

How Judaism and Christianity Separated: Inclusion of the Gentiles



Scripture

- **Acts 10:9-15,28**

On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance, and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!” But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.” Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”

²⁸ “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.”

Other Scriptures

- Matthew 5:17-18
- Matthew 15:24
- Genesis 22:18
- Galatians 2:11-14

Main Points

- Jesus did not come to start a religion. He came to fulfill what God had given to the Jewish people.
- The inclusion of the Gentiles
- Gentile-Anyone who is not Jewish
- The inclusion of the Gentiles led to the separation of Judaism and Christianity.
- Foundations of Biblical Judaism consist of:
 - Sacrifices
 - Temple
 - Priesthood
- The Sacrifices, the Priesthood, and the Temple were replaced with liturgy and prayers.

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Questions for Discussion

1. The Gospel began as a message for the Jewish people first. Soon, God opened it up to the Gentiles and gave authorization through the vision to Peter in Acts 10. Why was it difficult for the Jewish people of the day to accept the inclusion of Gentiles and how did this further separate the Jewish from new believers in Christ?
2. How did Peter himself struggle with this concept, even having been given the vision? Why did Paul call him a hypocrite? Does this help you understand what a shift this was for Jewish mindset of separation from the non-Jewish world? Take a minute to reflect on how you might have dealt with this if you were a Jewish person in this day.
3. The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Romans destroyed the three pillars of Judaism and its foundational practices. How did the rabbinical leaders reinvent Judaism to deal with the loss of the temple, the priests, and the sacrifices?
4. Those involved in this reinvention forced out of the synagogues what group of Jewish people? Does this rejection of Messianic Jews still happen today? Take a moment now to pray for Messianic Jewish believers as well as for those who have no belief. May God continue to gather His chosen to the cross of Christ.