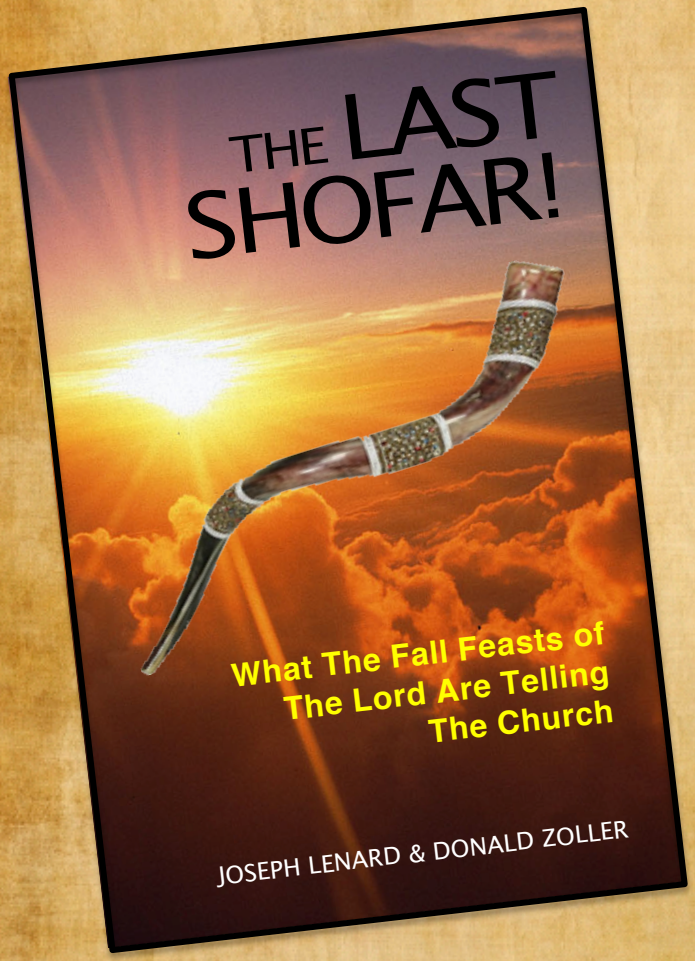

The Last Shofar! is available through the publisher, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Slide Presentation
The Last Shofar!

- Based on the 9 chapters of the book
- To be used as a companion study with the book; book page numbers are referenced on each slide
- Suitable for classroom or informal small group studies
- Discussion questions are included at the end of each presentation

Feedback is always welcomed

www.thelastshofar.net

Email: info@thelastshofar.org

The Last Shofar! *may be ordered at the Website above*

For Your Information . . .

The following slide presentation is ***incomplete*** and ***inadequate*** to *fully* understand the content of the book, ***The Last Shofar!***

The slides are only a *summary* of the ***nine chapters*** of the book and do not include the **Introduction**, **Epilogue**, three **Appendices**, and **Glossary**. All provide background and build *"the case."*

Therefore, the book is a ***necessary resource*** when viewing the slide presentation, and is ***essential*** to enhance understanding and discussion. It is highly recommended that a copy of the book be obtained for study and reference.

The Last Shofar!

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1

All Things Jewish

Our Unavoidable Roots

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

(Romans 9:4–5)

Joseph Lenard – Donald Zoller © 2014

God has a plan - a plan to redeem humankind through His earthly chosen people, the Jews.

- Immutable promises made to the Jews
  - Anticipated by the Jews
    - Announced in a fulfilling way through a Jew, Jesus *(Yeshua),* and His Jewish followers.

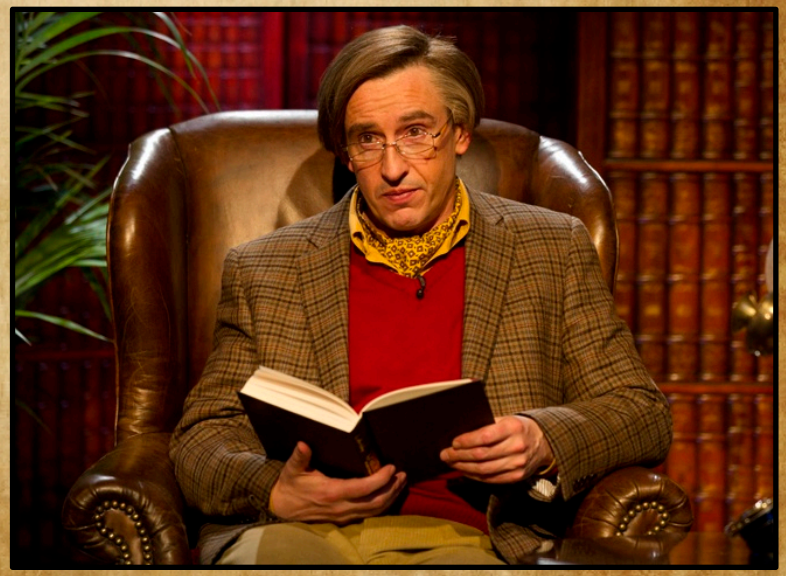
The Bible, from beginning to end, is Jewish.

But there is a problem . . .

The church today largely has forgotten, or has dismissed, much of its connection with its Hebrew roots.

When we neglect the Hebrew roots of our Christian faith, as revealed in the Old Testament, we overlook much of why we believe as we do.

It is like reading only the last third of a great book and not appreciating and fully understanding the author's intention for writing the book in the first place.



The Last Shofar! - 1

This can only lead to confusion and potential error in understanding God's great redemptive purposes in Christ.

We limit our understanding and miss God's ultimate intent and purpose of His plan of redemption as rehearsed in the *Feasts of the Lord*.

