

חנוכה שמחה

Happy Chanukah

JewsforJudaism.ca

KEEPING JEWS JEWISH



GROWING DANGER

Understanding Islamic Influence and Missionizing

By Rabbi Michael Skobac



It may seem counterintuitive, but following Hamas's savage pogrom in Israel last October 7, there has been a growing curiosity about and interest in Islam across the world. In fact, in Israel itself, a slow and steady stream of Jewish people has been converting to Islam for decades.

Sufism is a mystical branch of Islam that has held strong appeal for Jewish seekers alienated from Judaism going back to the beginning of the twentieth century. This phenomenon peaked during the countercultural revolution of the 1960s and 1970s and continues to this day.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world, with over 1.5 billion adherents, and in the twenty-first century is the fastest growing religion in the world.

Islam, like Christianity, places importance on seeking converts. In Islam, this activity is called *Da'wah*, an Arabic word referring to the act of inviting others to embrace Islam, and is considered a duty for all Muslims.

There are over five million Muslims currently living in North America, and their population is growing rapidly due to high birth rates and high levels of immigration. They have organized in ways to wield societal influence politically and culturally.

Many larger cities in North America have active *Da'wah* organizations. For example, there are over 600,000 Muslims living in the Greater Toronto Area, and they have several programs that work to spread

their faith. They actively engage the public through lectures, interfaith events, debates, websites, television programs, social media, and distributing the Quran and other Islamic literature on the street.

Another critical venue for promoting Islam is the university campus. Virtually every campus has a branch of the Muslim Students Association (MSA), which was originally launched with Wahhabi funding from Saudi Arabia. In addition, Qatar has funneled billions of dollars to North American universities to impact the atmosphere at these institutions. One of the results of this investment in influence has been the growth of departments of Islamic Studies at these institutions of higher learning.

Undoubtedly, the most significant platform for Islamic outreach has been the social media platform TikTok, which has over a billion active users each month. The short videos on this platform are extremely popular, especially among younger audiences. Islamic influencers actively post clips of debates between Muslims and non-Muslims and testimonials of people explaining why they have embraced Islam.

Mindful of the growing challenge of Islam, Jews for Judaism will be having a special program on February 7, 2025 that addresses the claims of Islam to being the only true religion in the world. See the advertisement for this lecture on page 3 of this newsletter. ■

Jews have been converting to Islam for decades.

JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY and ISLAM:

Only One Can Be True

with Rabbi Michael Skobac

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are unique among world religions in that they are often seen as a family. This is usually described as Christianity and Islam being "Daughter" religions to Judaism. There are certain ideas that all three have in common.

But there are major differences. One significant reality is that each of these faiths claims not only to be true, but to be the only true religion.

In this lecture, Rabbi Skobac will examine the truth claims of each of these three religions and discuss whether there is a way to resolve which one is actually correct.

Tues, Feb. 18 • 8 PM ET

FREE Admission

Attend LIVE or via ZOOM

Address for the live Toronto lecture will be announced after we receive registrations

Registration is required at jewsforjudaism.ca/true25

Info: T: 416-789-0020 or info@jewsforjudaism.ca

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שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

Jews for Judaism was founded to help protect Jewish people from the insidious efforts of Messianic missionaries who aggressively target our community for conversion.

To that end, the Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar has been our flagship program for decades. Thousands of people have attended the live programs over the years in Toronto, and over two million people have viewed videos from the seminar at our YouTube channel.

The response to this seminar, which is now being taught worldwide by others, has been phenomenal. It's been a life-changer for many people:

I've been listening to your counter-missionary lectures for the last few weeks, and they have been a tremendous blessing. I was a part of the Messianic Jewish movement for the last couple of years and it's safe to say that I no longer believe in Jesus. — Jeremy B.

You have helped me, in very powerful ways, to rediscover my Judaism. Your videos are so completely brilliant. But where you have succeeded, where others have failed in helping me get back to my roots of being a Jew, is by the awesome intellectual command you have. And that very honestly was the only thing that was going to take hold in my mind. — David S.

We recently redesigned and updated the original 12-part Survival Seminar and presented it in Toronto over 15 weeks. Beginning this January 15 we are going to offer this exciting new seminar again, across the globe on Zoom (see advertisement on page 6 to register).

