

Updating Christian and Jewish Views of the Jesus Movement

[The Black Swan Event in Jerusalem in 70 CE](#) was the destruction of Jerusalem. It began in 66 CE, when Roman General Vespasian arrived with his armies. During the event, Vespasian became the Roman Emperor. At the end of the event (72 CE) over 600,000 Jewish men, women, and children had been killed.¹ Before I continue, let me remind you of key points I made in previous emails.

- *Yeshua aka Jesus created a political party, not a sect or a religion.*
- *“Religion” as we understand it today, did not exist in the time of Jesus.*
- *“Political party” in the world of Jesus were different from political parties today.*
- *People involved in political parties back then are very much like people today.*

The Black Swan Event ended **40 years after other Roman soldiers executed Yeshua for breaking a political law of the Romans.** Yeshua founded and led his movement, which he called *The Kingdom of Heaven*. **“Heaven” was euphemism Jews used for the Hebrew word “God.”** “*The Kingdom of Heaven*” and “*The Kingdom of God*” meant the same thing to the people that heard him speak.

As you can imagine, during and after the event, the Jewish people lived in a chaotic environment, dominated by uncertainties about the present and the future. But a glamour of hope arose when Vespasian established a new Sanhedrin in Yavne. Yohanan ben Zakkai, was the president, and he was a Pharisee. The Jewish people now had an institution with legal standing in the Roman Empire and access to the Roman Emperor.

The *Gospel of Mark* appears around the same time the new Sanhedrin was established. It reveals the link between John the Baptist, prophecies recorded in the books of Malachi and Isaiah, and Yeshua (a 30-year-old man from Nazareth). When Yeshua was baptized after hearing John the Baptist, a voice from **Heaven (God)** declared that Yeshua is **“the Anointed One.”** The Greek word for **“anointed”** is transliterated **CHRISTOS**. Drop the “-OS” ending and you have our word **“CHRIST.”** **“The CHRIST”** was a **“political figure”** – *that’s why the Romans executed him later.*

In 80 CE, the Sanhedrin was moved from Yavneh to Usha. It has a new president, **Gamaliel II**. Around the same time, a two-volume work written by Luke appears. He was a physician, an investigator, and a Gentile. A man named Theophilus, who appears to hold a very important position, requested Luke to investigate conflicting writings that were being circulated about Yeshua and his movement.

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<https://archive.jewishagency.org/jerusalem/content/23693/#:~:text=Roman%20reinforcements%20which%20were%20brought,600%2C000%20men%20women%20and%20children.>

Luke's report is found in the *Gospel of Luke* and the *Book of Acts*.

The two volumes were separated later by the insertion of the *Gospel of John* which was written over 20 years later. Luke discovered that writings from "Paul" were the primary sources of confusion. *The Gospel of Luke answers questions about Jesus*, while *The Book of Acts answers questions about the relationship of Paul to Jacob (James) the brother of Yeshua and the Apostle Peter*. Below are key points from the *Gospel of Luke*.

- Jesus was **circumcised** and named when he was 8 days old (2:21).
- Jesus was a **descendant of King David** (3:21).
- At the age of 12, Yeshua sitting with famous Jewish teachers at the Temple listening to them and asking them questions. **His understanding and answers astonished everyone** (3:41-47).
- At age 30, Yeshua was at the synagogue in his hometown. He was asked to come up and read a portion from the scroll of Isaiah by the leader of the synagogue. In front of everyone, the man handed Yeshua the scroll. Yeshua quickly found the place, read the words "*The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me because He has anointed Me*", rolled the scroll up, and handed it back to the man (Luke 4:16-20).



The *Great Isaiah Scroll* (1QIsaa) is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947. It is the largest (734 cm) and best preserved of all the biblical scrolls, and the only one that is almost complete. The **54 columns** contain all 66 chapters of the Hebrew version of the biblical Book of Isaiah. It was made around 125 BCE.² Scrolls have no page, chapter, or verse numbers.

*Visualize a football field.
The Isaiah Scroll is over 8 yards long.*

While standing in front of a synagogue filled with people, he quickly scrolled over to **column 49**, read the words, rolled it back up, and handed it back to the man. Let that image sink in!

² <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>

How many people back then, or even today, could do what Yeshua did. Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor always said:

“That would be the worst nightmare a student studying for his Bar Mitzvah or her Bat Mitzvah could have!”

Imagine standing in front of the synagogue, being handed any scroll, and told to find and read a specific portion.

If you are Jewish, how long would it take you?

The points above are evidence that (1) Yeshua was a Jew, (2) a legitimist candidate for being a Jewish king, and (3) an outstanding teacher and interpreter of the sacred scrolls of the Temple -- *things that members of any Sanhedrin would view as important.*

Luke includes a story in the *Book of Acts* that would specifically catch the attention of the new president of the Sanhedrin at Usha. A Pharisee, who was also a highly respected teacher of the Torah, spoke to members of the Sanhedrin at the Temple about members of the Jesus Movement (Acts 5:33-39).

*“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding **these men** (leaders of the Jesus Movement). For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. **And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it — lest you even be found to fight against God.**”*

The man that said these words was **Gamaliel I**, the father of **Gamaliel II**.

If you have time, go to the [Exploring Page of the BHC website](#) and watch the two short videos about the *Great Scroll of Isaiah* and the *3D Tour of Herod's Temple*. They will help you more accurately visualize the world of Yeshua -- and the rabbis that are in the Talmud. **Accurately understanding anything, requires knowledge of events that were taking place when they were written.**

Shalom,
Jim Myers

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