

Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 2. Jesus Wasn't a European White Man



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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Reality 2. Jesus Wasn't A European White Man

We noted earlier the determined effort by European theologians for centuries to diminish the importance of the Hebrew Bible (Older Testament) and anything that was "Jewish". This severance from essential Hebraic roots marks most of today's Christian denominations and sects. The sorry result has been a far greater emphasis on the creeds developed by **European theologians** than on a personal and intimate relationship of obedient trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and His call for each of His brothers and sisters to serve Him as His beloved slave/servants. (If that idea offends you, look up in your concordance the multiple times that references are made to being *purchased* and *bought* by Jesus, the Master of His own. See also how often the writers of the epistles refer to themselves as *slaves* of Lord Jesus, even though most versions tidy up the original Greek word as "servant.")

We know you'd like to believe that the European theologians were pure in their motives. However, in many instances nothing could be further from reality. The overwhelming influence of **Hellenism** and **Romanism**, ignited by **anti-Semitism** and fueled by **re-visionism** and **syncretism**, have dominated European theology since the 2nd century.

•**Revisionism** is the centuries-long practice of European theologians and religious leaders of misrepresenting historical truth and facts through manipulating them to fit a particular agenda. (Examples: Mary being declared to be conceived without sin — "The Immaculate Conception"; Peter being declared the first pope in the third century; Purgatory introduced in the 12th century as a state of suffering for unforgiven sins before entering heaven.)

•**Syncretism** is the centuries-long practice of European theologians and religious leaders adapting pagan rituals and traditions and declaring them as "Christian". (Examples: an exalted clergy class; Easter and Christmas celebrations; saints' days; infant baptism; veneration of statues and icons.)

We've previously noted that a number of the Reformers restored some of the Hebraic foundations that had been lost during Roman Catholicism's domination of Christianity, such as *sola fides* — by faith alone; *sola scriptura* — by the Bible alone; *sola gratia* — by grace alone — •*sola Christos*—salvation through Christ alone —•*solī deo gloria*—glory to God alone.

But as with Roman Catholicism, **anti-Semitism** prevented the Reformers from looking more closely into the historical and cultural context in which the Scriptures were written. Their misguided efforts tried to understand God's Word through using just the Hebrew and Greek texts without understanding the Bible's underlying foundations. That's like trying to look at a distant object through a bent tube. No matter how much you try, you'll never see it!



The Roman Catholic hierarchy were able to propagate the revised and syncretistic practices which they incorporated into Christianity through the **power of enforcement**. Centralized rule was exercised by authority that couldn't be questioned under penalty of prison or death. By revamping the original meaning of Scriptures especially through allegory, the Revisionists distorted the clear understanding of God's Word that had been

intended by the Bible's writers. Look for example at the profound influence of "Church Father" Clement in creating and maintaining **ecclesiastical domination**:

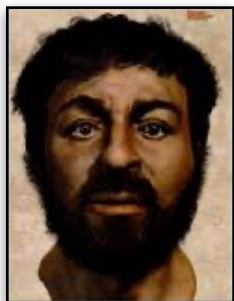
Clement had a deep seated confidence in the Roman autocratic system of government, a system which ruled by **absolute power**. During the last decade of the first century Clement wrote a lengthy letter to fellow Christians that encouraged them to agree with Rome's governing ideal of centralized power. In his letter Clement merged Newer Testament principles with the Roman elite's ideology that **enforced order and harmony must prevail in society**. Thus Clement and his followers began a process of **infusing Christianity with Roman ideology**: People with power and wealth have far more to offer Christianity than do the powerless and poor. So it has been for centuries...

Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

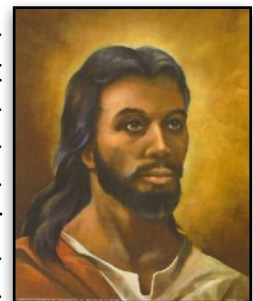
Reliance on **absolute power** became the backbone of Roman Catholicism. The role and title of Pontifex Maximus (Caesar) became the Christian *Roman Pontiff* wielding supreme authority. This blatant display of syncretism granted the Pontiff (or Pope) the absolute power of Caesar. And syncretism allowed the Church hierarchy to morph the veneration of the Roman pantheon of false gods into praying to Mary and a myriad of "saints".

