

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE & OUR BIBLICAL HERITAGES

Providing factual information about the Bibles, beliefs, movements,
institutions, events and people of historical Christianity & Judaism.

2016 • NUMBER 1

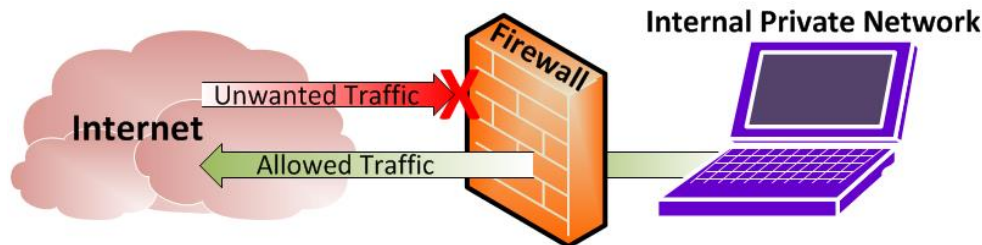
Why the Real Yeshua?

Because Believing as Usual is No Longer an Option

By Jim Myers

Over the past few years, I have written a lot about the *“Real Yeshua”* and have been asked why I don’t call him *“Jesus Christ”* instead? Today, I would like to share some of the most important reasons. The first reason I call him *“Yeshua”* is *“Jesus”* wasn’t his name. No one ever called him *“Jesus”* until around the time Columbus discovered America that Christians. So, that’s the reason I call him *“Yeshua”* and I think he would like for everyone with Belief Systems that focus on him to do the same. Wouldn’t you agree?

Another reason I call him the *“Real Yeshua”* is because of how my readers would react if I used the name *“Jesus”* in the things I write. It is essential for each of us to understand how the human mind works. It has protection systems that functions like firewalls on computers and smartphones.

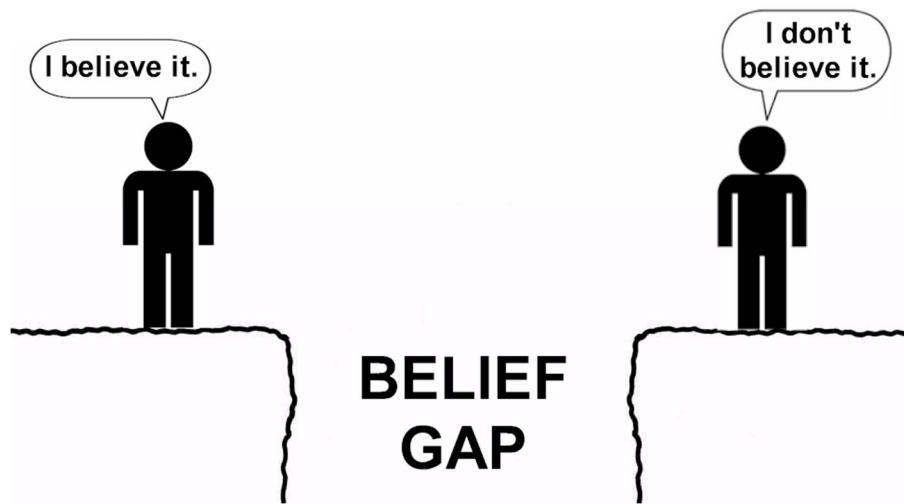


One of our protection systems is the immune system that protects us from foreign invaders like viruses. The other is a memetic protection system that protects our minds from acquiring memes that may harm us. A **mememe** is a piece of information that only exists in a human mind. Some of our memes become the **Standards** we use to measure other memes and human actions.

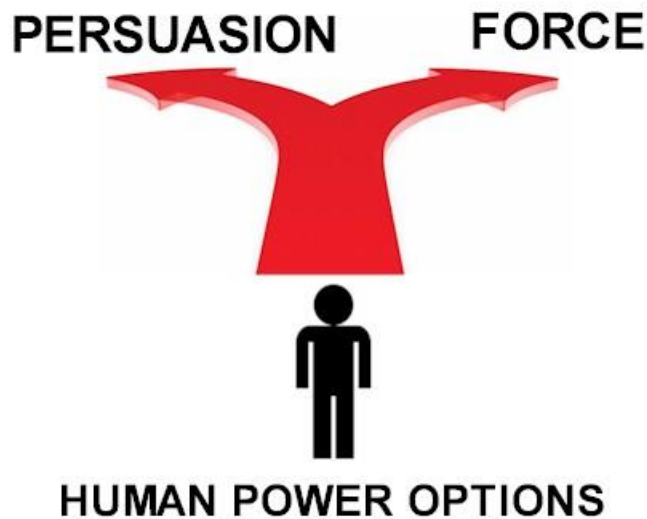


These Standards are embedded in the subconscious mind where they act like the firewall above. They measure input received from the senses and if it doesn’t measure up, it filters it out or alerts the conscious mind that something isn’t right. Mememe Standards focus on two specific things ó *memes linked to genetic traits and beliefs*. Genetic traits are things like gender, skin color, height, physical condition, deformities, etc. Beliefs are judgments in which trust or confidence is placed, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so.¹