One of the claims missionaries make is that the Jewish Bible contains hundreds of prophecies about Jesus. We devote several sessions of the Survival Seminar to this issue, and it will be the focus of our special program on December 24

BLACK BELT JUDAISM

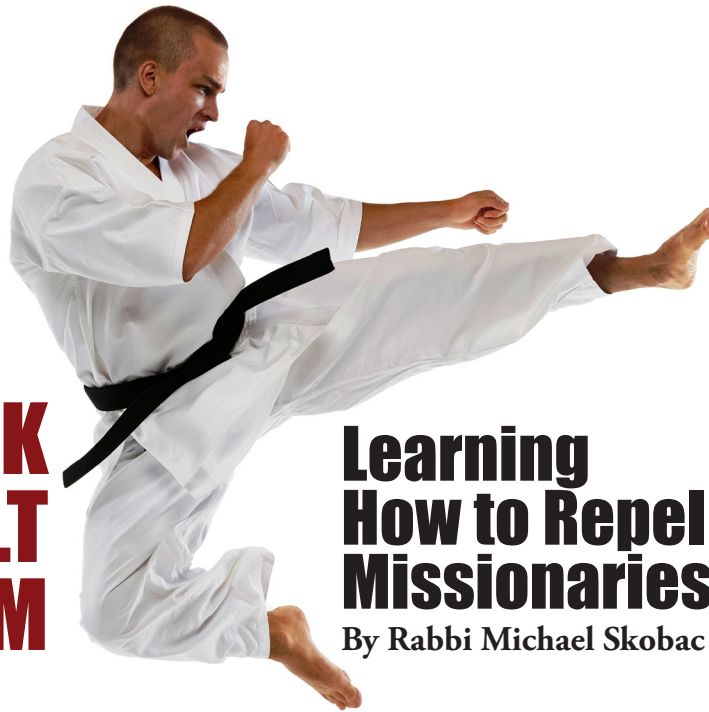
(see advertisement on page 7).

An example of one of these prophecies is from Genesis 3:15, which missionaries claim is the first description of their Messiah in the Torah.

This passage describes how G-d cursed the serpent in the Garden of Eden after it persuaded Eve to eat from the forbidden Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. G-d said, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he will strike at your head, and you will strike at his heel."

Christians claim that we see two important things in this passage. First, that the Messiah would be born to a virgin, and second, that he will destroy the power of Satan.

Their thinking is that the verse speaks about the seed of the woman, but women don't have seed, only men do. This leads them to believe that the child spoken of in the verse will be produced by a woman alone without the involvement of a man:



Learning How to Repel Missionaries

By Rabbi Michael Skobac

in other words, a miraculous virgin birth. And the verse ends by telling us that this child will strike the head of the serpent, which is said to be a manifestation of the Devil. They conclude that the Messiah is the only being capable of destroying the power of Satan, so this verse in Genesis must be about the Messiah.

This mangling of Genesis 3:15 is a Biblical interpretive crime scene. It illustrates the proclivity of Christian apologists to use the Hebrew Bible like a drunk uses a lamppost — more for support than for illumination.

The woman mentioned in this verse is Eve, and her "seed" refers to all her descendants — to all humanity. The usual understanding of the word "seed" in the Bible is to progeny. The verse is simply telling us that human beings, the descendants of Eve, will have negative feelings toward snakes — the seed (descendants) of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. In their adversarial relationship, snakes, which crawl on the

ground, will strike at the heels of people, and they will crush the heads of snakes with their feet.

The Christian assumption that this verse's reference to the "seed" of Eve is out of the ordinary and therefore indicates a supernatural birth without a human father is totally unfounded. References to the seed of a woman are not at all unusual in the Torah. For example, in Genesis 16:10, an angel tells Hagar that G-d will greatly multiply her seed. In Genesis 24:60, Rebecca's mother and brother bless her by saying, "May your seed inherit the gates of their enemies."

When we understand the simple and straightforward meaning of the Biblical text, there is nothing out of the ordinary that provides an on-ramp to the outlandish Christian claim that Genesis 3:15 is referring to the future supernatural virgin birth of the Messiah. Absolutely nothing about this verse has anything to do with the Messiah or the concept of the Messiah.

As was mentioned, missionaries don't only seek to impose the idea of a virgin-born Messiah on Genesis 3:15. They also claim that this verse reveals that

the purpose of the coming of the Messiah will be to render Satan, the cause of sin and death, powerless.

On the face of it this is a bewildering claim. We can see plainly and clearly that Satan has not been destroyed. In fact, absolutely nothing changed in the world after the death of Jesus. Those who believe

in him still sin and still die.

In the Christian scriptures, the letters of Paul confirm that Satan had not been defeated. In I Thessalonians 2:18 he says that Satan prevented him from visiting their church. In Romans 16:20 he writes that Satan will soon be crushed. Two thousand years later, this has still not been fulfilled. ■

Missionaries use the Hebrew Bible like a drunk uses a lamppost — more for support than for illumination.

The JEWISH RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

with Rabbi Michael Skobac

Rabbi Skobac boosts your Jewish pride and provides you with the knowledge, tools and spiritual survival skills needed to respond confidently to any Christian missionary who challenges your Jewish faith.

