

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1110

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PART 8A: THE DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND COVENANT

In the previous sermon, I laid out the political and religious situation at the time of Jesus. We know that Judaism had been corrupted and was not repairable. **Hebrews 8:7-13**

In His first major address to the Jewish people, commonly known as the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus laid the foundation for the doctrine of the Second Covenant which God had ordained would replace the First Covenant.

THE NEW TESTAMENT ACCOUNT

The Sadducees and Pharisees recognized that they were rejected by Jesus Christ, and instead of asking Him what they could do to become part of this fresh move from God, they dug in their heels and decided to fight Jesus all the way to the point where they could murder him. **Matthew 12:9-14; 21:14-15; 26:3-5, 14-15, 47-68; 27:1-26**

Once they succeeded in murdering Jesus Christ, they were still nervous and asked for a guard around the tomb. **Matthew 27:57-66**

When the Jewish leadership realized that Jesus Christ indeed had been resurrected, instead of repenting and pleading for mercy from God for their dastardly deed, they dug in their heels deeper yet. **Matthew 28:1-6, 11-15**

THE JEWISH VERSION

From that day until now some 2,000 years later, the descendants of the generation that had Jesus murdered still believe the Jewish leadership of the first century and are calling Jesus Christ a bastard because his mother Mary was a whore who had sex with a Roman soldier. This is what is written in the Talmud.

A major Jewish history book was written by Solomon Grayzel called, *A History of the Jews*. Its spin on Jesus is more benign but with the same result, it rejects Jesus as the Messiah. This book that was published in 1948 refers to Jesus as "Joshua."

What I find interesting in this book is that the existence of Jesus of Nazareth is not denied and the account of His time in Jerusalem and the events leading up to the crucifixion mostly parallels the events in the Gospel of Matthew.

Grayzel states that John the Baptist was an Essene, a sect that had a reputation of sanctity, mystery and healing power. They were known far and wide as healers of the sick, but they never divulged their medical knowledge to non-Essenes. Grayzel hints that Jesus might have become an Essene, which would explain the miracles He performed.



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But there are more differences. According to Grayzel, the Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus by asking Him questions, but it did not work since He was evasive. The secular Sadducees then took charge and found Judas Iscariot, who was willing to betray Jesus and paid him for this service. The crowd that came by night to arrest Jesus was the official police force of the Sadducees.

The Sadducees wanted no Messiah, and Jesus was a political problem for them since he could rally the Jewish people and turn the Romans against all Jews, including them. Therefore, it was the duty of the Sadducees to make sure that Jesus was neutralized, and since Jesus had committed a political crime, the Sadducees didn't have the legal power to execute Jesus, but turned him over to Pontius Pilate, who condemned Jesus to death.

Once Jesus was dead, His friends bribed the Romans to hand over the dead body in order to fake a resurrection. Mysteriously, the body of Jesus just disappeared. His disciples met in a home of one of them in a garret (upper room) and there they spun tails about Jesus which became more marvelous each time a story was told. The disciples read the different Old Testament books to find references to the coming of the Messiah and concocted up the story that Jesus was the Messiah as foretold in the Old Testament. Here is now a direct quote from the book:

"The tragedy of Joshua was now over; the glorification of Jesus had begun. But the tragedy of the Jewish people whom he had loved was continuing and was destined to be intensified in his name." (Page 136)

THE JEWISH POPULATION AT THE TIME OF JESUS

According to Grayzel, it is estimated that there were about eight million Jews at the time of Jesus. Babylon (Iraq), which was outside the Roman Empire, had a Jewish population of some one million. Some 2.5 million lived in Palestine, and four million were scattered throughout the Roman Empire all the way from Spain, Italy, Greece, Asia Minor (Turkey), Egypt and on the North Africa coast. Many of them were wealthy and came to visit Jerusalem during the Passover. Proof of this influx of Jews from all over is reported in the Book of Acts, chapter two. Jesus never traveled outside Palestine and limited himself to preach to the Jews living there.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND COVENANT

Last week we learned that Jesus began his teaching ministry by establishing the following basic fundamentals:

- Morality – **Matthew 5:1-10**
- An identity – **verses 11-16**
- The five books of Moses and the prophets were there to stay – **verses 17-19**
- Man cannot save himself – **verse 20**
- Anger is unacceptable – **verses 21- 26**

- ❑ Lust and divorce are also unacceptable to God – **verses 27-32**
- ❑ No binding oaths – **verses 33-37**
- ❑ How to deal with negative forces – **verses 38-48**

MORE NEW COMMANDMENTS

GIVING TO THE POOR

There were basically two classes of Jews at the time of Jesus, the rich and the poor. The Jewish leadership had developed an elaborate system of how the rich were to give alms (money, food, clothing, etc.) to the poor. The rich would give in public and expect great recognition, and Jesus attacked this system of pride, and taught that giving to the poor should be done privately without fanfare. **Matthew 6:1-4**

HOW TO PRAY

Every Pharisee made sure that when they prayed, it was done in public and under great noise, so that people would look upon them as pious. Jesus rebuked this custom and set forth the principle for prayer under the Second Covenant. **verses 5-8**

Jesus then taught them the prayer of the disciples, which has been misnamed “The Lord’s Prayer.” This prayer was not designed for Jesus but for His disciples when they prayed to the Father. **verses 9-13**

FORGIVENESS

Jesus introduced an irrevocable law which cannot be altered in the spiritual world. Forgiveness is a demand and not an option. **verses 14-15**

FASTING

Jesus again reversed the teaching of Judaism, and moved fasting to an act between a person and God, not to be used to build up a person’s religious status. **verses 16-18**

To be continued...

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?