I'm going to tell you a true story of two Rabbis – you decide who stood for Biblical Judaism...

During the second temple period there were two kind of Pharisees, the first was the school of Hillel which was founded by Rabbi Hillel, and the other was the school of Shammai. They had certain differences in their emphasis, but they were the two main kind of Pharisees of the day.

Now around the early common era period, the school of Hillel under Rabbi Gamaliel who was Rabbi Hillel's grandson, had a number of very famous graduates, famous Rabbis who were educated in the school of Hillel. One of which was Onkelos who did a very famous translation of the Bible called the Targum into Aramaic. But he had two other very famous students, of which their teachings would direct the entire future of the Jewish faith to this very day, and every Jew would follow one of these two students.

The first of these students was Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai

When the temple was destroyed in 70 ce, Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai said we have a real big problem, we can't practice the Jewish faith that Moses gave anymore. To this day, on the roof of every Orthodox Synagogue you will find the Hebrew term, "Ichabod, Ichabod." `The glory has departed, the Shekinah is gone". The Rabbi's know very well, that without the temple and sacrificial system, they can't practice the faith of our fathers as the Tenach teaches. On Passover, instead of taking the Seder with lamb, because we have no priesthood and no temple, we eat chicken - modern Rabbinic tradition testifies to it.

So what did he do?

Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai had a council meeting at a place called Yavneh near Tel-Aviv and the Rabbis decided the following;

- 1. Instead of the Levites and the Cohen's (the priests) the Rabbis will be the leaders; they will be the new spiritual authorities.
- 2. Mitzvahs, good works and prayer were to replace the blood atonement of the sacrificial system for forgiveness of sins.
- 3. Instead of the temple being the centre of Jewish worship, we'll make the synagogues the centre.

The synagogues began developing after the Babylonian captivity, and we see even then another religion begins to evolve, based on human tradition and the emergence of the modern non Biblical rabbinic oral laws. That was Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai of the school of Hillel student of Rabbi Gamaliel.

But, then this other Rabbi, who was a classmate of Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai, his name was Rabbi Sha'ul of Tarsus, better known to some people as Paul the Apostle, likewise a disciple of Gamaliel, who was associated with something called the Middoth of Hillel, which the apostle Paul used in his teaching methods. He said, concerning the situation — As the Torah foretold "the Law is fulfilled by the Messiah." With His sacrificial death, Messiah Jesus became our High Priest (Psalm 110) and paid the price for our sins with His shed blood, and the curse of the law and the consequences for us breaking it are put on Him, so we don't have to bear the righteous judgement of Ha Shem, as the prophet Isaiah foretold. Jesus fulfils everything that the sacrificial system was pointing to and even more, and praise Ha Shem in accordance with the scriptures Jesus promised that He will return as King Messiah to reign on David's throne from Jerusalem in the Messianic Kingdom age over Israel and the nations bringing universal world peace. Rabbi Sha'ul shows us that every Jew today has one of two choices; either they accept Jesus as the Messiah based on the authority of the Tenach, or they follow a practice of Rabbinic Judaism which is neither scriptural or logical, but based on the inventions and traditions of men.

The entire future of the Jewish faith to this day is based on these two classmates — Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai and Rabbi Sha'ul of Tarsus.

At the end of his life, the Talmud tells us, Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai was crying and weeping. His Talmidim came to him and said "Oh, mighty hammer", they called him Patisha Gadol, "Oh mighty hammer, great hammer, why are you weeping?" "Why are you crying, why is your soul in distress, oh mighty hammer, Ben Zakkai?" And Rabbi Ben Zakkai said "I'm about to meet Ha Shem, Blessed be his name, and before me there are two roads, one leading to Paradise and one leading to Gehenna; and I do not know to what road Ha Shem will sentence me". The founder of today's Rabbinic Judaism, admitted he had absolutely no assurance of salvation. He said for what he did, he didn't know if Ha Shem was going to send him to hell for doing it. He was terrified to die.

But then there's Rabbi Sha'ul of Tarsus, and at the end of his life it is recordered that he said "trouble me no further, for on my body I bare the marks of Messiah. And I know there is made up for me a crown of glory and of righteousness". He had an assurance of salvation and he knew exactly where he was going, and Praise Ha Shem, so does every Jew who follows him — WHICH RABBI WILL YOU FOLLOW? — YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE.

In the Talmud, it says that the word Generations, "dor" in Hebrew, was spelled correctly in Genesis 2:4 before Adam sinned, but afterwards, it says the character vav, in the word dor is missing which has a numerical value of 6 in Hebrew, and it is taught that at the fall of mankind, Adam lost 6 things.

It says that the letter *vav* is then amazingly restored again in Ruth 4:18. This is because Ruth is the Grandmother of King David who's son will be the Messiah to restore the 6 things that Adam lost. [Bereshith Rabbah 12, page 24b of the Warsaw Edition].

The Rabbis to this day read the book of Ruth at Shavuot, when a Jewish man takes a gentile bride and the lineage of David begins to which the Messiah would come.

(Shavuot is also the formal beginning of the Messianic movement in the book of Acts).

You see how they knew that the Messiah would restore somehow through this gentile woman what Adam lost.

Which is exactly what Jesus accomplished on the cross for us all, who is a proven descendant of Ruth and King David. Jesus restored everything that Adam lost at the fall, proving that He is the Messiah of Israel.

"For in Adam all die, even so in Messiah all shall be made alive" *1 Corinthians 15:22*

Therefore through one mans offence (Adam) judgement came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one mans (Messiah's) righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life

Romans 5:18



To talk further write to Richard

PO Box 1144

Epping NSW 1710

Or

email Richard

mail@awaketoisrael.org



