HAS THE "CHURCH" REPLACED ISRAEL?

For almost 2,000 years the Western" Church "at large, both the Catholic and Protestant, has maintained that due to the fact the Jews rejected Yeshua"Jesus" as their Messiah, YHWH poured out His wrath on them in 70 AD, destroying their nation and their temple, and that He has washed His hands of them, leaving them with no purpose whatsoever as a nation. In short, because of their rebellion against YHWH in their rejection of Yeshua, YHWH has replaced Israel with the "Church", transferring the blessings promised to Israel to the "Church".

This is False teaching is called "Replacement Theology," and those who believe in it constitute the majority of professing Gentile Christians today. Accordingly, they consider modern day Israel to be an accident of history, with no spiritual significance whatsoever.

What we will look at is How the "church" got separated from the Jewish root and those responsible and when.

The Greek Old Testament, known as the Septuagint (abbreviated Lxx) was widely read among Greek speaking Jews in the years leading up to Christ, and by Jewish and Gentile Christians for generations after the first century. Inspired writers reflect this fact in their frequent quotations from the Lxx in the New Testament.¹ The Holy Spirit utilized this familiarity in the word choices and the use of words which New Testament writers employed to reveal the gospel in the pages of Scripture. As a result, much can be learned about the meaning of words and phrases in the New Testament, by considering the background of their use as illustrated in the Lxx.

The word "church" as we know it never came about until the KJV. The Law of Moses The word *ekklesia*, *Recently* translated "church" in the New Testament, was used frequenty in the Lxx. I² The first instances come in the Law of Moses. The assembly at Horeb, when the Lord spoke directly to the Israelites was called "on the day of the *ekklesia*"

(Deuteronomy 4:10). On this occasion YHWH commanded Moses to "gather [the verb form of *ekklesia*] the people before Me" (Deuteronomy 4:10). It was on this occasion that YHWH made His covenant with Israel (Deuteromony 5:2) The Law will reference this important day by simply saying "on the day of the *ekklesia*" (Deuteronomy 9:10; 18:16). The sacred assembly of Israel for worship and official business was the "*ekklesia*" of the LORD." The Law of Moses outlined very strict regulations about who could and could not "enter the *ekklesia* of the LORD." One who was emasculated could not (Deuteronomy 23:1). One of illegitimate birth, and their offspring for ten generations could not (Deuteronomy 23:2). Ammonites, Moabites and their descendents for ten generations could not (Deuteronomy 23:3) and Edomites and their descendents for two generations could not (Deuteronomy 23:8). At the close of the book of Deuteronomy, the song of Moses was recited "in the hearing of all of the *ekklesia* of Israel" (Deuteronomy 31:30).

Th ekklesia was always among The people of YHWH and being fully revealed in the NT.

So going back to replacement theology...

They would deny that YHWH has any special plans for the Jewish people in the end times. Again, to them, the regathering of the Jews and the reestablishment of Israel are simply accidents of history, with no spiritual significance.

The roots of Replacement Theology and its fruit of anti-Semitism go back to the very beginning of what is called Christianity. This is ironic when you consider the fact that the Ekklesia began as a Jewish institution. It was founded in Judea by Jews who were followers of a Jewish Messiah, and all its founding documents were written by Jews and were called followers of THE WAY as the biblical faith written in scriptures.1



The beginning of the Ekklesia was Jewish and had a jewish flavor of early followers of The Way and did not to last long. As the Ekklesia began to spread beyond Judea, its message was embraced by more and more Gentiles who had no interest in maintaining contact with the Ekklesias Jewish roots. Even worse, the new Gentile leaders began to turn against the Jews by characterizing them as "Christ killers." And it was Ignatius first coined the term "Christianity" in his letters hence why you don't see that word or religion in your bibles and Constantine later

turned that term into a new western state religion in 313-325 AD. This was the separation from the followers of the way into the new religion, "christianity" severing itself from the Jewish roots. This is how the split happened.