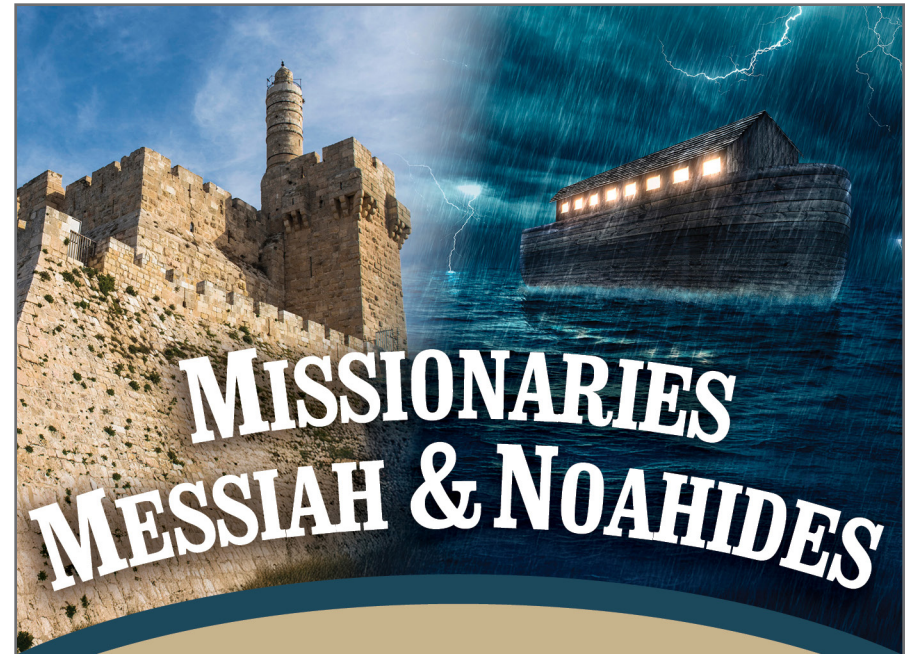
SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Why Missionaries Target Jews • What is Christian Zionism?
- What Is The Messiah? • The Missionary Nuclear Bomb
- Could Jesus Die For Our Sins? • Was Jesus The Messiah?
- How Missionaries Manipulate the Jewish Bible
- How Did Christianity Become the World's Largest Religion?

This series offers lectures 1-8 of the full 15-part lecture series. (Lectures 9-15 will be offered later in the year). Each week, after presenting one pre-recorded video lecture, Rabbi Skobac will answer each participant's questions during a live Q&A session.

8 Consecutive Wed. evenings • Jan 15 - Mar 5 • 8:00 PM ET
ZOOM ONLY • No Charge • REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER please go to jewsforjudaism.ca/response25 complete the FORM at the bottom of the ad and click SEND.
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ENJOY 4 AMAZING LECTURES ON DEC 24 & 25.

Come and explore who the Messiah is not, who the Mashiach will be and Judaism's Path to the Almighty for Gentiles, with two amazing teachers.

December 24

8:00 – 10:30 PM ET
 Rabbi Michael Skobac

Part 1: **20/20 Biblical Clarity:** How to Avoid Missionary Misreading of the Bible

Part 2: **Hype or Home Run:** Fact-Checking the Missionary Claim of 300 Biblical Prophecies for Jesus

December 25

1:00 pm – 3:30 PM ET
 Efraim Palvanov

Part 1: **The Anointed One:** A Jewish Exploration of the Messianic Concept

Part 2: **Beyond Seven:** Unveiling the 30 Noahide Laws in Jewish Tradition

SHAAREI TEFILLAH CONGREGATION, 3600 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Admission is FREE • Attend IN PERSON or via ZOOM
 REGISTRATION REQUIRED www.jewsforjudaism.ca/messiah24
 FOR MORE INFO: info@jewsforjudaism.ca or 416-789-0020

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Shaarei Tefillah
 Community Inspired Judaism



**Help Save
Jewish Lives**

**Support
Jews for Judaism**

Jews for Judaism is a global leader in Jewish outreach. We are at the forefront of addressing the most difficult and sensitive issues threatening Jewish survival.

Our goals are to strengthen Jewish pride and identity and to win back those Jews who have been negatively influenced or coerced by missionaries, cults, eastern religions, the growing rate of Jewish apathy and ignorance, assimilation, intermarriage, anti-Israel BDS propaganda, antisemitism and other challenges to Jewish continuity that are devastating the Jewish community worldwide.

We achieve our goals through local programming and via worldwide Internet Jewish outreach. Last year, over two million people accessed our social media platforms. Thousands of Jews are helped by our YouTube video lectures, specialized intervention, one-on-one counselling, education programs, downloadable literature and audio materials, and Shabbat and Jewish Holiday home hospitality.

Jews for Judaism unites the Jewish community in a common cause. We have earned endorsements from a wide spectrum of Jewish agencies, rabbis and educators. We connect countless Jewish people to the spiritual depth, beauty and wisdom of Judaism. Please support Jews for Judaism. You can help keep Jews Jewish and save Jewish lives by giving now at www.jewsforjudaism.ca/donate/. Thank you.

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