Roman Catholicism isn't alone in enforcing submission through government authority. Protestant expressions too were alternately accepted or persecuted depending on who was in power. If you recall European history, for centuries the **"divine right of kings"** asserted that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from God. *European revisionist theologians* interpreted the Bible to support not only the absolute authority of kings but of religious leaders as well. *Absolute ecclesiastical rule supported absolute monarchy*, and vice versa. It's crucial for us today to recognize that God's Word *lived out as God intended* didn't have nearly the influence on Europe as European political and religious domination did in influencing our comprehension of God's Word. (An example of this politico/religious merger is the British monarch King James whose influence we'll discuss at the end of this Reality.)

Would You Recognize Jesus If He Approached You?



That *Jesus wasn't a European white man* has ramifications of far greater concern than just skin tone. But as a Middle Easterner, our Lord would likely be dark-haired and olive-skinned as in our illustrations — certainly not the fair-haired, light-skinned, almost feminine featured "white man" painted by Europeans over the centuries. The revisionist outgrowth of the manner in which Jesus has been portrayed through European/American theology has had disastrous results in fanning flames of **white Christian supremacy**.



Centuries of supremacist theology lay behind the focus on Jesus being portrayed as a white man. Finding a perceived mutual identity with Jesus as a "white man" has

strongly influenced the practice of **bigotry, racism** and **slavery** by too many white “Christians”. Our Lord intended that His brothers and sisters treat all people with the same depth of dignity because He shed His blood for the whole world. In stark contrast, white Christian outreach into other cultures and societies historically created a *caste system* – white Christian missionaries viewed themselves as having higher status and superiority over the indigenous people.

Early mission societies frowned on those who were sharing the Gospel actually living among and mingling with the natives. Instead, mission societies established “mission stations” with whites living in compounds apart from the native people. Notable exceptions to this cloister practice were Hudson Taylor and Gladys Aylward, who lived among the people in China and gained a hearing because of their devotion.

In the 1966 movie, *Hawaii*, an American missionary and his wife travel to the island kingdom of Hawaii. The missionary condescendingly viewed the people as pagan savages—customary wherever white missionaries went. His methodology of conversion included insistence on “European/American Christian” religious practices of dress as well as of music. But his fusion of Jesus with religious customs that had been sanctioned by white European theologians alienated many of the tribal people. In so doing he denied the right of the Hawaiians to discover for themselves which of their customs did not violate God’s commands and which ones did. This is the Hebraic halakhic method of sharing God’s Word, encouraging another culture to apply His commands to themselves. Sadly, white theology, white superiority and white absolute power couldn’t allow this to happen.



Anti-Semitism, revisionism, and syncretism enabled white European theologians to export a white-dominated Christianity. The reality has been that pagan European customs that were adapted into Christianity through syncretism were required wherever the Christian missionaries went. Not only did images of Jesus depict a white man, but white missionary domination replaced the rule of Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Added to these offenses, the authority which our Lord Jesus gave each of His followers to apply God’s commands to their lives was usurped by the missionaries who insisted that the syncretized practices of European theologians be embraced by other cultures.

In many parts of the world where Christianity has been resisted, the accusation is that **“Christianity is a white man’s religion.”** Some of this misperception arises due to the historical connection of Christianity with European colonialism, conquest, and subjugation and annihilation of the indigenous people. Through especially the British, but also through other European missions, extermination of indigenous people was a viable option. And domination exercised a caste system in which the whites were superior and the indigenous subservient. “White man’s religion” was also complicated by the fact that, during the era of Native American and African slavery, white Christian slave owners used the Bible to justify slavery. Hundreds of years of white European supremacy and enslavement supported by Christian theology made **annihilation, subjugation** and **enslavement** “biblical”.



White Christianity: Hundreds Of Years Of Brutal Conquest

Most Christians today who look back at the Roman Catholic Crusades to retake the Holy Land (1095-1291) as repulsive. Most wouldn't consider killing Muslims as something Jesus would command His followers to do! Yet Christian history is filled with brutal, merciless conquest that many Christians today, especially those of white European ancestry, would rather not know about. The European/American theology which the missionaries carried presented not only a "white Christ", but also stressed a theology of white superiority. The unabashed prejudice of centuries of anti-Semitic theology aimed against anything Jewish also created a Christianity of white supremacy. As white supremacist missionaries fulfilled the Lord's words "*go and make disciples of all nations,*" death and enslavement of countless numbers of indigenous people accompanied them.

They Were Called "Savages" And Became Slaves In Their Native Land

The slaughter and enslavement of Native Americans is a piece of history that has been overshadowed by African slavery. Between 1492 and 1880, some 2- to 5.5 million Native Americans were enslaved by white "Christians." (Obviously no accurate records were kept.) New England colonies even shipped Native Americans as slaves to Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, the Azores, Spain and Tangier in North Africa. Fear of this fate spurred some indigenous people to fight to the death before they would allow themselves to become slaves.