The origin of Christianity seems obvious: since **Christ** (Χριστός; *Christós*) is the basis for the term, Christianity must have originated with **Christ** – the Greek version of the Hebrew title "Messiah" (αψια); *mashiach*), meaning "anointed one." However, Jesus never refers to Christianity, nor do his first followers use the word to describe their movement. In fact, "Christianity" never appears in the pages of the New Testament. Instead, only those outside the movement describe the first followers of Yeshua as "Christians." **The New Testament writers understood themselves as part of Jewish religious expression and history, rather than starting a new religion called Christianity.**

While "Christianity" does not feature in the New Testament, the title "Christian" (Χριστιανός; Christianós) appears three times. When it does, it is never a self-designation; rather, "Christian" is a name that comes from outside the Jesus assembly. For example, Acts notes in passing that "the disciples were called 'Christians' (Χριστιανούς) first in Antioch" (11:26). Luke does not say that the disciples called themselves Christians, but that they "were called Christians" by others. Similarly, the Herodian king Agrippa asks Paul, "Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?" (Acts 26:28). "Christian" was also used as a term of derision, but the New Testament urges Jesusfollowers not be discouraged if they're called by this name: "If anyone [suffers] as a 'Christian,' let them not be ashamed, but glorify God because of [this name]" (1 Pet 4:16). Although some believers in Yeshua were disparaged as "Christians," this verse turns the title into one of glorification. Still, 1 Peter encourages believers to make the best of a title they did not invent; the nascent Jesus movement located itself within the religion of Israel, not as a Christian innovation apart from Jewish worship or tradition.

The Romans also provide examples of "Christians" being used by those with unfavorable views of the group. The ancient historian Tacitus writes about "a class of people, **despised** for their vices, whom the crowd called '**Christians**' (*Christianos*). Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty during the reign of Tiberias, by the sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate, and the **pernicious superstition** was checked for a moment, only the break out once more, not merely in Judea, the home of the disease, but in the capital [of Rome] itself, where all the **horrible** and **shameful** things in the world gather" (*Annals* 15.44). Tacitus explicates that to which 1 Peter alludes; namely, that non-believers used "Christian" as a title of derision against a despised religious movement.

According to our extant literature, "Christianity" originates in the writing of Ignatius (c. 100 CE). Unlike the derisive uses of "Christian," Ignatius uses "Christianity" as a positive term in opposition to Judaism. The Gentile Ignatius asserts, "It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus and to live as the Jews. For **Christianity** (Χριστιανισμός; *Christianismós*) did not embrace Judaism, but Judaism [embraced] Christianity" (Epistle to the Magnesians 10). Ignatius argues that practitioners of Judaism (i.e., Jesus' earliest followers) "embraced" a new religion called "Christianity," thus Christians should not practice Judaism. The church father's view of history is imprecise; the New Testament does not suggest that Jesus' Jewish followers either abandoned Judaism or adopted an alternative religion called "Christianity." To the contrary, the divide between what, today, we call "Judaism" and "Christianity" only began to emerge in the generations after Jesus and his Jewish apostles.

What is the earliest or first use of the word "Christianity" who created that term?

Posted on <u>September 27, 2019</u> by <u>Roger Pearse</u>
When did the word "Christianity" actually come into use? The Greek is Χριστιανισμός.

A certain amount of searching online brought me to an Italian article,[1] from which I learned that the first person to use the word is none other than Ignatius of Antioch. There are 4 references, in Ignatius' letters to the Magnesians 10,1 and 3; Romans 3,3; and Philadelphians 6,1.

Let's see what he says! The Greek is from the TLG, the translation is Lake's Loeb, the links are to the ANF. Note that the ANF translation online for each chapter gives first the original ("short") text, and then the "long" text as interpolated in the 4th century by the Apollinarist heretics. We're quoting here the original.

