

The Shepherd of Israel



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Queen Esther and You

Rachmiel Frydland

Why We Believe . . .

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FREE OFFER:

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Three Gods?" (J28)

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THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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Do Christians Worship Three Gods?

True Christians claim to worship the one God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Then how can critics make three Gods out of one?



By Rachmiel Frydland

Purim is a Persian word meaning "lots." Several hundred years before the Christian Era, Haman, a Persian Jew-hater, persuaded Ahasuerus (Xerxes), king of Persia, to have all the Jews in the king's realm destroyed.

The Persians of that day, including Haman, were fire-worshippers. Their religion was founded by Zoroaster, an ancient philosopher who taught that there were two gods who ruled the world in opposition to each other, Ormuzd, the good or positive god, and Ahriman, the bad or wicked god.

The Jews living among the Persians could not accept this religion for they believed in one God only, Jehovah, who created the day as well as the night, the good as well as the evil (evil which is the fruit of wickedness or sin).

As the prophet Isaiah said in the name of the Lord,

I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil. I the Lord do all these things. (Isaiah 45:7)

Therefore the Jewish people in King Ahasuerus' realm could not accept the Persian religion.

HAMAN ACCUSES THE JEWS

Haman, a court favorite of King Ahasuerus, was jealous of Mordecai, a Jew, and presented a reasonable case against the Jews to the king.

The kingdom of Persia had been kind to the Jews, and after the Babylonian captivity of seventy years, had given them permission to return to their ancestral land.

Should not the Jews now show their gratitude to the king by accepting the religion, the laws and the customs of their benefactors?

Haman's petition to King Ahasuerus against the Jews was presented in clear words which could not be contradicted:

And Haman said unto King Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed. . .

(Esther 3:8, 9)

Then with the king's permission, Haman cast the lots (purim) and this showed that an auspicious time for the destruction of the Jews would be the month of Adar, which was then the twelfth month.

The Jewish people at that time, as they had done throughout biblical history, celebrated New Year in the Spring month called Nisan (Abib in Hebrew), for Nisan was the month of the exodus from Egypt.

In the Jewish calendar today, Adar is the sixth month.

HAMAN'S MISCALCULATION

The Persian king, a pagan, agreed. But Haman did not know the God of the Jews, Who long ago declared that the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the Jewish people) could not be exterminated.

God, Who is not dead but is living for evermore, decreed an everlasting blessing upon Abraham and his seed, saying,

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Bereshit Genesis 12:2, 3)

Moreover, God confirmed His decree with an oath:

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord; for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:15-18)

How foolish of the Hamans and the Hitlers to trust in a lot and ignore the Lord Who has decreed blessings upon

PURIM:

Queen

and

the seed of Abraham!

Haman put his trust in *purim* (lots), but he forgot *Pesach* (Passover) when mighty Egypt paid a heavy penalty for its oppression of Israel.

Let this be a warning to all would-be Jew-haters—in Russia, in Europe, in Asia, and in the world everywhere.

God is on the side of His people. By blessing them, they who bless bring a blessing on themselves. By the same token, they who curse them, bring a curse upon themselves.

ISRAEL'S SALVATION

In ancient Persia Israel's salvation came through a

humble man named Mordecai, who was related to Esther, the Jewish queen of Persia.

He and his people were destined to die by royal edict. Nevertheless, Mordecai was able to inspire his people to repent in sackcloth, in fasting and prayer.

Even Queen Esther joined her people in this act of humility before the Lord. God heard and answered.

Mordecai was exalted and his people honored by the king while Haman was hanged and the Jew-haters were abased.

This was one of many episodes in God's dealing with His people. The Jews were saved physically at this point in their history. The time of their full salvation, and the complete

Esther

You

fulfillment of God's prophecies given to Abraham, was drawing nigh.

It happened five hundred years later with the coming of *adon yeshua hamashiach*, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. He was the greater Mordecai.

Condemned to die for His people, Jesus the Messiah became the supreme sacrifice of atonement for the sins of Jew and Gentile alike. In Him were truly fulfilled the prophecies of old, "In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12 and 22).

Today we see millions of people in all parts of the earth who have received these blessings through Abraham's seed, the Messiah, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.

PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL SALVATION

You ask, "What salvation did Messiah bring? There are still wars and hatreds among men."

The answer is that salvation is two-fold. There is the physical salvation, as it happened at Purim long ago, and spiritual salvation, redemption of a man's soul.

