

Discover Your Calling Into Israel Part 4 of 5: Church Debilitation; The Real Jesus; Church Repenting (1/30/2015)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/bhjpbr/discover-your-calling-into-israel-part-4>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

This is part 4 of seeking to discover your calling into the holy nation of Israel. For the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at some very important church history. This is history we have found to have greatly impacted the way modern-day Christendom practices and views its faith today. In the process of exploring our church history, we discovered, unfortunately, the church has in fact forsaken her Hebraic roots and instead has adopted customs and practices that cannot be found in Scripture. At the same time, they abandoned other doctrines and principles which are found in the scripture that have been commanded and imposed upon us.

For example, the seventh-day Sabbath. It is listed in the Ten Commandments. It states on the seventh day you shall rest. The Sabbath day is the only commandment which starts out with the word, remember, and yet it is the very one that has been forgotten.

Then there are the festivals of God. Instead of celebrating the festivals of God, they have abandoned these festivals and are starting to practice other festivals with pagan roots.

No longer do we find the church distinguishes between clean and unclean as found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. In those chapters, the LORD lays out the foods we should put into our holy temples and the things man has turned into food which God has said are unclean and not to be used as food.

In short, the church has abandoned the law of God. Because of that, we find the church is debilitated, incapacitated, and in a spiritual vegetative state. It cannot care for itself. Why do I say that? Do you remember how scripture defines sin? Go to 1 John 3:4 where we find the definition of sin is transgression of the law. In other words, sin is lawlessness.

Now follow this to its logical conclusion. If you throw out the very thing God has given us to identify sin, then how do you identify sin? And where does that leave you? It leaves you incapacitated. Paul says in Romans 7:7, **...I would not have known sin except through the law.** That's what Paul says. He would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, thou shalt not covet. It's through the law. It is through the voice of God.

Going back to Deuteronomy 28, what is the voice of God? It is equated to all the commandments; it is equated to Torah - the law of God. It literally says in Scripture the law is the voice of God.

Let me take you back to the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve sinned. The first disobedient act was a food law. They were told they could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What did they do? They ate from that tree. What happened? They discovered they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together for covering. But what's so fascinating, if you go back and read the story, is they're walking in the midst of the garden, and then what happens? They hear God in the garden. They hear His voice, and the LORD cries out to them, "where are you?" They had hidden themselves. They answered Him, "we were scared; we were ashamed because we heard Your voice".

That's what the law of God does for us. When the law of God speaks, it exposes our shame. It exposes your sin, and that's the beauty of the law. But if you allow Satan to take away your ability to identify sin, you're going to be left incapacitated. This is exactly where Satan wants you to be, and this is what happens.

Why does it happen? When you go back to the beginning, to the early second century, you find the law was divided from grace. If you divide them, it gives birth to all sorts of heretical children. For example: anti-Semitism.

Let me give you a snapshot of the condition of the church. I don't often quote statistics because there are so many variables involved in how the actual numbers are derived which can be called into question, but I must share this with you.

In 2002, George Barna wrote a book known as *The State of the Church*. It is a book which examines the behaviors and the beliefs of the church. In this book he provides us with some interesting findings regarding Christians and their knowledge of Scripture. I want to share these with you.

The book states 48% of Christians could not name the four gospels. 48%! These Christians are self-professing, born-again believers who could not name the four gospels.

Another finding, 52% cannot identify more than two or three of Jesus' disciples.

Still another finding, 60% of American Christians cannot name five of the ten commandments. One out of two believers can't even name five of the ten commandments? Right here is the problem with the church! It is totally debilitated; it is incapacitated.

You wonder why we have gay pastors, something that is directly condemned in Scripture. We actually have flocks who come to listen to them. They don't even know half of the ten commandments, which is the law of God. Therefore the divorce rate in church is as high as it is in the world.

This is why you have husbands and wives committing adultery. This is why there are many broken homes. This is why you have paganism that can creep in. This is why Satan can come in and distort the truth.

When asking graduating high school "born-again Christians," over 50% of them thought Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. How scary is that!? What does this tell you? This tells you the parents are failing as godly instructors. Parents, you have been instructed to train up your child in the way he or she should go. You are instructed in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach them the commandments of

God. Oh! But I forgot. We have thrown those things away, and now Sodom and Gomorrah are apparently husband and wife.

Do you see the problem here? The church is failing. The congregants are failing. They are failing their children. Generation after generation gets more wicked!

The book further states, 61% of American Christians think the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham and 71% of American Christians thinks the statement "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse. I can tell you I've come across this very thing. So, when I read this, I chuckled because they think it's in the Bible.