Magnesians c. 10:

"Ατοπόν ἐστιν, Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν λαλεῖν καὶ ἰουδαϊζειν. Ὁ γὰρ Χριστιανισμὸς οὐκ εἰς Ἰουδαϊσμὸν ἐπίστευσεν, ἀλλ' Ἰουδαϊσμὸς εἰς Χριστιανισμόν, εἰς ὃν πᾶσα γλῶσσα πιστεύσασα εἰς θεὸν συνἡχθη.

3. It is monstrous to talk of Jesus Christ and to practise Judaism. For Christianity did not base its faith on Judaism, but Judaism on Christianity, and every tongue believing on God was brought together in it.

Romans c.3:

Ό γὰρ θεὸς ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριςτὸς ἐν πατρὶ ὢν μᾶλλον φαἰνεται. Οὐ πεισμονῆς τὸ ἔργον, ἀλλὰ μεγέθους ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστιανισμός, ὅταν μισῆται ὑπὸ κόσμου.

3. Nothing visible is good, for our God, Jesus Christ, being now in the Father, is the more plainly visible. Christianity is not the work of persuasiveness, but of greatness, when it is hated by the world.

Philadelphians 6: (Strangely the ANF renders "Christianity" as "Christian doctrine")

[Unable to locate the Greek!]

1. But if anyone interpret Judaism to you do not listen to him; for it is better to hear Christianity from the circumcised than Judaism from the uncircumcised. But both of them, unless they speak of Jesus Christ, are to me tombstones and sepulchres of the dead, on whom only the names of men are written.

The word Χριστιανισμ** appears in Ignatius, the Martyrdom of Polycarp, Clement of Alexandria, and Origen before the council of Nicaea, and then entirely in post-Nicene writers.

So what we can see is from the Start of "christianity" it separated itself from the biblical faith called the way

. (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22) in connection with early followers of Christ. It was to take prisoner men and women who "belonged to the Way" (Acts 9:2; 22:4) that Saul of Tarsus went to Damascus. After Saul was converted he became a missionary and went by the name of Paul in the Gentile lands.

During his trial before Felix, Paul said, "I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect" (Acts 24:14).

Now that we see the separation lets go back to Ignatius and the others and see what they have to say .

Now Consider the following examples:

- Ignatius of Antioch (ca 50-117 AD) Taught that those who partake of the Passover are partakers with those who killed Jesus.4
- Justin Martyr (100-106 AD) Claimed God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid and that the Gentiles had replaced the Jews.5
- Irenaeus (ca 130-202 AD) Declared the Jews were disinherited from the grace of God.6
- Tertullian (ca 155-230 AD) Blamed the Jews for the death of Jesus and argued they had been rejected by God.7
- Origen (185-254 AD) He was responsible for much anti-Semitism, all of which was based on his assertion that the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus.8

- The Council of Elvira (305 AD in Spain) Prohibited Christians from sharing a meal with a Jew, marrying a Jew, blessing a Jew or observing the Sabbath.9
- The Council of Nicea (325 AD in Turkey) Changed the celebration of the Resurrection from the Jewish Feast of First Fruits to Easter in an attempt to disassociate it from Jewish feasts. The Council stated: "For it is unbecoming beyond measure that on this holiest of festivals we should follow the customs of the Jews. Henceforth let us have nothing in common with this odious people..."10
- Eusebius (ca 275-339 AD) Taught that the promises of Scripture were meant for the Gentiles and the curses were meant for the Jews. Asserted that the Church was the "true Israel."
- John Chrysostom (349-407 AD) Preached a series of sermons against the Jews in which he stated, "The synagogue is not only a brothel and a theater, it is also a den of robbers and lodging place for wild beasts... Jews are inveterate murderers possessed by the Devil. Their debauchery and drunkenness gives the manners of a pig." He denied that Jews could ever receive forgiveness. He claimed it was a Christian duty to hate Jews. He claimed that Jews worshiped Satan. And this man was canonized a saint!12
- Jerome (ca 347-420 AD) Described the Jews as "...
 serpents wearing the image of Judas. Their psalms and
 prayers are the braying of donkeys... They are incapable
 of understanding Scripture..."13
- St. Augustine (354-430 AD) Asserted that the Jews deserved death but were destined to wander the earth to witness the victory of the Church over the synagogue."14

THE MIDDLE AGES

By the Middle Ages, two erroneous concepts had become established Church doctrine:

The Jews should be considered "Christ killers" and should be mistreated accordingly.