Physical salvation is of value in God's sight only when joined with spiritual salvation, as expressed in the Book of *Tehillim* (Psalms):

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious . . .) (Psalm 49:6-8)

The same thought is found in the *brit hadasha* (New Testament) in the words of the Messiah,

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)

According to the Word of God spiritual salvation is the thing that we need most, and it should be explained clearly:

First of all, spiritual salvation is:

1. Salvation from sin. Disobedience to God by the first man, Adam, and by his descendants, broke the oneness, the fellowship between God and man, as the Word of God says,

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

The Lord Jesus, the Messiah, became the sacrifice of our sins, and by believing in Him, our sins are forgiven. This is not a figment of our imagination but is based squarely on the Hebrew Scriptures, as Isaiah's prophecies about Him state.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

Please read the whole chapter.

2. Spiritual salvation means also peace and restored fellowship and oneness with God.

Do you have perfect peace in your heart?

If you do not, it is because of this lack of oneness and fellowship between you and God, the result of unforgiven sin.

To have peace in your heart, you need the forgiveness of sins and faith in Messiah Jesus.

3. Such a salvation also means everlasting life with God. Death is not our destiny and is not our end. Job says,

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. (Job 19:25, 26)

Job, the sufferer, knew that after this life there awaited him everlasting life with God. He knew about his Redeemer who is alive, and who would bring him again into oneness and fellowship with God which will last forever.

Our appeal to you is to accept your Messiah now. Your celebration of Purim will be a true one and a spiritual one. It will be not only a celebration of the physical deliverance, which is temporary, but also a spiritual one that will last forever.

We invite you to get in touch with us so that we may help you find the way for full and complete redemption and salvation.

Bob Charness •
Businessman

Is it possible for an agnostic to find God? I did.

Although I was born and raised in a Jewish home I had no interest in God or His scriptures. My Jewish heritage meant so little to me that I seldom really participated in the holidays.

Then one day I discovered the Messiah's love for me. My life was changed, and for the first time God became a living reality. I felt more Jewish than I had ever felt in my life.

My mother and sister began to carefully observe the change that took place in my home. A new love radiated both my wife's and my spiritual experience. As my mother and sister watched, they too responded to Christ's love.

Our Jewishness had been made complete in Christ.

Mary Linderman •
Executive Secretary

Until June 1967 I knew God only as someone who lived way up in heaven. Then an unexpected surgery and a broken engagement left me physically and emotionally drained. My life seemed shattered. Everything I did to regain the happiness I had formerly known plunged me into deeper despair.

When all else had failed, I found myself praying to God. For the first time in my life I earnestly searched for Him. God answered my prayers, but not in the way I had expected.

God reached down and touched me with the fullness of His presence through His Son, the Messiah. His love—so pure and real, poured through me to overflowing. Life took on a new meaning and purpose. Every day began to be filled with promise and hope.

I found that I did not have to give up my Jewish heritage in order to accept Christ. He just added a new dimension of love, peace and understanding to my life.

Richard Hoffman •
Student

My Jewish heritage meant more than ever to me after I came to know Christ.

He has also taught me how to accept myself and He gives me power to overcome the problems of life.

WHY

WE

BELIEVE...

Dolores Herme •
Secretary

My search for happiness and peace of mind led me to Israel, Switzerland, England, and back to the United States. Upon returning home, I despaired at having failed so miserably to achieve my goal.

Then one day I discovered that Christ could put it all together in my life. Now I face each day with peace and happiness.

Morris Muslin •
Retired Postal Employee

You can imagine my surprise when our nine year old son returned from a Jewish children's club singing about Jesus.

When questioned about his actions, he assured me that he had been at a Jewish place and a Jewish lady was in charge. Naturally, I asked the lady who had invited my son, to what kind of place she had taken him. She said it was a Jewish group that believed Jesus was the Messiah of Israel.

My wife and I decided to further investigate the matter, and it was here that we first learned about the prophecies of Christ.

All my life I had searched for something, but did not know what. Through this Jewish group I learned that God sent the Messiah to give us a more abundant life.

I invited Christ into my heart, and since that time I have experienced a life abundantly full and complete.

Shirley Delman •
Homemaker

Toward the end of World War II my husband was sent to Germany. In my distress I wanted to pray, but I didn't know how to approach God.

I had heard some strange stories about Jesus—how He healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed many other miracles. *More than ever, what I needed was a miracle worker.*

I began to pray to Jesus because I felt it would do no harm, and it might even work. My husband returned safely, but I forgot my promise to tell everyone what Jesus had done for me.

The next twelve years I read more about Jesus from time to time. Then God began to work in our lives. My husband began to read the Bible, and I began to listen to a religious radio broadcast. A short time later we both accepted Christ as our Messiah.

I can't fully express the peace and joy I have found since accepting Him. He has been true to every one of His promises.