

How Judaism and Christianity Separated: The Revolt



Scripture

- **Acts 15:20-21**

“Therefore it is my judgement that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.

Other Scriptures

- Revelation 22:16
- Matthew 5:17-19
- Acts 10:9-16
- Matthew 13:52
- John 4:22

Main Points

- The first believers in Jesus were recognized as Jews.
- The inclusion of the Gentiles
- Jesus never wanted the Gentile Church to be separated from understanding the Hebrew roots of their faith.
- To avoid taxes, Gentile believers no longer visited Jewish Synagogues.
- Bar Kokhba Revolt-132 AD
- Believers withdrawal from the Jewish revolt
- Movements within Judaism
 - The Sadducees
 - The Pharisees
 - The Essenes
 - The Nazarenes
- The reign of Constantine

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Questions for Discussion

1. In this program the Rabbi made the point that in the early days following Jesus' death and resurrection the question was not how can a Jewish person believe in Jesus and be Jewish. It was can a Gentile join with Jewish believers in faith and practice and in what Jewish practices would Gentiles be expected to participate? The heart of the matter was to include Gentiles in salvation by faith. In that spirit, what was the outcome of the council held in Jerusalem, spoken of in Acts 15?
2. Gentiles had begun to attend synagogues to learn more about faith. What did Rome do that caused them to stop this practice?
3. Why did believers withdraw from Jewish people who were following Bar Kokhba in revolt? What status was being given to him?
4. Though Constantine rallied around his belief in Jesus and the cross, how was he used to further separate Judaism and Christianity? These believers in Jesus (whether Jewish or Gentile) were living life in real time events and the troubles of their day. What can we take from this concerning living for Jesus in these days in which we live? What are some promises from God that you depend on?