Based upon these things, Mr. Barna commented saying "Americans revere the Bible, but, by and large, they don't know what it says. And because they don't know it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates."

We are living in a nation of biblical illiteracy! They don't know good from evil. It is the Bible which tells us what is right and wrong, but they don't read it. They don't know it. They may revere it, but they have no idea what it says. The Bible is the measuring line, and yet we find churches, and even pastors, who have no idea what is being spoken in the Bible.

With all due respect to Mr. Barna and his fine work, I don't need these statistics to tell me the church is debilitated and in trouble. Just a mere conversation with pastors and congregants who call themselves Christians will tell you this. Tragedy has befallen the church. She has forsaken her Hebraic roots. She has forsaken explicit, direct commandments of God. The instructions of God which are righteous and holy and instead has embraced destruction.

Paul warned it was coming. 2 Timothy 3:1-5, **But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers....** Do you remember the passage in Ezekiel 22? What were the things they were condemned for? The LORD was condemning the priests for profaning His holy name, hiding their eyes from His Sabbath, for not distinguishing between clean and unclean. Continuing in 2 Timothy ...**disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

We are told in the last days these men who are going to embrace all these abominable acts will look pious. They will have a form of godliness, but they'll be embracing things which are abominable in the sight of God. We are living in what I believe to be the days of Noah. We are living in a wicked and evil generation where the church has glorified and embraced lawlessness, and then they call it righteousness. Good has become evil; evil has become good.

It is so crucial you understand the precursor to God's judgment coming upon a land. Do you know what the precursor is? It is overt sinning; unashamed sin openly going out. Instead of people committing homosexuality behind closed doors, we hold parades. Instead of being ashamed of killing innocent children (abortion) we make it a governmental law, and we fund the killing of innocent children. This country, America, is coming under judgment. These open sins are the precursor.

Let me read to you Isaiah 3:9, **The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.**

You will reap what you sow. This land will reap what it shows. The precursor has already been shot, the flare has been shot, to say judgment is coming. So, if you're wondering if judgment is going to come or not, just look at the open, defiling acts of these human beings spitting in the face of God.

Having said that, I want to go back to last week to get back to some church history because there are some things that I didn't get to cover last week. If you remember, we were talking about Martin Luther. He is known as the father of the reformation, the father of Protestantism. He is, without any dispute, a historic figure who has played a very significant role in shaping the Evangelical world of today.

We ended the last message looking at a statement by Martin Luther regarding the Jewish people, the people of God. In his book, which he published in 1523, Luther stated Jesus was born a Jew. I want to reread this because we must put what Luther said into context. **Those fools the papists, bishops, sophists, monks, have formally so dealt with the Jews, that every good Christian would rather have been a Jew. And if I had been a Jew, and seen such stupidity and such blockheads reign in the Christian Church, I would rather be a pig than a Christian.**

In other words, Catholic Church, if you're telling me this is Christianity, I would rather be a pig than be called a Christian.

He goes on and says, **They have treated the Jews as if they were dogs, not men, and as if they were fit for nothing but to be reviled. They are the blood relations of our Lord; therefore if we respect flesh and blood, the Jews belong to Christ more than we. I beg, therefore, my dear Papist, if you become tired of abusing me as a heretic, that you begin to revile me as a Jew. Therefore, it is my advice that we should treat them kindly, but now we drive them by force treating them deceitfully or ignominiously saying they must have Christian blood to wash away the Jewish stain, and I know not what nonsense.**

In other words, it is complete idiocy to say Christian blood washes away the Jewish stain. In the year 1523, we find Luther condemning the actions of the Christian Church, or the Catholic Church, at the time. He was condemning it for the way it treated the Jewish people.

Remember Luther was a reformer. He was a Catholic priest who was seeking to reform the Catholic Church, and he calls them to treat the Jews with kindness. He is attempting to reform the church. Nobody can dispute the words Luther penned here are filled with love and compassion. When I read these words, I can feel the sincerity pouring out of his heart. These are beautiful words, and this is the very mentality which is supported in Scripture. This is an example we see of the first century church regarding how Jew and Gentile had come together as one new man in the Messiah Yeshua.

However, we find that as time went on, Luther's heart began to grow cold towards the Jewish people. I say this because just 20 years after writing these beautiful words, Luther authored a very different kind of book in stark contrast to his last book we just covered. The book I'm referring to is *The Jews and their Lies*.

