

CHARISMA ARTICLE 49: by Grant Berry
HOW TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OUR JEWISH FRIENDS



Sub-heading: How to build a Jewish bridge for the Gospel

In this article I will look to address a number of issues that will help Christians improve their witness of the Gospel to their Jewish friends. Recently I taught on this very same subject at one of our Messiah's House meetings; the link is at the end of the article. I hope and pray that you will find them both empowering to your own personal witness to your Jewish friends.

We Must Present Them a Jewish Gospel

There are definitely things we can do or say that can make a difference when sharing our faith with Jewish people; and there are some fundamental issues that can dramatically change the way we help The Holy Spirit to introduce Yeshua/Jesus to them. Two such issues are: gaining a better understanding of the barriers that currently exist, as well as learning how to bring a Jewish Gospel back to our Jewish friends.

To help reflect on these issues, let us take a look at the Olive Tree example that the apostle Paul used to delineate between Jews and Gentiles (see Rom.11:17-24). Let us also try to understand the context of current Christianity, the Gentile branches of the vine, which for the past 1700 years has presented themselves distinctive and apart from its Jewish origins and Apostolic Hebraic roots. While this may have been acceptable towards the nations during the time of the Gentiles, as the kingdom now transitions in these end days to re-include the Israel part of the family (see Rom.11:25-26), we must be willing to make adjustments.

Please do not be offended by this and allow me to explain, so you understand my point here. For I am not criticizing the way in which the Gospel is presented to the Gentile world, but rather focusing on how it should be presented back to Israel. Let me explain: Is not the vine that all Gentile believers are grafted into of Jewish origins? And was not the Jewish branch a natural one, even though it is mainly still broken off due to unbelief? In fact is not everything we have received of Jewish origins? (See Romans 11)

"Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ who is G-d over all, forever praised! Amen. (Rom.9:4-5).

When we first believe in Mashiach/Christ, are we not grafted into all of Israel's covenants and promises and is not salvation from the Jews, as Yeshua/Jesus stated? (see John 4:22) So how can we expect to win Jews back to faith and make them envious when the Gospel we are presenting back to them is so foreign from their own heritage? For since the Church broke away from its Jewish origins, Jewish people now think of Christianity as a completely separate religion, when in fact it is the ONLY true and proper extension of Judaism, especially if we believe Yeshua/Jesus to be the Jewish Messiah.

So when we present the good news to Jewish people if we do not reconnect the dots and present it back to them as if it was their very own in the first place, we can completely miss the mark. If we want to be fully effective in reaching our Jewish brethren who we know from Scripture are still yet to be restored, we must remind ourselves of our humble beginnings and how we have been grafted into the vine in the first place. *"After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!" (Rom. 11:24).*

It is indeed our own personal relationship with their God, who is now also our God that will ultimately make them envious, because we are living in their covenant, having intimacy with their God when most of them are still broken off (See Romans 11). But when it is not presented to them as a Jewish faith it misses its effectiveness in helping them to be grafted back into their own olive tree - are you following me here? If we were still moving in the Gospel of the first century it would be different, because the founding apostles were all Jewish and so naturally they had an innate sense of how to bring the good news to their own people, but when the Church moved away from its Jewish roots, it lost this connection and ability.

This could be best seen through the Christian girl that led me to faith who never used Christian terms or symbols, but instead presented Yeshua/Jesus to me as if He was my very own; reconnecting her faith in Mashiach/Christ as a Jewish concept. This naturally made my transition much easier when that perfect day arrived for me; despite my bloodline resistance to faith, because of the inherent barriers of persecution, which I have explained below. You can read more about this story in my first book, "The New Covenant Prophecy".

