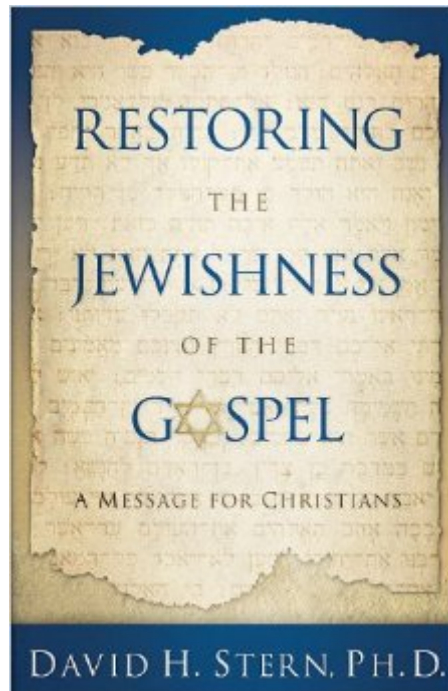


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Restoring The Jewishness Of The Gospel: A Message For Christians Condensed From Messianic Judaism



Synopsis

Introduces Christians to the Jewish roots of their faith. Explains how the Jews and the Church are God's people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christianity has its roots in Judaism, and David Stern proves that there her roots must remain. Although the Apostles agreed that gentile believers in the Messiah need not become Jewish, later church councils decided that believers in Messiah could no longer be Jewish. But the evidence of Scripture clearly points out that first century believers had no problem continuing an identification as a "sect of the Jews." Stern demonstrates how the Church, an outgrowth of Judaism, cut itself off from its roots and has suffered because of it. Although a few interpretations are strained (esp. his interpretation of the relationship of the Law to New Testament believers in Galatians), the book is a real eye opener. Anybody who values Bible interpretation would do well to read it, esp. pastors and professors, though it is understandable to a serious laymen. This book will stretch your mind and help you to "see" passages you never "saw." As a serious student of the Word, pastor of 20 years, and someone who values thoughtful interpretation, I say this book is a must.

This book is short and enlightening. It is a wonderful start for the person beginning to seek understanding of the Jewish context of Christianity. You will see the story unfold of the "church" Jesus intended to establish; of the Jewish origin of Christianity; and of Jesus' life in the Jewish

culture. Then, learn how Judaism and Christianity can and will be restored as one. Lastly, learn why your wrong if you think the "law" was the old testament. Order "The Parables" by Brad Young or "Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus" by David Bivin, with this book, because you will be thirsty for more truth.

Although short in length, this book is full of exegesis for understanding the message of Christ from a pair of first century A.D. ears. This book will challenge preconceived notions and many years of Protestant teaching. The author's logic and research is sound yet easy to follow. A serious Christian will use this book as a springboard to the deep water of the gospels. If it wasn't for the brevity, this book would carry a higher rating.

This booklet is a good starting point, not elementary but concise, to realizing the Jewish context of the Bible. I highly recommend this book, but more importantly I encourage the "Called Out Ones" to study the subject and get back to our Jewish roots.

The Gospels were written by Jews. All of the first "Christians" were Jews. All of the Apostles were Jews. Jesus was a Jew. It is time that the church returns to its Jewish roots. We Christians have lost so much by separating from our Jewish brothers. This books is a good reminder that the Gospels were written in Hebrew for Jews (for the most part) by Jews, about Jews. God set up the Feasts and Festivals for the purpose of revealing His Son. Let's get back to those remembrances and to our Jewish roots.

Up to page 24 I was ready to give this book a 4 or 5 star review. The first 23 pages are great and I would say very well worth reading by believers whether they be Jewish or Gentile. But after page 23 the book takes a turn. Whereas Stern says that the book is for both Christians and Messianic Jews, the book devolves into a blame game aimed and addressed against Gentile believers. It is entirely lopsided and seems like Stern is just airing his angry feelings. Never does Stern acknowledge that it was Jewish people who killed Stephen, or any other persecution done by non-believing Jews against believing Jews. Stern goes on about how bad the Gentile Church has been and how Gentiles need to (essentially) make reparations. Obviously, Christians have committed terrible atrocities, but then how truly were they believers in the Messiah or acting as such? While Stern places a heavy burden on Gentiles he barely has anything to say to Messianic Jews in terms of their role in evangelizing Jewish brothers and sisters. So, it seems a bit like bait and switch: telling

readers the book is for believers of all kinds but then turning to essentially tell Gentile's how bad they've been and all they need to do in order to make up for it. All in all, this book ends more divisive than anything unifying. I'd recommend people visit the One for Israel site if you are interested in learning more about the powerful and restorative work of Messianic Jews today.

All in all, I think this book was David Stern's best book, second to "Messianic Jewish Manifesto." I suggest getting the revision of MJM (Messianic Judaism: a modern movement with an ancient past) because that contains all the material in Restoring, as well as adding new material to the old edition. In one of the appendices it has all the information that Restoring has, and passages in MJM that parallel. I was disappointed with Stern's CJB, JNT, and JNTC. But, he redeemed himself slightly in MJM. I would not buy this book if you are going to buy MJM. But if you are only getting this book, it gives pretty good advice on how to evangelize to Jews without offending them or being stubborn. I still think Stern's theology and idea of the MJ movement needs some rethinking and reformation, but this book is a good intro to Stern's theology, who is seen collectively as a representor of the MJ movement. shalom- john

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