This is what Luther said in this book, **Doubt not, beloved (believers) in Christ, that after the Devil you have no more bitter venomous, violent enemy, than the real Jew, the Jew in earnest in his belief.**

Luther's tone had changed significantly. He is now calling the Jews the enemies of the Christians. And sadly, we find Luther had reverted back to his papal roots. He had gone back and offers up seven simple steps on how to deal with the Jew. Luther says:

First, [let us set fire to their synagogues or schools.](#)

Second, [I advised their houses also be razed and destroyed.... Instead they might be lodged under a roof or in a barn, like gypsies....](#)

Third, [I advised that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, and which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them.](#)

Fourth, [I advise that the rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on the pain of loss of life and limb.](#)

Fifth, [I advise the safe conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews....](#)

Sixth, [I advise that usury be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure or of silver and gold be taken from them and put aside for safekeeping....](#)

Seventh, [I recommend putting a flail, an ax a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread by the sweat of their brow....](#)

And summing up this horrific Christian counsel, Luther says, [In brief, dear princes and Lords, those of you who have Jews under your rule: if my counsel does not please you, find better advice, so that you and we all can be rid of the unbearable, devilish burden of the Jews.](#)

This is the father of Protestantism! The father of the Reformation had succumbed to the heretical child, and the ideology of anti-Semitism. Instead of reforming the Catholic Church, we find Luther merely did what? He helped them lift the torch and carry the burden.

Let me give you another quote by Luther. He says, [A Jew or a Jewish heart is as hard as stone in iron and cannot be moved by any means....In some, they are the devil's children damned to hell.](#)

What is so interesting is this; why would the Jews appear to have a heart as hard as stone in iron? Maybe part of Luther's change towards the Jewish people was their lack of acceptance of the Jesus who was being proclaimed. I think that could be a very safe assumption.

However, let's dig a little further. What was it the Jews were not accepting? Why would he make a statement that their heart is a heart of stone; it's as hard as iron? What were they resisting? Was it the Gospel of Yeshua? Did they hate this gospel which was going out? Did they hate all the stories of Yeshua the Messiah? This was the Jewish Messiah who went out and had compassion on the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Is that what they hated? Did they hate where they saw, read, and heard about all the wondrous deeds of healing the sick, raising the dead, casting demons out of people, making the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, and the blind to see? Is this they why they would resist the Gospel of Yeshua.

Did the Jewish people hate the fact that He was Torah observant? Did they hate the fact that He was a Jewish rabbi, and He taught only to support the law as He is quoted as saying Matthew 5:17-18, **Do not**

think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Yeshua taught Torah. Go read Matthew 5, 6 and 7 where He presented the best commentary on the Torah you will ever read. It is phenomenal! He does beautifully in bringing out the deeper, spiritual meanings of Torah. Is it these chapters they hated? Is that what they were resisting? Did they hate the purpose in His coming, to save them from their sins and their enemies? Is that why they resisted the message?

Or here's another theory. Maybe they were disturbed by the type of Jesus who was being presented. Maybe the church was presenting a Gentile Jesus and not a Jewish Jesus. Maybe the Jews were offended at the church's portrayal of a Jesus who did away with the law, and a Jesus who promoted lawlessness. This Gentile Jesus said it is okay to eat whatever you want. This Jesus told them to go ahead and eat pork, which is something a self-respecting Jew, a Torah observant Jew, would never do.

Maybe they were disturbed at the idea that they were the only ones responsible for killing Christ, and therefore they've been deemed century after century as Christ-killers. My point is this, do you think maybe the church had a hand in why the Jews were not accepting Yeshua as Lord and Savior, as the Messiah? I do! I think they had a hand in it. You just look at history, and we're given plenty of reasons why the Jew would never accept the Jesus who was being presented.

Now I want to be very clear. This is not to say everyone in the church was like the church. This is not to say all the church is totally responsible for every single living Jew on the earth. Could there have been Jews who would reject Yeshua in His glory? Yes! We saw in the New Testament Scriptures there would be some who rejected Him.

My point is the church needs to stand up and take significant responsibilities because they are not presenting the Yeshua who is found in the Bible. They have given a Jew no chance because no Jew is going to go after a Gentile Messiah.