*It is important to understand that we are not consciously aware of the things the subconscious mind filters out, even if it is more accurate that information in our minds. If the much slower information processing **conscious mind** becomes involved, it has historically responded in one of the two ways below:*



If people disagree about a belief, a **Belief Gap** separates them and that is where **Belief Conflicts** begin. We people become involved in conflicts they turn to their power options.



In order to understand human actions and history, it is essential to understand that humans only have the two options above for exercising power against other humans. People engaged in Belief Conflicts have those options for dealing with each other.

For the past twenty-five years **Dr. Ike Tennison** (Ph.D. Greek and Latin) and **Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor** (Conservative Judaism) and I (former pastor, chaplain and banker) have worked together to understand our Religious Belief Systems and the religious institutions related to them. Ike and I founded the **Biblical Heritage Center** specifically for that purpose and Jeffrey has been actively involved in this

work from the beginning. When we began, Religious Belief Systems were of interests to many people, but there was no pressing concern for many to change their beliefs.

The way Americans view Religious Belief Systems changed on September 11, 2001 when Islamic extremists attacked the World Trade Center, Pentagon and failed to hit a third target. A new reality appeared in many American minds ó *Religious Belief Systems have the potential to harm and kill Americans on American soil.* Many people responded by declaring that their Religious Belief Systems (usually Christian) are the only truth and other religions are wrong. This created a problem because there are over 40,000 Christian denominations and paradenominations in America and they clearly do not share a common Christian Belief System, even though over 70% of Americans identify themselves as öChristians.ö

In marketing terms, they share a common brand name, but when you open the package you find very different things. However, most Christians never open the packages a look inside and consider the reality the word öChristianö means a lot of different things to different people. We find the same situation when it comes to the memes people have about öGod.ö Polls reveal that over 90% of Americans reported ö*they believe in God.*ö Based on accounts of the September 11th attacks, all of the murders that hijacked the planes also öbelieved in God,ö as a matter of fact they did what they did because of they believed in God. When we consider the facts, it is obvious that groups of people standing on opposing sides of Belief Gaps screaming öwe are doing God's willö will never resolve the conflict.

There is another option that we discovered from our twenty-five year journey examining our Religious Belief Systems. I am sure you are aware that lots of people in America have many memes about Jesus and God, which they highly value. If I used the name öJesusö instead of öYeshuaö in the things I write, their subconscious firewalls would screen a lot of it out or set off alarms in the conscious mind and that would make it very difficult for them to consider it. But, I have been exactly where they are and I understand. I also know many of those people and believe they would like to have accurate information about Jesus and understand what he taught. They are very good people that care about America. So, this is another reason I write about the ö**Real Yeshua.**ö It allows memes to be considered about Jesus that wouldn't make it through the firewalls otherwise.

Our Foundering Fathers understood human power options and created a government based on the Persuasion option, with Force being a secondary option. This was a grand experiment, because no society had ever existed like it before. The American culture was strongly shaped by the First Amendment freedoms of speech and religion. An unintended consequence of American freedom and liberty produce the **Age of the Individual** ó *the individual is the central focus of the society.* America is known as öThe Me Societyö in which everything from food to religion is tailored to satisfy the *appetites, desires* and *longings* of individuals. An unintended consequence of this situation has very the potential of creating a very dangerous situation. It has been breaking down social and collective bonds that hold individuals together and are required for a democracy to successfully function in ways that benefit all members. The challenge that must be met is find a way to create strong bonds that will reverse this situation.

We believe that what we discovered over our twenty-five year journey can teach people how to create those bonds and make them much stronger than they have ever been. We made a major discovery a few years ago when we realized that our understanding of what it means to be human was flawed. It happened when we incorporated the new knowledge we had acquired about genes and memes in our

work about **Belief Systems**. What we discovered made it possible to **Bridge Believe Gaps** and it brings people together. An amazing thing happened when we discovered that our genes and memes have a lot in common and that what we know about genes helps us learn about memes.

(1) *We receive both from other humans.*

(2) *Genes and memes have histories that are traceable.*

(3) *The same genes and memes in different combinations create very different outcomes.*

This allowed us to create a new tool that helps us view memes in a new way. Everyone is familiar with a *genealogy*, but very few have ever even heard the word *memealogy*. It works like a genealogy except it traces the histories of memes. As I pointed out above -- *all beliefs are memes ó therefore, focusing on belief memes is a high priority*. We discovered that the best way to maximize the benefits for members on both sides of Belief Gaps is to get them work together in the creation of their memealogies. Obviously, this presents a challenge, but when people understand the potential benefits, they often agree. By teaming them up together, they are able to use their firewalls to help each other become aware of things that were being filtered out.