Manifest Destiny was the 19th-century doctrine that white expansion throughout the American continents was both justified and inevitable. To the Native American, the Manifest Destiny that was supported by white Christianity meant indigenous annihilation. In this nation the indigenous peoples have been subjected to more than 1500 mass attacks, many of which were outright massacres — and all were authorized by the United States "Christian" government. The Indian Bureau hired white Christian missions to kidnap the native children so that native cultures could be destroyed. Accounts of what these children and their bereaved families went through are heartrending!

As we traveled to different Native American Reservations during 2000-2002, we discovered that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) still had an active yet unwritten policy to destroy indigenous cultures. Through confining tribal peoples to specific designated reservations in which there was little employment and few resources, subsidies and food were doled out. Robbed of both his land and his dignity, it was nearly impossible for a Native man to provide for his family. This government-sanctioned strategy had its beginnings in the mass slaughter of the bison, the source of food and shelter for many. The BIA's intent was to demoralize Native males and drive them into addiction. And while Native Americans account for only a small part of today's U.S. population, they experience much higher rates of substance abuse and suicide compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

As we shared the Hebraic foundations with Native Americans, we also confronted white missionaries who had raped the Native girls for speaking their native language and beat the boys with hoses, locking them in tiny rooms without food or water for several days. And these actions the missionaries justified as means of coercing assimilation! These actions had still been going in into the 1990s, and certainly weren't part of "ancient history".

We were filled with the deepest sense of both compassion and embarrassment for being white as we talked with the various tribal people we interacted with. We told them, “We can’t undo all that the white man has done to you. But from this day forward we will treat you as we hope you will treat us.” (Matthew 7:12; Philippians 2:1-8) The Native response was overwhelming joy. “We have long waited for white Christians to treat us with dignity and not just charity. You two approach us with your palms up. Those before you approached us with their palms down.” **Palms down is white European/American theology** – subjugate the indigenous people and give them “Christian charity.”

“You can’t wear those heathen moccasins in church.”



In 2000 a white evangelical pastor said this to a Native woman on the Lakota Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Is footwear the real problem here, or is white supremacist theology? We know. Do you know?

“Native American lives matter!” must be voiced by whites and all others who claim to belong to Jesus.

“Slavery brings heathens to a Christian land where they can hear the gospel. Christian masters provide religious instruction for their slaves.”

To meet their growing labor needs in the colonies, the 17th century white European settlers found that the indentured servants (mostly poorer Europeans) and Native Americans they used were insufficient. Africa provided a cheaper, more plentiful source for workers. To justify this abhorrent practice, the mantra of slaveholders was that slavery would liberate Africans from their savage-like ways if they were infused with Christianity. White Christian slaveholders also argued that slavery was a necessary evil because it would control the sinful, less-than-human black race. In 1845 the Southern Baptist Convention was founded to safeguard the institution of slavery.

White prejudice against blacks in this nation has often turned fatal, whether through lynchings or mob violence. And today systemic and institutional racism is still widely practiced against Black Americans who are forced to stand up for their own justice because the dominant governing authorities won’t.

“Black lives matter!” must be voiced by whites and all others who claim to belong to Jesus.

In the United States, **Asian Americans** have long been considered a threat to the nation. They were once called a “yellow peril”, unclean and unfit for citizenship in this land. Again, the reality of white Christian supremacy combined with the need for cheap labor (shades of manifest destiny) subjugated countless people of Asian descent. White prejudice in particular against Asians in this nation has often turned fatal in mob violence. And today systemic and institutional racism is still widely practiced against Asian Americans who are forced to stand up for their own justice because the dominant governing authorities won’t.

“Asian lives matter!” must be voiced by whites and all others who claim to belong to Jesus.

Latinos have long been essential to the U.S. economy. Many are American citizens. But in the “Christian” US, everything from their language to the color of their skin to their

countries of origin has been used as a pretense for discrimination. White Christian supremacy has treated them as a foreign underclass and perpetuated stereotypes that Spanish-speakers were lazy, stupid and undeserving. White prejudice against Latinos in this nation has often turned fatal in mob violence. And today systemic and institutional racism is still widely practiced against Latinos who are forced to stand up for their own justice because the dominant governing authorities won't.

“Latino lives matter!” must be voiced by whites and all others who claim to belong to Jesus.