The Church has replaced Israel, and God has no future purpose for the Jews.

These concepts were reinforced throughout the Middle Ages through the Crusades, the Inquisition, passion plays, the black plague epidemic, and blood libels.

In 1095 Pope Urban II called for a crusade to rid the Holy Land of its Muslim rulers.

Although the prime goal of the crusade was to liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims, Jews were a second target. The accumulated hatreds and fears resulting from charges of deicide (the murder of God) exploded with this call to arms. The abbot of Cluny asked why Christians should travel to "the ends of the world to fight the Saracens, when we permit among us other infidels a thousand times more guilty toward Christ than the Mohammedans?" Religious passion, greed, and the vulnerability of Jews led to the rise of violent mobs who murdered thousands of Jews to the cry of "Conversion or death!" This behavior continued for eight additional crusades until the 9th in 1272.

Passion plays abounded during the Middle Ages, and they were used to cultivate hatred toward the Jewish people. Jews were depicted as demons who knew full well that Christ was the son of God. In each play, as Christ carried the cross, he was tortured by bloodthirsty, cursing devils with hooked noses, horns and tails. The Jews were made to seem as evil as Christ was divine.

THE IMPACT OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Unfortunately, the Protestant Reformation produced no changes in attitude. In fact, the hatred of the Jews was reinforced and intensified by the writings of Martin Luther, the very man who launched the Reformation. Initially, Luther was sympathetic toward the Jews because he believed their rejection of the Gospel was due to their recognition of the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. But when they continued to reject the Gospel, Luther turned on them with a vengeance. In 1543 he wrote a pamphlet entitled "Concerning The Jews and Their Lies." The document was an anti-Semitic diatribe. In it, he referred to the Jews as:

- "A miserable and accursed people"
- "Stupid fools"
- "Miserable, blind and senseless"
- "Thieves and robbers"
- "The great vermin of humanity"
- "Lazy rogues"
- "Blind and venomous"

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Having dehumanized and demonized them, Luther then proceeded to make some startling proposals for dealing with them:

- 1. Their synagogues and schools should be burned.
- 2. Their houses should be destroyed.
- 3. Their Talmudic writings should be confiscated.
- 4. Their Rabbis should be forbidden to teach.
- 5. Their money should be taken from them.
- 6. They should be compelled into forced labor.

Needless to say, the Nazis gleefully quoted Luther as they rose to power and launched the Holocaust. In his book Mein Kampf, published in 1925, Adolf Hitler referred to Martin Luther as "a great warrior, a true statesmen, and a great reformer." Keep in mind that Hitler was a professed Christian. In 1924 at a Christian gathering in Berlin, Hitler spoke to thousands and received a standing ovation when he made the following proclamation: "I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of Almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake — and that is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all."Hitler then proceeded to talk about the influence of Luther on his life: "Martin Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life. Luther was a great man. He was a giant. With one blow he heralded the coming of the new dawn and the new age. He saw clearly that the Jews need to be destroyed, and we're only beginning to see that we need to carry this work on." At the Nuremberg trials after World War II, the Nazi leader, Julius Streicher, defended himself by saying, "I have never said anything that Martin Luther did not say."

The terrible truth that Gentile Christians do not like to face, and which many are unaware of, is that the Holocaust was the product of 1,900 years of virulent Christian anti-Semitism.

THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM

The horror of the Holocaust tended to mute the most radical forms of anti-Semitism among Christian leaders. But in reality, anti-Semitism continues today in a new sophisticated form called anti-Zionism. Whereas anti-Semitism sought to drive out the Jews from the lands where they lived, anti-Zionism refuses to accept their right to live in their own land.

