

How Judaism and Christianity Separated: Jealousy



Scripture

- **John 11:47-48, 53**

⁴⁷Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.” If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

⁵³So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

Other Scriptures

- John 5:46
- Luke 24:27
- John 4:22

Main Points

- Jesus came to fulfill that which had been spoken about through Moses and the prophets.
- Jesus brings the Old Testament to its climax.
- Judaism birthed Christianity, and Christianity fulfills Judaism.
- The separation was rooted in the Pharisees’ jealousy and fear of Jesus.
- The religious system of the Jewish people was centered on the sacrifices, the priesthood, and the temple.
- Primary Pillars of the Jewish Religious System
 - The Temple
 - Sacrifices
 - Priesthood
- After the temple was destroyed, the sacrifices and the priesthood stopped, and the Judaic system collapsed.
- After the temple was destroyed, Jewish leaders had to reinvent Judaism.
- Jewish leaders replaced the sacrifices with liturgy and traditions.
- Today’s form of Judaism, established in 90 A.D. is known as Rabbinic Judaism.

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Questions for Discussion

1. In John 11 Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What was the reaction of the Jewish leaders? What were their first concerns about the miracle working Jesus? What did it lead them toward doing to Jesus?
2. Why did they fear losing their nation to Jesus?
3. When the temple was destroyed, what happened to Biblical Judaism?
4. The resulting system put in place by the Pharisees in 90 AD was borne from the heart of the very Pharisees (and their sons) that rejected Jesus' miracle working power and claims. Rejection of Jesus has been passed on generation to generation without understanding. True/False? Write your reaction to this statement. Does this move you to pray for Jewish men and women everywhere?