However, in order to create an environment that is inclusive, open and safe for interactions to take place we created a guideline that participants must agree to follow. I have been using it for almost 30 years in my Bible study groups. Participants must memorize it and may remind each other often when dealing with specific beliefs:

My Belief System will be large enough to include all of the Facts, open enough to be tested, and flexible enough to change when Errors or New Facts are discovered.

Make sure you understand the difference between beliefs and facts:

- *Beliefs* are judgments in which trust or confidence is placed, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so.
- *Facts* are things that have the quality of being actual; they have an actual existence, an actual occurrence;² they are sensory verifiable.³

Keep in mind that all beliefs are memes ó *pieces of information that exist only in minds*. Facts are things that exist outside the mind and are sensory perceivable to anyone. Since people communicate memes through language, it is essential to understand what words are. We created the following to guideline for that purpose:

A word or phrase is a symbol or group of symbols with an attached bundle of association, and those associations are the product of the Source's (writer or speaker) culture, historical time period, geographical location and personal experiences.

Language and experience are intimately interwoven, and the awareness of one often awakens the other along with associated emotions and feelings. It is important to keep this mind as you work on memealogies. A word may not mean much to you, but to the other person it may have bundles of emotions and feeling attached to it.

We didn't have the tools and guidelines available when we stumbled through our self-examinations of our Belief Systems. Let me share my experience and it will help put all of the pieces of the approach we created together. The first step in creating my memealogy was to identify my beliefs and write them down.

- (1) **Christian** *ó a person who has been saved.*
- (2) **saved** -- *an emotional experience at the end of a church service during the invitation in which a salvation prayer is prayed and the person praying the prayer becomes saved.*
- (3) **heaven** *ó the place (in the sky) where I will spend eternity with God instead of burning in hell (a place deep beneath the earth) with the devil.*
- (4) **eternal salvation** – *it is impossible for me to lose my salvation.*
- (5) **all my sins are forgiven by God** – *past, present and future.*
- (6) **church membership** -- *immediate membership after being saved.*
- (7) **Bible (King James Version)** – *inerrant and infallible Word of God.*

I soon discovered two additional belief memes that affected all of those above:

- (1) *The above beliefs came from God.*
- (2) *Jesus taught the beliefs I held.*

Next I compared my beliefs to the teachings of the Real Yeshua. One quick note about the words of the Real Yeshua before we move on. They are found in the *Gospels* of the *New Testament*. No original manuscripts of those words exist. The English translations in our Bibles were made from copies or copies of copies that were made centuries later. Now it's time to use the linguistic guideline above to see how my linguistic background compares to the Real Yeshua's.

Name	Language	Culture	Time Period	Location
Yeshua	Hebrew	Late 2 nd Temple Jewish	1 st Century	Galilee – Judea
Me	English	American	20-21 st Century	Texas

Now let's see where Yeshua stood on the things above that I believed and create a memealogy for him.

- (1) Neither Yeshua nor his followers called themselves "Christians" or were called "Christians" by others. What were they called? The answer is "Jews." The first people called "Christians" were followers of Paul in Antioch by outsiders several years after Yeshua's crucifixion. (Acts 11:26)
- (2) The "righteous" will enter eternal life (on earth not in the sky). The "righteous" are those who loved others by performing acts of TZEDAQAH as part of the normal course of life ó delivering the people they encounter from things like *hunger, homelessness, sickness, loneliness, etc.* TZEDAQAH is the transliteration of a Hebrew word and to understand Yeshua's meme's connected to it, we must view it through his culture.

- (3) TESHUVAH is another word we must understand through his culture. It is prerequisite for divine forgiveness: *God will not pardon man unconditionally but waits for him to **repent**.* Repentance is a series of actions, beginning with the person ceasing to do the sin. It is followed by the experience of genuine remorse for the wrong that has been committed, convert his penitential energy into concrete acts to repair the damage that the sin has done, and then continue on the path of doing good actions.
- (4) Yeshua and his followers regularly attended synagogues and also participated in Temple rituals, like prayer, presentation of sacrifices, festivals, etc.
- (5) Yeshua's Scriptures were the Jewish Scriptures. He did not create a New Testament and the books of the modern versions were not written until decades after the crucifixion.

It was very clearly that what I believed was very different from what Yeshua taught. He wasn't the source of my beliefs, so where did they come from? This was the next part of my memeology project. I have arranged what I discovered in chronological order, but this time I started at the other end of the timeline.