Dr. Michael Brown, wrote an excellent book, *The Real Kosher Jesus*, where he came out to address the book which came out right before that, which was *The Kosher Jesus*. In this book, he gives a perspective on the Christian religion from an Orthodox Jew. I want to give you a perspective from an Orthodox Jew who is a very learned man and knows his history. He says, [Instead of bringing redemption to the Jews, the false Christian messiah has brought down on us base libels and expulsions, oppressive restrictions and burning of \(our\) holy books, devastations and destructions. Christianity, which professes to infuse the sick world with love and compassion, has fixed a course directly opposed to this lofty rhetoric.](#)

[The voice of the blood of millions of our brothers cries out to us from the ground, "No! \(Remember the church has admitted and confessed it is responsible for slaying millions of Jews in the name of Christ. This is what he's referring to.\) Christianity is not a religion of love but a religion of unfathomable hate! All history, from ancient times to our own day, is one continuous proof of the total bankruptcy of this religion in all its segments.](#)

That's a perspective you need to let sink into your mind!

Listen to what Dr. Hugh Shawnfield says in his book, *The History of Jewish Christianity*. This is almost exactly what Dr. Brown says. Shawnfield states, [Considering the persecution which the Jews in Europe endured at Christian hands, and the corrupt state of the Christian religion](#), (Did you catch that? “The corrupt state of the Christian religion.” In other words, it was not operating the way it should be) [it is a great wonder that there were any sincere converts at all, instead of the love of Christ the Jew saw only undying hatred. The methods which were employed in his attempted conversion could not but confirm him in his detestation of so barbarous of faith.](#)

Ask yourself this; has the church successfully, in its history, represented Yeshua, the Jewish rabbi, the Jewish King, the Root of David, and the Lion of Judah correctly to the Jewish people? If we look at history, the answer is, no, they haven't. This is not to say no one in history has presented Him accurately; but on a macro scale, the church has failed. This may not be what you want to hear, but this is the truth. So often the church went out teaching and preaching a Jesus who was not found in the Bible. They were preaching a different Jesus; One who to a Jew is totally foreign and they would never accept.

Yehezkel Kaufmann was a professor at the Hebrew University in the early 1900's. He was one of the greatest biblical scholars of his generation. He has this to say, [It is the opinion of \(Abraham\) Geiger, \(Solomon\) Graetz, and other Jewish scholars and also many more liberal Christian scholars that Jesus was wholly Jewish in outlook. Jesus did not intend to break with tradition or to found a new religion; and certainly he did not imagine that he was founding a religion of the Gentiles.](#)

In other words, the Jesus who is found in the Bible is wholly Jewish. He was a Jewish rabbi, and He never intended to create a new religion, a religion of the Gentiles. What Yeshua did was break down the middle wall of separation giving the Gentiles an opportunity to be grafted into the natural tree of Israel as found in Romans 11. What Yeshua did was offer the Gentiles an opportunity to be called sons and daughters of the Kingdom of Heaven. How? Through faith in the Jewish Messiah.

The Rabbi Ben Zion Boker had this to say in 1967, [The Jesus of history was a Son of His people, Who shared their dreams, Who was loyal to their way of life, Who died a martyr's death because of the commitment to His vision of their highest destiny. The image of Jesus as depicted in Christian writings was not founded on historical reality.](#)

How true that is; unfortunately. God have mercy upon her souls because of what the church has done all in the name of Jesus. The church has blood on its hands. And we who uphold the name of Yeshua, who fear the Lord with all your heart, your soul, and your mind, must know the history; we have to acknowledge it. But that's not everything. That's only going halfway. You need to condemn it. We need to be lights to the world. Right? We need to make the wrongs right.

The elect of God have an obligation to present Yeshua accurately to both the Jew and Gentile. We have an obligation to present the word of God accurately to the Jew and to the Gentile. And we are to go out and do what the Apostle Paul told us to do in 2 Timothy 4:2, [Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.](#)

Convince, rebuke, and exhort. This is the formula: convince, rebuke, and exhort. You understand this formula, and you are going to be a disciple of Yeshua. In other words, look at Paul's life. He went out and convinced. What did he say? He scared the tar out of people, right?

Look at 2 Corinthians 5:11, [Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men](#). He went out scaring people and convincing them of what was to follow; repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. It was a rebuke!

And what do you do after that? Exhort. What does that mean? You comfort them; the strong are to bear with the weak, right? We're to lift them up; we're to encourage one another daily lest we let sin into our heart, and we be deceived. We are literally to follow this example of what Paul is talking about.

I want to change my tone a little bit here because I want to end today on a positive note. The last three week's messages have been very depressing for me, but it's not a reality I'm willing to close my eyes to. I've been beating hard upon the church, but I want you to know there is good news. The church appears to be waking up to her transgressions. People from all different denominations across the board are waking up to the events that have taken place over the course of history. They're even waking up to things like the Sabbath and the festivals of God. It is amazing! The Spirit of God is moving even to the point where we find there are churches out there offering apologies for their treatment of the Jewish people.

