

Who do you say that I am?



# Seeing Jesus

through new eyes

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Seeing Jesus  
through new eyes

A Different Perspective  
Week 1



# A Different Perspective

**And so the story goes...**

“One night, a captain of a U.S. Navy warship saw the light of an oncoming vessel heading straight at him. He signaled ahead: “Change course 20 degrees.” Back came the reply: “Advisable you change course 20 degrees.” The captain didn’t accept this response and sent the message, “I’m a captain. Change course 20 degrees.” Back came the reply: “I’m a seaman second class, change course 20 degrees.” By this time the captain was furious. “I’m a battleship!” he signaled, “Change course 20 degrees!” To which came the response: “I’m a lighthouse!”

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# Seeing through a different lens

A personal story...



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# Seeing through a different lens

A personal story...



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# The Root That Supports

*<sup>11</sup> Again I ask: Did they [the Jewish people] stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. <sup>12</sup> But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!*

Romans 11:11-12

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# The Root That Supports

*<sup>13</sup> I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry <sup>14</sup> in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup> If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.*

Romans 11:13-16

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# The Root That Supports

*<sup>17</sup> If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, <sup>18</sup> do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. <sup>19</sup> You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” <sup>20</sup> Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.*

Romans 11:17-21

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# Seeing through a different lens

*“The vital issue for the Christian church is to decide whether to look for its roots in Judaism and consider itself an extension of Judaism, or to look for roots in pagan Hellenism and consider itself as an antithesis to Judaism”.*

Rabbi Abraham Heschel  
The Insecurity of Freedom 169-170

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# Hebrew & Hellenistic Worldviews

	Hellenistic Worldview	Hebrew Worldview
<b>Material vs Ideas</b>	Thoughts / Ideas	Action / Doing
<b>Linear vs Block Logic</b>	All facts are connected. Contradictory facts cannot exist together.	The biblical writers affirm the tension of living with truths that appear contradictory.
<b>Learning</b>	Learning for knowledge	Learning for doing
<b>Time</b>	Time is fleeting and must be captured	Time is sacred and God is at work in the events of each day
<b>Kingdom</b>	Domain Place Realm World to come Creed	Dominion Power Reigning Here and now Conduct

## Understanding Hebrew Context

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# Historical Understanding

## The Scripture of Jesus' day and the early church

### Torah (Teaching, Law)

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

### Nevi'im (Prophets)

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings
- Later Prophets
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah
  - Ezekiel
- The Twelve
  - Hosea
  - Joel
  - Amos
  - Obadiah
  - Jonah
  - Micah
  - Naham
  - Zephaniah
  - Habakkuk
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
  - Malachi

### K'tuvim (Writings)

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Job
- Scrolls
  - Song of Songs
  - Ruth
  - Lamentations
  - Ecclesiastes
  - Esther
  - Daniel
  - Eza-Nehemiah
  - Chronicles

**TaNak**

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# Historical Understanding

## The separation between the Jews and the Nazarenes

- Took over one century: they were not separate until the middle of the second century
- Complex issues that should not be overlooked
- Sources are sketchy
- Authors have a particular point of view

## Critical developments creating tension

- Theological differences
  - Jesus: Man or God?
  - Reinterpretation of Jewish Symbols
  - Unusual mission of Jesus: questionable segments
  - Abba: unique relationship to address God
  - Messianic expectations
  - Belief in resurrection of Jesus
- Nazarenes successful in reaching out to Gentiles
- Persecutions (minim / heretics)
- Jewish Revolts against Rome

