

The Faith of God

2/1/15

Today I want to address what The Apostle Paul called "The Faith of God." What is the preferred Faith, (religion) of God? If Jesus was alive today which church denomination would He be a member of? Would He be Baptist, or perhaps Methodist, maybe Church of God, or Assemblies of God. Would He perhaps be the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. I think all of us would like to think that Jesus would want to be a member of our particular church. But would He? I think it is important that we take a look at what the Bible says about who Jesus really was and what His religion was.

A careful look into the Bible does tell us something about this subject. Rom 3:1-4, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God, For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

"The Faith of God." The Greek word for that is '*pis'-tis*,' From Strong's G3982; meaning *persuasion, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth.*

God does have a particular religion that He authored through Jesus Christ. Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; ..." He authored it at Sinai and finished at the Cross. Judaism was God's chosen religion! God gave to them the 'oracles (teachings) of God'. Jesus was born to Jewish parents, He was circumcised when He was eight days old. as told in Luke 2:21, "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

Joseph & Mary offered a sacrifice of, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Jesus' genealogy is traced back through King David, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, all the way to Adam.

Joseph & Mary kept the Feasts of the Lord and it was during one of the Feasts of Passover when Jesus was twelve years old that He stayed behind and debated with the elders of Israel. Luke 2:41-42 "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast."

When Jesus was in His ministry, He kept the Feasts and customs of the Jewish faith as is established by the Passover meal that has become known as the Last supper, where He ate the Passover with His disciples.

He is in fact our Passover Lamb, Sacrificed for us, The unspotted, perfect, Lamb of God, By whose blood we are cleansed once and for all. Thank God we do not have to sacrifice animals to pay for our sins, Jesus' death on the cross paid for our sins for all time. 1Co 5:7 "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:"

Jesus did not come to start a new religion called Christianity, But rather He came to bring new life to an old religion. He brought a new covenant to put the law into our minds and hearts. He is our High Priest through whom we can enter into the Holy of Hollies. Heb 10:16-21, "This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God;" We can still enter into the very presence of God in the Holiest of all, The throne room of God through our High Priest, Jesus Christ. And now it is available to all who will come unto Him.

It was not until His own people, the Jews, rejected Him that the Gospel was opened to the rest of the people. Although we know that that was God's plan all along, God gave them the first opportunity. John 1:11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

In fact we, as born again Christians, are called Jews or Israel. Rom 2:28-29, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God."

Also in Romans 9:6-8 we read, "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac, (Jesus) shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, (Jewish blood) these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."

So when we receive Jesus as our savior, we become a part of the seed of Abraham through his son Isaac, the promised seed. The early believers were not called Christian until some after the Cross. They were simply considered another sect of the Jews and worshiped with other Jews in their synagogues.

We, as gentiles, were grafted into the Jewish olive tree and the truths that we celebrate have their roots in Judaism. We rejoice in the fatness and blessing of the tame (Jewish) olive tree. Rom 11:17-18 tells us, "And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakes of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, you do not bear the root, but the root thee.

It is important to note here that God did not abandon the tame olive tree, (the Jews} and turn to the wild olive tree! The fraise, ' you do not bear the root, but the root thee' tell us that. We receive our blessings because of the promises to the Jewish people.

Today the gospel is open to us all! Thank God! The message is to whosoever will. What I am attempting to show is that the truths that will carry us through all the trials and tests, that will stand when the world is on fire are rooted in Judaism.

With Paul, I want to say: Gal 6:14-15, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." A repentant heart, a righteous life.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?