A good example of the new anti-Semitism can be found in a document issued by Dr. James Kennedy's Knox Theological Seminary in 2002. It took the form of an open letter to Evangelicals concerning the land of Israel. The document

begins by denouncing those who teach that the Bible's promises concerning the land of Israel are being fulfilled today "in a special region or 'Holy Land,' perpetually set apart by God for one ethnic group alone."

It then proceeds to proclaim that the promises made to Abraham "do not apply to any particular ethnic group, but to the church of Jesus Christ, the true Israel" (emphasis added). The document then specifically denies the Jew's claim on any land in the Middle East: "The entitlement of any one ethnic or religious group to territory in the Middle East called the 'Holy Land' cannot be supported by Scripture." Then, incredibly, the document asserts that "the land promises specific to Israel in the Old Testament were fulfilled under Joshua."

Adding salt to the wounds, the document concludes with the following observation:

The present secular state of Israel... is not an authentic or prophetic realization of the Messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, a day should not be anticipated in which Christ's kingdom will manifest Jewish distinctives, whether by its location in 'the land,' by its constituency, or by its ceremonial institutions and practices.

And so you have it — an overview of the sad and sordid history of Christian anti-Semitism that is rooted in Replacement Theology and which continues to this day under the guise of anti-Zionism.

THE JEWISH ATTITUDE

I hope now you can understand why it is so difficult to share the Gospel with Jews. Because Jews have been persecuted and killed throughout history in the name of Jesus, the Jewish people look upon Believers as their mortal enemy. Any Jew who

converts to become a Saint is considered a traitor, for he is viewed as one who has joined the enemy. That's the reason that Orthodox Jews react so strongly to a child who becomes a Saint of Yeshua. They will sometimes declare the child to be dead and will even conduct a funeral service. This is the reason that the Messianic Jewish Movement today is such a miracle.

THE RESPONSE OF SCRIPTURE

What does the Word of YHWH have to say about all this? To begin with, it strongly repudiates anti-Semitism. Psalm 129:5-8 says that "all who hate Zion" will be "put to shame..." It further states that no believer should ever give a blessing to such a person. With regard to the allegation that the Jews are "Christ killers," the Word clearly identifies who murdered Jesus and makes it plain that they were not exclusively the Jews. In Acts 4:27 we are told that Jesus was killed through a conspiracy that involved "both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel."

In reality, all of us have the blood of Jesus on our hands, for all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23), and Jesus died for all sinners (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Regarding the idea that YHWH has already fulfilled the land promises to the Jews during the time of Joshua, it is interesting to note that long after Joshua, David wrote in the psalms that the land promise is everlasting in nature and is yet to be fulfilled (Psalm 105:8-11).

The fact of the matter is that the Jews have never occupied all the land that was promised to them in the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15:18-21).

Concerning the claim that the Jews have been rejected by YHWH, there are a couple of biblical principles that need to be kept in mind. First, the Bible affirms that the Jews were called

as God's Chosen People to be witnesses of what it means to have a relationship with Him (Isaiah 43:10-12). And the Bible makes it clear that this calling is "irrevocable" (Romans 11:29). Second, in direct contradiction of Replacement Theology, the Bible teaches that the Jews have never been rejected by YHWH because of their unbelief. In Romans 3 Paul asserts point blank that their rejection of Jesus has not nullified God's faithfulness to the promises He has made to them (Romans 3:1-4). Paul makes the point again in Romans 11:1 when he asks, "I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He?" He answers his own question with an emphatic statement: "May it never be!... God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew" (Romans 11:2). It is true that the Jewish people are currently under discipline because of their rejection of their Messiah. Over and over in their Scriptures the prophets said they would be disciplined if they were unfaithful, but always the promise was made that they would be preserved. An example of this type of prophetic statement can be found in Jeremiah 30:11 —"For I am with you,' declares the Lord, 'to save you; for I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly, and will by no means leave you unpunished." God has preserved them in His grace because He loves them. In Zechariah 2:8 God proclaims that the Jewish people are "the apple of His eye," and He warns against anyone trying to harm them.

