

Who do you say that I am?



# Seeing Jesus

through new eyes

Jesus of Nazareth  
The Jewishness of Jesus

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# Aspects of Hebrew Context

## *Idioms (figure of speech)*

### Good/Healthy Eye or Bad Eye

<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!*

(generous or stingy)  
Matt. 6:22-23

### Abolish the Torah

<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.*

(misinterpret it, not cancel it)  
Matt. 5:17-20

Understanding  
Hebrew Context

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# Contour of Hebrew Thought

## *Religion as a Way of Life*

- For the Jew, religion is not a system of ethics, a code of conduct, or a creed.
- Daily life of faith is a journey or pilgrimage.
- It is synonymous with the way they chose to walk.
- If a person knows God, he is daily at God's disposal and walks in close fellowship with him, along the road of life.
- The essence of religion is relationship.
- The Way of Life: loving both God and one's neighbor.
- Life takes on twofold elements in relationship with God.
  - Halalah (walking, proceeding, going) [laws and regulations; not a negative connotation]
  - Teshubah (repent, turn around, go back) [return to God]
- Religion as a way of life is based on the centrality of Scripture, God's Word, in the midst of Jewish life.

*Act justly and  
love mercy, and  
walk humbly  
with your God  
(Micah 6:8).*

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# Contour of Hebrew Thought

## *A Different View of Time and History*

- God's word is his revelation to humankind.
- The Hebrew view of time and history was essentially linear, active, and progressive. It was going somewhere; the glorious climax at the end of this age.
- Hebrew is holy or sacred history.
- For the Hebrew, God is the LORD of history, which is thus the account of Yahweh "he who is actively present" at work in this world among his people.
- It is God who pursues humanity in time in each event of each life.
- Hebrews taught the world to sanctify time (Shabbat among other things). Something sacred was at stake in each event and each life. Hence one must not kill time but redeem time.
- This concept of history brings ultimate meaning and purpose.
- God is alive, at work, and in control.

*One must not kill  
time but redeem  
time.*

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

God inserted himself into a specific place...  
into a specific time  
with a specific people  
in a specific culture,  
speaking a specific language

## *The Word Made Flesh*

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the Glory of the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”*

(John 1:14)

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanu El – which means God with us.”*

(Matthew 1:23 / Isaiah 7:14)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*Jesus was of the lineage of  
Abraham and David*

*<sup>1</sup> This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son  
of David, the son of Abraham. (Matt. 1:1)*

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

## *Jesus was born a Jew*

*<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

(Matt. 1:18-19)

*<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

(Gal. 4:4)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*Jesus' family was  
an observant Jewish family*

*<sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on  
for a day. Then they began looking for him among  
their relatives and friends. (Luke 2:44)*

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*Jesus observed  
Jewish customs and holidays*

*<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. (Luke 2:41-42)*

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

## *Jesus was known as a Jew*

*<sup>3</sup> The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, <sup>5</sup> because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.”* (Luke 7:3-5)

*<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table.* (Luke 7:36)

*<sup>31</sup> At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”* (Luke 13:31)

*<sup>37</sup> Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.* (Matt. 27:37)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

## *Jesus knew the Scriptures*

*<sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.* (Luke 2:46-47)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

## *Jesus was a rabbi*

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (Mark 9:5)

<sup>51</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” (Mark 10:51)

Rabbi was a title of respect and esteem, not an official title yet. The official title of position did not come into place until about 100 years after Jesus.

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*Jesus' teachings were in keeping with the other Jewish sages and rabbis*

*<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. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

(Matt. 5:17-18)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*Jesus utilized known methods to teach*

*<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

*<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on”*

(Luke 4:16-20)

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# The Jewishness of Jesus

*The response to the entirety of Scripture*

*“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)

*“...you shall **listen to him.**”*

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

*“...**My chosen one** in whom My soul delights.”*

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

*“...You are **My Son**, Today I have begotten You.”*

(Psa. 2:7, Ketuvim: Writings)

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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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