Maria never quoted the New testament scriptures, which she knew I could not receive at the time, but instead used the Hebrew Scriptures as her source, while using New Testament terms through her own speech. She always referred to God as the God of Israel and she was so incredibly grateful towards my people for giving her Christ, who she said was Jewish and always referred to Him as the Messiah. She also told me about all of the Jewish disciples and that in fact Christianity was Jewish and that as a result of Mashiach/Christ, she now inherited all of the promises and covenants of Israel that were given to my people first (Jeremiah 31:31-34). She also mentioned that the New Testament was written by Jewish believers, excepting Luke, and that they moved with the Holy Spirit to build the Church who led them to open up the Gentile world to Yeshua/Jesus. This made a huge difference to me in how I processed Yeshua, as He was presented back to me in a Jewish manner. When I began to further contemplate the acceptance of Mashiach into my life, Maria had already re-established this Jewish connection for me and laid out a bridge that I could think about crossing, which made my final journey that much easier to enter into, instead of contemplating a separate religion that had been used against my people. Are you catching me here?

In light of the time that we are now living in, as we have entered this transition between Jew and Gentile, like the apostles who readily embraced their new Gentile family, we must be willing to make adjustments and come into agreement with the Holy Spirit's work to reconnect us, so Israel can come forth. Just like the Jewish believers that clung to the law and wouldn't let go as the Holy Spirit began to move on the Gentile world and awaken them, we cannot expect Jews to become like Gentiles when receiving the Gospel and we must bless them into their own heritage and calling, which is distinct from our own. For from within the one new man and the oneness of the Spirit we both have unique roles and callings to fulfill, especially in the final days before Messiah is to return. For within God's end time mercy plan, Israel cannot come forth without the Church and the Church cannot come into its inheritance without Israel's redemption. Thus the family of God must finally unite and become one! This is God's plan for us for these days!

Understanding The Barriers

Secondly, we must gain a better understanding of the current barriers that exist that have prevented Jewish people from coming to faith. Even with Maria's skill in communicating the Gospel towards me, it was so incredibly difficult for me to even consider Yeshua/Jesus. This was as a result of what my people have suffered due to the horrible persecution that was bestowed upon them by the Church and the Gentile world throughout the past 2000 years, blaming them for Christ's death. It is no longer only the fact that Jewish people did not accept Yeshua/Jesus to be the Jewish Messiah that keeps them away from God, but rather what has been done to them in the name of Christ, which is why Christian symbols are so offensive to Jewish people, for in the past, they have been used as weapons against them. In light of this, we must gain a better understanding of the past and their emotional and spiritual barriers to help us to be more sensitive in our witness. Throughout my 9 months of resistance to the faith when Maria came into my life, this factor played a huge role in keeping me apart from God and is the main reason today that keeps Western Jewish people away from their own Messiah. I write about these issues extensively in my second book, "The Ezekiel Generation" and I would encourage you to pick up a copy and read it.

As we draw closer to the times of Yeshua's/Jesus' return these issues are becoming highly significant to us in fulfilling our end time roles and destinies, not only to help win Israel back to faith, but also to see the Lord's return; and the two have a most definite connection. For Mashiach/Christ will not return until Israel says, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matt.23:39).

As a result, when we look to bring the Gospel back to Israel, it should be from their own heritage; from their Jewish vine and their roots, in order that they can be re-established back into their own natural branch, that we can finally find unity with them as the children of the living God, as one united family. This was Paul's heart to be a Jew to the Jews and Gentile to the Gentiles; this is God's heart. (1 Corinthians 9:20)

Below are some good tips of what to say and what not to say when sharing the good news with Jewish people:
Don't use Christian terms that have been used against them – Use Jewish terms

- Yeshua for Jesus
- Messiah or Mashiach for Christ
- Tree, Crucifixion Tree for Cross
- New Covenant for Gospel
- Congregation for Church
- When praying in front of your Jewish friends, use Jewish terms – This is not easy to start with
- Be careful how you explain the Trinity, some Jewish people think we worship 3 Gods – This link may help - http://reconnectingministries.org/what_we_believe.html
- *Avoid Christianeeze: The repetition of Hallelujah and Praise the Lord in your speech, they will think you are weird*
- *Learn about the Jewish Feasts and use them to share your faith*

Finally, if every Christian living around Jewish people committed themselves to one Jewish person or family, to love them, to pray and intercede for their faith, to hold onto them as Maria did for me. How long do you really think it would take the Christian world to reach the Jewish people?

<http://www.yoursoundman.com/Messiah's%20House/Building.mp3>