of prayer, and an understanding as to how the Hebrew mind works. This is why it is good to ask an open Jew if he has kept the Law of Moses—that basically "shuts" us all up under God's Law (see Galatians 3:23). God's law strips the Jew and the Gentile of all their self-righteousness. The Law will show the Jew and the Gentile their need of a Savior—yes, it become a "schoolmaster" of sorts to bring them to Jesus (see Galatians 3:24).

Without the law, Jews would not have know that they had sinned (Romans 7:7), and therefore they would never see their need of a forgiving, merciful Savior.

Myths and Facts That Keep Christians from Witnessing to Their Jewish friends:

Myth: All Jewish people know the Old Testament Scriptures well.

Fact: *Most Jews have a strong cultural identity with a very limited knowledge of the Scriptures.*

Myth: I can just invite my Jewish friend to any so called church meeting.

Fact: *Many Jewish people might be hesitant to attend a church where images of saints appear on the walls. There is no substitute for you personally sharing your faith, and a dinner/Bible study on more neutral ground like in a home might be a better option.*

Myth: I may not be able to answer their questions.

Fact: *You probably won't be able to, that's true. But it does not change the truth of the Gospel. Tell your friend you are happy to do some research and learn. This gives you an opportunity to have further humble witnessing opportunities too.*

Myth: I need to wait to feel the Holy Spirit's leading and anointing to start. Besides, I don't want to lose my valued friendship.

Fact: *God has already told us to go and be His witnesses and that would indeed include opening your mouth to tell the bad news and the Good News (see Matt. 28:19-20). If you are warm-hearted and forthright you will gain your friends respect for genuinely caring.*

Myth: The best way is for me is to let my life be a testimony and simply wait until they probe for information about Jesus in my life. God will tell them I'm a real Christian.

Fact: *That would likely be a long or unending wait. Most Jews people feel that "religion" is a very private matter and they could be very uncomfortable in asking you why you smile a lot. A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will impact the Jews. So go and tell (see Mk. 5:19)!*

Check out more Bible prophecies dealing with Yeshua the Messiah of Israel

They are very convincing. There are actually over 300 prophecies relating to Christ in the Old Testament, some of which have not yet come to pass, (Some Bible scholars say there are a total of 333). Man, think about it. Mathematically, the odds of even nine of these prophecies being fulfilled or happening to one man by coincidence is astronomical, let alone all 300.

Here Are Some Important Messianic Passages

<i>The Topic</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
Messiah to be the seed of the Woman	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
Messiah to be the seed of Abraham	Genesis 12:3; 18:18	Luke 3:23,34 Matthew 1:1-2 Acts 3:25 Galatians 3:16
Messiah to be of the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33 Matthew 1:1-2
Messiah to be of the seed of Jacob	Numbers 24:17, 19	Matthew 1:1-2 Luke 3:34
Messiah to be of the seed of David	Psalms 132:11 Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15 Isaiah 11:10	Matthew 1:6 Luke 1:32-33 Acts 2:29-30 Romans 1:3
Messiah to be a prophet like Moses	Deut. 18:15, 19	Matthew 21:11 John 6:14 John 1:45 Acts 3:22-23
Messiah to be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7 Proverbs 30:4	Luke 1:32 Matthew 3:17
Messiah to be raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 13:35-37
Messiah to experience crucifixion	Psalms 22 Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34-50 John 19:28-30
Messiah to be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, 21
Messiah to ascend to heaven	Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:51 Acts 1:9
Homage and tribute paid to Messiah by great kings	Psalms 72:10-11	Matthew 2:1-11
Messiah to be a priest like Melchizedek	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6
Messiah to be at the right hand of God	Psalms 110:1	Matthew 26:64 Hebrews 1:3
Messiah, the stone which the builders rejected, to become the head cornerstone	Psalms 118:22-23 Isaiah 8:14-15 Isaiah 28:16	Matthew 21:42-43 Acts 4:11 Romans 9:32-33 Ephesians 2:20 1 Peter 2:6-8

Messiah to be born of a virgin Isaiah	7:14	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-35
Galilee to be the first area of Messiah's ministry	Isaiah 9:1-8	Matthew 4:12-16
Messiah will be meek and mild	Isaiah 42:2-3 Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 12:18-20 Matthew 26:62-63
Messiah will minister to the Gentiles	Isaiah 42:1 Isaiah 49:1-8	Matthew 12:21
Messiah will be smitten	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67 Matthew 27:26, 30
Messiah to suffer, die and rise again	Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	The four gospels
The new and everlasting Covenant	Isaiah 55:3-4 Jeremiah 31:31- 33	Matthew 26:28 Mark 14:24 Luke 22:20 Hebrews 8:6-13
Messiah as the right arm of God	Isaiah 59:16 Isaiah 53:1	John 12:38
Messiah as intercessor	Isaiah 59:16	Hebrews 9:15
Twofold mission of the Messiah	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 4:16-21
Messiah will perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	John 11:47 Matthew 11:3-6
Messiah is called "The Lord"	Jeremiah 23:5-6	Acts 2:36
The time of Messiah's coming prophesied	Daniel 9:24-26	Galatians 4:4 Ephesians 1:10
Bethlehem to be the place of Messiah's birth	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4-6
Messiah will enter the Temple with authority	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 21:12
Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-10
Messiah will be pierced	Zechariah 12:10 Psalm 22:16	John 19:34, 37
Messiah to be forsaken by his disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31, 56
The coming of the Holy Spirit in the days of the Messiah	Joel 2:28-29	Acts 2:16-18
Opposition of the nations; Messiah's final victory over death	Psalm 2:2 Isaiah 25:8	Revelation 19:19 1 Corinthians 15:54 Revelation 7:17; 21:4
The glorious Messiah; Messiah as King	Isaiah 63:1 Psalm 2:6-9	Revelation 19:11-16 Revelation 19:15-16
Submission of all nations to Messiah's rule	Isaiah 2:4 Micah 4:1-4	Revelation 12:5

The Gentiles shall seek the Messiah of Israel	Isaiah 11:10	Romans 11:25
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Pray, asking God to remove the blinders from their eyes. Mere logic alone can't do that.

¹ See Zech. 2:8, Deut. 32:10, Ps. 17:8.

² The term Diaspora in Ancient Greek, (διασπορά) means: "a scattering or sowing of seeds."

³ You can learn more by simply contacting an organization that's been fruitful in winning Jews over to the Lord. I like Jews for Jesus (see www.jewsforjesus.org). Please know that no Jew or anyone can be saved by keeping the law. Everyone must repent and be born again in Jesus Christ. There are some so called Christian TV preachers and groups that say Jews can be saved without Christ and without being born again (see John 3 in the Bible), but this is false.