

Exploring the Oldest Abraham Stories and Their Evolving Interpretations

I wanted to give your brain time to process my previous email, [The Message of The Original Jesus](#). I closed it with a statement about my personal experience: “As far as I know, no Christian denomination, churches, or groups teach the message of the original Jesus.” Then I asked readers this question:

*Do you know of any Christian denomination, churches,
or group that teach the message of the original Jesus?*

I would have been more than surprised if I had received an answer with the name of an organization from a reader. The reason I asked the question was to prepare them to experience what I experienced when I discovered that the story, I had believed about Jesus was only one of many interpretations of biblical stories that have been told for almost 2,000 years. This isn't a matter of one right story and a bunch of wrong stories. It is a project of putting each story on a timeline and follow them as new stories evolve.

This is now an unavoidable situation in “**our world of supercomputers!**” Every story has a “genealogy” and we can see it on in the familiar “**family tree**” format” – and how they are linked to each other. Big data is feeding supercomputers that are powered by Artificial Intelligent that create transparency in all belief systems – *religious, political, and economic*. It is important for Christians, Jews, Muslims, Corporatists, Capitalists, Socialists, Communists, Republicans, Democrats, etc. to all know this: Transparency is, like a speeding locomotive, heading your way! BHC is preparing people for being exposed in advance. **Being exposed in private is much better than in public!**

We will revisit the **Stories of the Original Jesus** many more times in the future. However, before we can explore his story, we must exploring his version of the **Story of Abraham** – *we need to know which version of **Abraham's Story** that the **Original Jesus** believed and taught, too!*

The week before the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, thousands of Christians and groups of other Jewish sects had travelled to Jerusalem. They had all been expecting a major apocalyptic event to take place during the week. Hamas had been planning to fulfill their apocalyptic expectations and make them a reality. Three of the world's monotheistic religions, roughly half of the global population are **Jews, Christians, and Muslims:**

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- *They all had reinterpreted the Story of Abraham.*
- *They all believed their story was the right story – just like I used to believe that my Story about Jesus was the right story.*

Bruce Feiler's book: *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, is "must reading" for **Explorers of the Bible and Biblical Heritages**. No teacher can teach the skills to do this better than Feiler himself (pp. 116-118).

<quote> "Considering that I set out in search of what I thought was one Abraham at the heart of all three faiths, I was amazed by how much time I spent trying to figure out when one religion's Abraham ended and another began:

- *Did the Real Abraham begin with the birth of Moses or the death of Jesus?*
- *Did the True Abraham begin with the death of Muhammad or the fall of Constantinople?*
- *What about the Rise of the Bourgeoisie, that standby from college?*

Trying to track so many different Abrahams was like trying to track elevators in a skyscraper: dozens were in operation at any one time, some were rising, others were falling, each one stopped only at certain floors, and every car-full had only one goal: Get me to heaven fast as possible.

Eventually I concluded that, for all its chaotic, the history of Abraham as a cultural figure over the last four thousand years actually revolves around a number of critical moments that helped guarantee his enduring importance. The defining hour in his life —real or imagined— will always be when God chooses Abraham, plucking him from utter obscurity and allowing him to redefine the world.

*The second phase in his story begins in the late first millennium BCE, **when Jews start forging a religion out of their desert yore**. In a critical moment often overlooked, **early Jews also chose Abraham, summoning him out of the ethers of their past and promoting him to the status of founding***

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father. As strange as it might seem today, when Abraham is known to many as the **Father of the Jews**, this status was never guaranteed. It was a choice.

The same goes for subsequent phases. Early Christians also chose Abraham. Early Muslims chose Abraham, too. Neither had to do this. History is cluttered with spiritual visionaries who completely reject the belief systems of their forebears. Abraham himself was one of these, after all. **His heirs, by contrast, elected to emphasize their past. At every transitional moment in the evolution of religion, each subsequent incarnation of monotheism chose to link itself back to the same man.**

The question of why the religions did this — **then what each one did with Abraham once it claimed him** — would dominate Abraham's story for the subsequent two thousand years. As result, if the first step I needed to make to understand Abraham was a close reading of his story, the next step was a close reading of how each religion reinterpreted that story." <end of quote>

We have an amazing opportunity to use these skills to create transparency together and examine our most trusted beliefs. People with Christian Biblical Heritages can use these skills and techniques to:

- Discover and compare their oldest stories about Abraham and Jesus.
- Identify the beginnings of our stories about Abraham and Jesus, and discover where the old stories, new stories after our stories appeared.
- Identify where our stories ended, as newer stories replaced them.

It is from this science-based process that ancient wisdom emerges from Bible stories — *wisdom that fuels facts-based creativity for within us!* We are living at one of the major tipping points in history, but unlike our ancestors, we all have access to supercomputers, big data, and communications technologies.

Our greatest challenges are choosing to cooperate with someone else, and learning how to trust at least three people.

BHC will teach you how to this by creating **Lives 1st Values-Based Relationships** as you **Explore the Bible and Our Biblical Heritages** with others!

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Shalom,
Jim Myers, President
Biblical Heritage Center, Inc.

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