For a glimpse of what *isn't* taught in American history books, take a look at “Massacres in U.S. History” <<https://www.zinnproject.org/collection/massacres-us/>>

Has it ever occurred to you that this nation's obsession with **murdering unborn babies** is also our Lord's curse on us collectively for all the innocent blood that has been shed in this land? From our Lord's perspective as the Author of life, abortion murders an unborn baby who has been given a spirit at conception. That spirit is what separates a human from every other living thing! Aborting babies isn't just something the “unchurched” do. In 2014, 24% of the women getting an abortion were Catholic, 17% were mainline Protestant, 13% were evangelical Protestant. And in the year 2018 a total of 619,571 abortions took place in this nation.

Tearing a baby apart in the womb has decreased in use in this nation. But one of the more expedient ways to kill an unborn baby is the popular “abortion pill” which uses a combination of two drugs. The first drug disconnects the baby from the mother, eventually resulting in the unborn baby's murder. The second drug expels the child.

“The lives of unborn babies matter!” must be voiced by all who claim to belong to Jesus.

“Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground” (Genesis 4:10).

Today, too many white Christians falsely believe that they're guiltless of shedding the blood of the innocent. Get it right! It doesn't matter what “gospel” you adhere to, our God *does* hold people accountable for the shed blood of the innocent, even the shedding of innocent blood by our forefathers. Unlike humans who are predominantly concerned with their own generation, our God is *multi-generational* in His awareness of mankind's actions. (If you don't think God concerns Himself with intergenerational guilt, just type into the Search on your online Bible, “the son of” or “daughter of”.)

Many European/American theologians have eliminated the Bible truth that when a generation fails to repent for their sins, the consequences fall on succeeding generations. If you put aside any vestiges of anti-Semitic theology in your own view of the Old Testament, consider these examples:

- During the reign of David, God sent three years of famine on the land because of the earlier killing of the Gibeonites by King Saul (2Samuel 21:1-9). God then accepted the death of seven of Saul's descendants before ending the famine.
- King Manasseh led Judah for 55 years and led the people of Jerusalem astray so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites. God sent de-

struction on Judah during the reign of Manasseh's son, Amon: *"I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem"* (Jeremiah 15:4; see also 2Kings 9:7,26,36; also see Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 1:6; Jeremiah 2:9.)

Generations Of White Christian Supremacy Is Blinding This Nation To Its Crucial Need For Humility, Contriteness And Repentance

Generations ago, Presidents called for national days of repentance when disaster came upon this nation. Disaster is upon us! But instead of repentance there is widespread hatred, bigotry and racism not only throughout this nation but also at the highest echelons of government. The "Great Depression" of the 1930s was one of five major depressions this nation has faced. The four prior depressions ended after national periods of repentance. In contrast, the 1930s depression ended when the federal government became the **"god of the people"**.

Since the federal government became "god" our country has endured conflict after conflict. Collectively, we'd like to think we've been the righteous nation in these conflicts in which many innocents have been killed. But other than the victory in WW II, we've ended subsequent conflicts in disgrace. All our military might doesn't make us right! Our God promises, *"When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him"* (Proverbs 16:7). That hasn't been our experience since WW II. And what happens when our God is displeased? ***"But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you... And they will afflict you"*** (Amos 6:14; see also Deuteronomy 28:20-25; Jeremiah 18:11; 21:4,5; 26:13; Ezekiel 5:8,17; 7:8).

Conservatism today is widely supported by Christian elitism and greed.

"Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you" (James 5:4-6).

Affluent white Christians who use conservatism as a smoke screen fake themselves into believing our heavenly Father doesn't see their greedy selfishness. Millions of children in this nation are living in poverty, and Conservatives mock their plight. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines *food insecurity* as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active healthy life.

An estimated 7.9% of whites are food insecure. 19% of the Black community are food insecure. 15% of Asians and Latinos are food insecure. 25% of Native Americans are food insecure. And, Conservatives, whether Christian or otherwise, show the most blatant disdain for the poor and needy. Listen! You white rich conservatives have yours now. But keep in mind that our God is saving a far hotter "yours" for eternity! Please heed the warning and repent.

Consider what the sense of superiority in this nation causes in other nations.

The wealthy in other nations starve their own people so they can export food to the U.S. for greater profits. We purchase those goods by our every-growing national and personal debt, leaving the populations of these exporting countries to starve. Are you innocent? In God's sight, not one bit! It's the United States that created the "Banana Republics" whose people are now at our borders pleading for our help. For decades our food companies enslaved the people by paying them barely subsistence wages.