- **20th century** ó **“Once saved always saved”** a doctrine espoused by Charles Stanley, Norman Geisler, Zane C. Hodges, Bill Bright, and others.
- **1895** ó Doctrine of **“the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible”** was an American evangelical fundamentalist's response to *modernism*, *the publication of the theory of evolution* (1859) and *the Catholic doctrine of “papal infallibility”* (1869).
- **1830s** ó Immediate church membership after salvation was introduced Charles Finney in America. At first it was strongly opposed by mainline churches, but later most of them adopted Finney's way.
- **1650s** ó The **“proof of salvation”** is *“an overpowering emotional experience.”* It usually takes place after a sermon and salvation prayer. (England & American colonies).
- **1520s** – Individuals do not need the pope, bishops or priests to mediate with God for them or interpret the Scriptures; the Holy Spirit does all of those things for every believer (Germany). Previously, only those who belonged to the Roman Catholic Church and participated in its rituals would be saved.
- **1170s** ó Christian Scriptures alone are sufficient to guide men to salvation. Bibles should be translated into the common languages of the people so they will be able to read the Scriptures themselves and see if leaders of the Church are doing what God requires (France).

Since our lives are much larger than just religion, we must include memes about beliefs from our political and economic belief systems too. All three are interwoven in the memes in our minds. One event we discovered transformed the way we viewed what we are now experiencing in America. On April 13, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson unleashed a new memetic weapon that unknowingly targeted the minds of the American people. He created the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** and this was its mission:

The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country.

It used new mass media technology to deliver engineered memes that manipulated people's emotions and feelings to get them to do what Wilson and a small group of bankers to do what they wanted. This is a story you can learn about at our TOV Center website ó <http://tovcenter.org> . After World War I CPI was shut down, but big business quickly hired them and used the same techniques to get people to buy their products and services or vote for their candidates. This became known as advertising and at the head were the "spin doctors." What began as engineered memes delivered in a shotgun style through print, radios and television from the early 1920s until 2007 changed to a rife approach with the creation of the internet and smartphones. In less than ten years America has dramatically changed as people spend increasing amounts of time linked directly to their devices. We are now in uncharted waters and the effects on our society are becoming very clear:

- (1) millions are spending billions of minutes glued to screens of devices they carry
- (2) millions are receiving increasing numbers of memes from those screens
- (3) millions are turning to those screens for advice, activity options and friends
- (4) millions are on a quest for constant, seamless self-expression and instant gratification
- (5) millions are struggling to make, or keep, long-term commitments
- (6) millions are finding it harder to engage with, or even tolerate, people or ideas that don't relate directly and immediately to themselves
- (7) empathy among millions of Americans is being weakened, and with it, so is the faith in the ideas that are essential for a democracy to operate successfully ó *a common identity with shared ideas and values.*
- (8) in everything from eating and socializing to marriage and parenting to politics, the norms and expectations of our self-centered culture are making it steadily harder for Americans to behave in civic and social ways.
- (9) this is now undermining the essential social structures required for a democracy to exist

As I said above, we must find ways to create social bonds that must be stronger than those of the past. To do this, we must find memes that we agree on. We believe that those memes should be Values instead of theological beliefs. We found those Values in our biblical heritages. Even though Jeffrey and I disagreed about our theologies when we began our journey, we discovered that we shared many of the same Values. We also discovered that many of our shared Values also appeared in the founding documents of our nation ó *the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.*

We created the **TOV Center** to help people learn about those Values, create Values-Based Relationships and Gather Together for educational, social and to from teams to address specific

problems. The **Biblical Heritage Center** and **TOV Center** work together to provide solid information for memealogies and opportunities to create strong relationships. Come & join our journey! **BHC**



*is not a product or a brand;
it cannot be bought or sold;
it cannot be voted into existence --
it can only be lived!*

January Memorials

In Loving Memory

**MURLIN
BENTLEY**

**May 24, 1929
January 20, 1996**

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**GLADYS
GERALDINE
MYERS**

**October 1, 1916
January 29, 2009**

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Their Remembrance

*May their memories inspire us to seek
those qualities of mind and heart which
they shared when we walked life's
journey together.*

*May we help to bring closer to
fulfillment their highest ideals and
noblest strivings.*

*May their memories deepen our loyalty
to those things which we valued and
shared --
faith, love, peace and devotion.*

*As long as we live, they too will live; for
they are now a part of us, as we
remember them.*

(Inspired from prayers found in Yitzhor
Reflections - The New Mahzor - The
Prayer Book Press)

In Loving Memory

**JULIE FALLIN
KELSOE**

**January 12, 1960
January 19, 1990**

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**HOMER
MELTON (DOC)
PITNER**

**October 7, 1914
January 10, 1971**

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

¹ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/believe?s=t>

² <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/fact?s=t>

³ <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/co300man/pop12d.cfm>