Let me give you some examples, because these are just beautiful. In 1998, the Lutheran Church of Bavaria had this to say, [It is imperative for the Lutheran Church, which knows itself to be indebted to the work and the tradition of Martin Luther, to take seriously also his anti-Jewish utterances, to acknowledge their theological function, and to reflect on their consequences. It must distance itself from every expression of anti-Judaism in Lutheran theology.](#)

In other words, they're saying, "We want nothing to do with the adamant anti-Semitic behavior we found later in Luther's life. We don't want to go there."

In volume one of *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus*, Dr. Michael Brown articulates how Luther's disdain for the Jews, his anti-Semitic behavior, wasn't acceptable to everyone at that time. Yes, Luther was a pioneer, and the masses would go with him, but listen to what Dr. Brown says, [Luther's closest colleague, Philip Melancthon, was very unhappy with these venomous writings, while another colleague Andreas Osiander wrote an anonymous apology for them, and Luther's Latin translator, Justin Jonas, actually changed the text when he translated it. In each of the succeeding centuries, the sixteenth through the nineteenth, Luther's hateful, anti-Jewish writings were repudiated, while his earlier, Pro Jewish writings proved to be the more influential.](#)

This is an integral part of the story that is often untold. The verdict of Lutheran theologian Friedrich Lezius, written in 1892 sums up the feelings of many Lutheran leaders during a period of more than 350 years of Lutheran practice and belief. It is obvious that Luther does not argue in accordance with the spirit of the New Testament and the Reformation....(in other words, Friedrich just said, "Listen, these words that are coming out of his mouth do not agree with what we read in our New Testament). [The Protestant church has therefore rejected the heirs of the aging reformer as not binding for the church and only regards Luther's treatise "That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew," which was published in 1523, as the true expression of the spirit of their Reformation.](#)

And we read those words today, and that is the true spirit of the New Testament. We read even the Catholic Church has acknowledged her sins against the Jewish people. The Guardian did an article which says this, [Saving one of his most audacious initiatives for the twilight of his papacy, John Paul II](#)

yesterday attempted to purify the soul of the Roman Catholic church by making a sweeping apology for 2,000 years of violence, persecution, and blunders. Defying warnings from some theologians that the unprecedented apology would undermine the church's authority, the 79-year-old pontiff asked God to forgive the persecution of the Jews. "We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer and asking your forgiveness we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood."

Repeatedly we're seeing a movement, from the 1970s, as it were, forward; a movement of what? Of repentance. A revival of acknowledgement and condemnation for such behavior. This is so fascinating because if you go back to 1970s, what was happening at that time? The Messianic movement was growing like wildfire. People were starting to discover their Hebraic roots, the Jewish people were coming back to faith in the Messiah Yeshua, and the Gentiles were coming back with them. This is amazing!

You want to wonder if we're in the last days or not? Don't wonder.

I want to give you different examples from Lutheran, Catholic, and Presbyterian denominations. Look at these beautiful words of repentance they had to say, [The Council on Theology and Culture of the Presbyterian Church in the United States](#) has shown an act of kindness to the Jewish people. Their 1983 General Assembly issued a paper titled: "Christians and Jews: A Unique Relationship." Article III paragraph 1 & 3 states: "We confess our past perpetuation of the teaching of contempt for the Jews, our labeling them as a "decide race" and "Christ-killers" our insistence on their forced conversions, and our attempts to justify such actions by resort to Holy Scripture. We disavow and repudiate such tactics for the future."

"Christians have created attitudes and done deeds that have led to the vilification of Judaism and the persecution of the Jews. We repudiate such actions as denials of the teachings of Yeshua and the life to which He calls His followers. We make this confession not only out of shame for the past, but in hope that God will use us in creation of a humane future for the Jews and all people."

This is quite a statement. When you look back at the root of where this all began, which was in the early second century, what happened? They divided law from the gospel. Right? This cancer went out and infected the whole mass of the faith. And out of that this mother, I would call her the mother of divide, she birthed heretical children; she birthed heretical doctrines. She divided the Jew from the Gentile. She gave birth to the child anti-Semitism.

Now we're starting to see what? An awakening. The Spirit of God is coming upon people opening their eyes, bringing them back into the truth, and destroying the works of Satan. It is a very beautiful time we are living in. But we do live in a very wicked generation.

We are going to end here for today. Next week will be the last one of this series. Something we're going to talk about is things to expect about discovering your Hebrew root. There are things I want to warn you about that can happen when you come into this movement because Satan is coming after us. Anytime you wield the truth, he's going to come after you; you're on his list.

Shabbat shalom