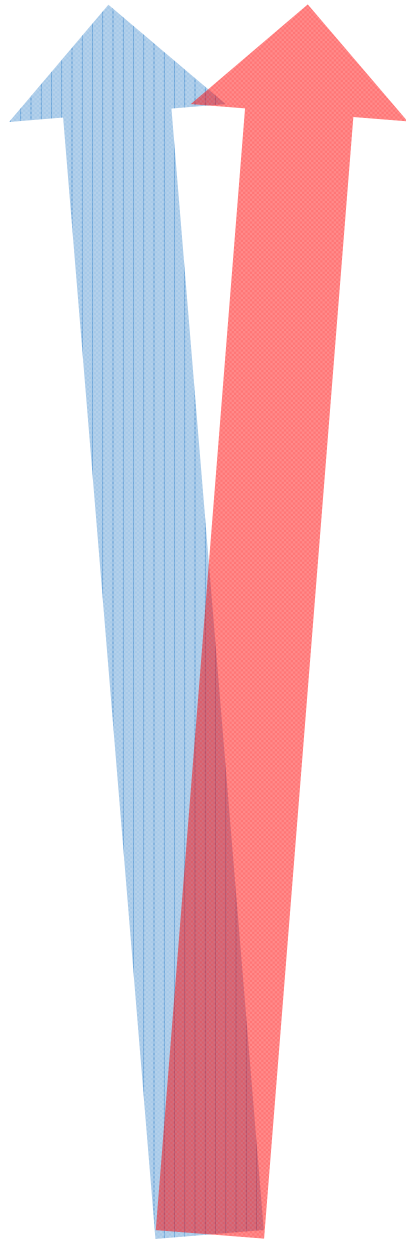
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# Historical Understanding



<u>150 AD</u>	Early Church Father Writings
<u>140 AD</u>	
<u>130 AD</u>	Second Jewish Revolt (132 to 135)
<u>120 AD</u>	
<u>110 AD</u>	Sabbath to the Lord's Day
<u>100 AD</u>	
<u>90 AD</u>	Nazarenes put out of Synagogue
<u>80 AD</u>	Academy of Yavneh
<u>70 AD</u>	Fall of Masada Fall of Jerusalem / Flight to Pella First Jewish Revolt (66 to 73)
<u>60 AD</u>	Burning of Rome
<u>50 AD</u>	Council of Jerusalem Jews & Nazarenes Expelled from Rome
<u>40 AD</u>	
<u>30 AD</u>	

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Contours of Hebrew Thought*

- Religion as a Way of Life
- A Time for Meditation
- Everything is Theological
- Study: the Highest form of Worship
- Shabbat: Time with God

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Kesher Connections*

*“Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **“This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”** And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.”*

Luke 9:35-36

*“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall **listen to him.**”*

Deut. 18:15, Torah (Law, Teaching, Instruction)

*“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; **My chosen one** in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.”*

Isa. 42:1, Nevi'im (Prophets)

*“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are **My Son**, Today I have begotten You.’”*

Psa. 2:7, Ketuvim (Writings)

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Rabbinic Teaching Methods*

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>19</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

Luke 18:18-19

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Jesus' Self-Awareness*

*<sup>46</sup> Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. <sup>48</sup> When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"*

Luke 2:46-49

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Idioms*

Good/Healthy eye or Bad eye (generous or stingy)

<sup>22</sup> *“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

Matt. 6:22-23

Abolish the Torah (misinterpret it, not cancel it)

<sup>17</sup> *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

Matt. 5:17-20

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# Next Week

Week 2

Jesus of Nazareth: The Jewishness of Jesus

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# Who do you say that I am? Seeing Jesus through new eyes

## Outline

- 1 Introduction: A Different Perspective
- 2 Jesus of Nazareth: The Jewishness of Jesus
- 3 Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- 4 In My Father's house: Who Jesus Said he was
  - No Sunday School (Easter)
- 5 Come Follow Me: Rabbis and Disciples
- 6 Jesus' Full Spiritual Vigor: Messianic Expectations
- 7 Everyone who heard him was amazed
- 8 I speak in parables
- 9 I have come to fulfill them: Our Hebrew speaking Lord
- 10 Repent for the Kingdom is at hand
- 11 Humbly walk with your God: Living the Torah

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