We are left to make sense of end-time events from our own cultural perspectives

Christians throughout most of church history

- **Relied on the New Testament as the primarily source for the foundations of their faith**
- **Viewed the New Testament as a non-Jewish inspired document**
- **Believed the Old Testament was written for the Jews**
- **Believed the New Testament was written for the Gentiles (Gentile Christians)**

However . . .

The Bible clearly reveals where our faith foundations as Christians originate.

What others have said . . .

David H. Stern, reminds us in his introduction to the *Complete Jewish Bible*,

- **Jesus *(Yeshua*) was born into a Jewish family and grew up as a Jew**
- **Ministered to His people—the Jews**
- **Died and rose from the dead in Jerusalem as a Jew**
- ***Yeshua* is still a Jew since He is still alive**
- **Nowhere does Scripture say or suggest that He has stopped being Jewish**

Stern continues . . .

- **His *(Yeshua)* twelve closest followers were Jews.**
- **For years all his disciples were Jews, eventually numbering "tens of thousands" in Jerusalem alone.**
- **The New Testament was written entirely by Jews (Luke being, in all likelihood, a proselyte to Judaism) . . .**
- **It was the Jews who brought the gospel to non-Jews, not the other way around . . .**

"Much of what is written in the *B'rit Hadashah* [New Testament] is incomprehensible apart from its Jewish context."

The Jewish connection to our Christian faith is inseparable

Our faith story is completed only when we see that every blessing the church now enjoys comes out of the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants that God made with Israel.

The Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 is the continuation of the promises God gave to Abraham (Genesis 12), the father of the Hebrew people. The fulfillment is seen in Revelation 7:9–12.

As Christians, we are connected to our Roots

- **The character and nature of God is fully displayed in the Old Testament in ways not found in the New Testament. How else would we know the splendid array of Jehovah's descriptive names if they were not unveiled in the Old Testament?**

- **More than 50 Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament—giving more compelling evidence for the inseparable connection of the Old and New Testaments.**

"Only with a distorted view can we make Jesus and His early followers into Gentiles, or His Word non-Jewish. There is no way to navigate around the fact that Jesus, His early followers, and His Word were *Jewish*."

A little bit of history . . .

For the first 300 years of church life, although the complexion of the church became predominately Gentile, the church continued to observe many of the Jewish customs and ceremonies.

It functioned largely by the Jewish calendar regarding the celebration of the ***Feasts of the Lord*** (Leviticus 23).

However, early in the fourth century, the church was decreed an institution of the state.

Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, mandated that the church cease all celebratory practices of their Hebrew roots

The church was required to adopt a secular, *i.e.*, pagan, form of celebrating church events:

- **Christmas in place of *Hanukkah***
- **Easter in place of *Firstfruits***
- **The Lord's Supper in place of the *Passover seder***
- **A pagan-based calendar to account for the days and seasons, thus the Jewish Calendar was forbidden**
- **The word *Messiah* was dropped from its liturgical lexicon and replaced with *Christos* or *Christ***

All things Jewish ceased to be a part of church life.

Why?

- **The authorities reasoned that the Jews crucified Jesus.**
- **Why would you want to propagate and remember customs and celebrations of *Jesus killers*?**

This line of thinking continued for centuries, creating a deep-seated anti-Semitism within the church, even among the reformers who came later.

A New Awareness . . .

- **Within the past 100 years, the evangelical church has awakened to the fact that the Hebrew people are significant in God's plan of redemption.**

- **As the field of eschatology became more central in the church's thinking, many realized that though end-time events will affect all of humanity, the Jews will be center-stage of world events.**

The Bible clearly shows that God will use His people, the Jews, to start the clock to signal the end of the age.

Concluding Thoughts . . .

- **Jesus *(Yeshua)* is, unavoidably—yes, inescapably, Jewish.**
- **Only as we embrace our Hebrew roots, as the basis of what we as Christians believe, can we fully appreciate how God declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9, 10)—how He perfectly lays out His eternal plan of redemption through indisputable prophetic Scripture found uniquely in the Old Testament, including the *Feasts of the Lord* (Leviticus 23).**
- **Through such Scripture, He graciously informs, not just His people—the Jews, but all mankind, of His unchanging plan of redemption throughout the ages.**

We cannot minimize our faith roots from their Old Testament origins.

As we diligently study the Bible we find an important truth:

There is very little basis for understanding the fulfillment of prophecies and their intended purpose cited in the New Testament without first understanding the context of their original pronouncements in the Old Testament.

Thus . . .

- **To have a coherent and thoroughly biblical interpretation of end-time events, we must begin where God begins—in the Old Testament.**
- **Only from the vantage point of our Hebrew roots can we be confident that our approach to end-time prophecy is aligned with biblical teaching.**

Going Forward . . .

Having provided strong evidence to the inseparable connection of the New Testament with Old Testament, we begin a *unique journey* that continues over the next eight chapters.

The reader will discover . . .

- **How truly Jewish the roots of our Christian faith are**
- **What we believe about Jesus, and**
- **What we understand about the future of God's people—both Christians and Jews.**

Having this knowledge in hand will become important as we examine the evidence for our case for end-time events.

Let's Talk About It

1. Explain how the early church lost its *Jewishness*.

2. How did anti-Semitic views and behavior become part of the church's worldview? Are these views and behaviors still evident today? How?

3. Since the Scripture is essentially "Jewish," how does this change your perception and understanding of what you read in the New Testament?

Looking Ahead . . .

In **Chapter 2**, we will examine the various types of Bible prophecy and provide ways to *correctly* interpret these prophecies.

These tools will help you assemble the pieces of the *prophetic puzzle* that point to the last days.