Then our citizens began to crave cocaine and we barely slapped their wrists. The once "Banana Republics", with governments destabilized by our CIA, began to recognize how lucrative the cocaine crop is. Cartels became the *de facto* government using all kinds of evil to force the population into slavery by raising cocaine for the US. It's our unabashed addiction that has destroyed these nations, creating such violence that the innocent come here for our help. And Conservatives, many Christians included, don't want them on our soil. Shame on the US. Shame on white Christian supremacy.

"You don't know me until you walk a mile in my moccasins."

Mike: We had a basketball court at the retreat center where Sue and I taught for over 10 years. A teenager from next door would often come over and play one-on-one with me. I weighed 200 pounds and he weighed 150. After playing a few times he stopped me during a game and said, "Do you know that you foul me every time we go up together for a rebound?" I told him I didn't think I was fouling him. But he let me know that I didn't feel his lighter weight against me as we both jumped for the rebound. While we were in the air I'd push him with my heavier body. That memory stays with me and reminds me to look back at myself *from the viewpoint of other people*. In a sense it makes Matthew 7:12 real to me.

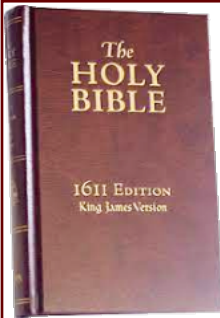
We're sharing this personal anecdote because we want to encourage you to take the time to understand how it feels to be the one who is the victim of prejudice. And if you're white, we strongly encourage you to not dismiss that your religious views may be riddled with **white theological supremacy**. If your response is disdain for another person whose skin tone is different than yours, then you just might be a white Christian supremacist. But if your first feelings are redemptive, then you can be assured that you possess the humility that's required by our Lord Jesus and can display His **love, forgiveness** and **compassion**.

All of us in this country need to realize that this nation is not only being judged for our own sins, but also for the sins of our ancestors who failed to treat others as they wanted to be treated. The essence of our Lord's accusation of hypocrisy applies to us today:

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets" (Matthew 23:29-31).

In light of the reality we've been sharing, if the government or religious leaders refuse to lead us *to repent and ask forgiveness* from those we've harmed, then we need to take responsibility for our own sakes and that of our families. We need to join those before us who humbled themselves and confessed:

“We acknowledge our wickedness, LORD, and the guilt of our ancestors; we have indeed sinned against You” (Jeremiah 14:20; see also Nehemiah 1:6; Daniel 9:2).



The Audacity of the “divine right of kings”

The King James Version was completed and published in 1611. It became known as the “Authorized Version” because its making was authorized by King James of England. James was a strong advocate of **royal absolutism**. He ordered the translators of the 1611 King James Version to follow Bancroft’s Rules of interpretation. Bancroft’s Rule #3 perpetuated clergy dominance, Nicolaitanism, against which our Lord had warned John (Revelation 2:6,15). And, by emphasizing “Church” as an *organization with a structural hierarchy*, Rule #3 prevented a return to the more relational Hebraic understanding of *extended spiritual family* encompassed in “church” as *ekklesia*, “the called-out ones” who followed Jesus.

King James also used his absolute power to name a book of the Bible after himself, renaming the Book of Jacob (the actual name) to the Book of James. Since anti-Semitism dominated theology, no one voiced that an element of Jewishness was being eradicated there or in substituting “James” for John’s brother Jacob (again, the actual name). Nor was there any resistance to denigrating Jews. In his Newer Testament letter, Jacob is writing to Jewish believers who are dispersed among the nations: “*For if there come unto your synagogue a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel...*” You’re probably thinking, “I don’t remember the word ‘synagogue’ in my translation.” That’s because it isn’t there. The Greek word *sunagoge*, from which we get the word synagogue, has been translated as “assembly.” However, to discredit anything Jewish, the same Greek word is translated in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 as a “*synagogue of Satan*”.

✨ For further insight into subjects we touched on in this Reality, see:

- Lifebyte 36. Are You Trapped In Mission-Station Thinking? <<https://restorationministries.org/download/36.missionstation.pdf>>
- Lifebyte 37. Extending The Kingdom: The People Movement Approach (Part 1) <<https://restorationministries.org/download/37.peoplemovement1.pdf>>
- Lifebyte 38. Extending The Kingdom: The People Movement Approach (Part 2) <<https://restorationministries.org/download/38.peoplemovementpart2.pdf>>
- Prophetic Insight January 17, 2017 “You are the salt of the earth...” (Matthew 5:13) <[https://restorationministries.org/download/32.salt%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/32.salt%20(1).pdf)>