Another reason they have been preserved is because YHWH is determined to bring a great remnant to salvation (Isaiah 10:20-22). This promise is made repeatedly throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and is confirmed by Paul in the New Testament in Romans 9-11. The salvation of this remnant is described in detail in Zechariah 12:10 where it says that at the end of the Tribulation the remaining Jews will come to the end of themselves and will turn their hearts to God in repentance and accept Yeshua as their Messiah.

That believing remnant will go into the Millennium in the flesh and will comprise the nation of Israel to whom YHWH will fulfill all the promises He has made to the Jews (Isaiah 60-62). During the Millennium the nation of Israel will be the prime nation in the world through whom YHWH will bless all the other nations (Zechariah 8:22-23).

In summary, the Word of YHWH makes it clear that Israel definitely has a role and a future in the end times.

CRUCIAL QUESTIONS

The first question most people usually ask in response to these biblical points about Israel in the end times is this: "Why would God continue to pursue such a stubborn and rebellious people?"

The answer is that they are witnesses of YHWH, and through them YHWH is demonstrating His unfathomable grace. Only a God of grace would put up with them! But that is true of you and me as well. YHWH is not doing one thing for the Jewish people that He is not willing to do for all of us. He pursues us in love despite our sinfulness, and regardless of how stiff-necked we may be, He never washes His hands of us.

This brings us to a second question: What is God's plan for the Jews in the end times? How will He bring about the salvation of a great remnant?

Let me outline the answer for you briefly:

- 1. The Jewish people will be regathered in unbelief from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:11-12). This is the most prolific prophecy in the Old Testament. Incidentally, if YHWH has no purpose left for them, why would He go to the trouble of regathering them?
- 2. Their state will be re-established (Isaiah 66:7-8).

- 3. They will once again occupy the city of Jerusalem (Zachariah 8:7-8).
- 4. All the nations of the world will come against them over the issue of the control of Jerusalem (Zachariah 12:2-3).
- 5. The Antichrist will come to their rescue by guaranteeing them peace and allowing them to rebuild their temple (Daniel 9:27).
- 6. But at the end of 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist will declare himself to be God, and the Jews will reject Him (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).
- 7. The Antichrist will then attempt to annihilate the Jews, and he will succeed in killing two-thirds of them (Revelation 12:13-17 and Zechariah 13:8-9).
- 8. At the end of the Tribulation, when the Jews have come to the end of themselves, they will turn to YHWH and receive Yeshua/Jesus as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10).
- 9. Jesus will return at this point in time, and He will regather all believing Jews to Israel where He will establish them as the prime nation in the world (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).
- 10. The blessings of YHWH will flow out to the nations through the Jews during the Millennium (Zechariah 8:22-23).

As you can see, the Jewish people have a very central role in end time Bible prophecy.

So in a nutshell the Ekklesia has replace the sacrificial system and not the people of Israel. Yeshua was upset that the temple and her beauty was about to be destroyed. And when the temple finally got destroyed the Ekklesia was still there waiting to receive the people of Elohim and no longer were animal sacrifices need because Mashiach paid it all.

We All are one in messiah Galatians 3:28

28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Which means we all have equal access to salvation in Messiah. Galatians don't mean me are no longer a jew or a gentile we retain our ethnic identity just like it does not say we are no longer male or female, for example the scriptures say wives submit to your husband and a wife is a female and a husband is still clearly a male. What this scripture is simply t saying is there's no Caste system in Messiah.

1 Corinthians 12:13 NLT

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

PRAISE YESHUA. AMEN

Links

https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/where-didchristianity-come-from/

https://www.roger-pearse.com/weblog/ 2019/09/27/what-is-the-earliest-use-of-theword-christianity/

https://www.gotquestions.org/replacement-theology.html

https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/ viewcontent.cgi? article=4059&context=edissertations