

Bringing Jews to Jesus? Plus Live War Report from Israel with Jeff Morgan

(June 18, 2025)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, what's going on on the ground in Israel right now? We're going to have a live report from a friend who does ministry there. And he does ministry to people who are Jews who might consider Jesus. He interviews them on the street; he interacts with them. And he was brought up Jewish himself, but is now a follower, as we say in Israel, a follower of Yeshua, that Jesus is truly the Messiah.

And as we're going through this interview, it may be interrupted because there are, as you know, missiles being fired as we speak from Iran to Israel. And it's-- These missiles are actually going into residential areas. They don't appear to be targeting military sites. And as we speak right now, as far as we know, nobody from the IDF has been killed by any of these missiles. But they have been killed, residents have, by these missiles.

They appear to be shot at, as I say, residential sites. We're going to start with that discussion, then we're going to move on to this ministry that is having a big impact right now in Israel. It's called Jews for Jesus. It's also their YouTube channel is So Be It.

And my guest today is the head of that. His name is Jeff Morgan, all the way from the area of Tel Aviv. Jeff, I was on your show last week, and it's providential that since we last spoke, we now have an opportunity to speak about what's going on in Israel. So, before we get into the ministry aspect of this, tell me what's going on on the ground there. What experience have you had with these missiles coming in from Iran?

JEFF:

Yeah, well, thanks for that introduction, Frank. And it's great to be here. It was wonderful talking with you last week. I've got to tell you, I'm exhausted. Long nights in the bomb shelters.



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

We are woken up, I would say, every one to two hours with screeching alerts on our phones, having us to gather our kids and go down in a bomb shelter.

And so, we click on the news, watch where the missiles are intercepted and landing. And it's tough. I think the toughest part is explaining this to the kids, making sure that their hearts are safe and that they're not too traumatized by all of this.

We live about 15 miles outside of Tel Aviv, so we are far enough not to be hit by what comes into Tel Aviv, but close enough to hear the explosions. And so, we are in bomb shelter all night. We barely are sleeping. So, it's pretty tough. There's a lot of stress.

I feel a lot more for those that are in Tel Aviv right now. I have a lot of friends and other ministers that I work with and serve with, that are very close to what's happening. Some within, kilometer, some within even 100 meters of what happened last night, and the night before. So, it's been pretty tense. And you know, I think this is the biggest attack in Israel with regards to impact, what's been hitting the country for decades. So—

FRANK:

As we're recording this, it is about 10:15 AM Eastern time on Monday, the 16th of June. So, things could change by the time this airs tomorrow. But are you saying this is happening almost every hour at night, Jeff?

JEFF:

Yeah, nighttime is the time where things really start to happening. Dusk and then nighttime. I don't know if it's something that has to do with the missiles themselves traveling in daylight, but, because of the heat of the sun, something that I heard about their functionality. But the nighttime is when things really start to go down. We start to get a lot of alerts during the night.

Sometimes we're in shelter for a couple hours before they tell us we can go out. There's a lot of shrapnel coming down from the sky. So, it's dangerous to be outside even if no missiles are coming for at least ten minutes after the final one has been intercepted or landed.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

Now, I saw on a news report on TV that some of the shelters are just like parking garages. Is that where you're going? Where are you going to get safety from these missiles coming in?

JEFF:

Yeah, there are actually, bomb shelters all over the country, even in parks, you know, where children play. And we, fortunately, many Israelis have a shelter room in their home. So, it's a fortified room with a metal door, fortified concrete walls. But with the missiles that are coming in, if you live in a building, it's still pretty dangerous. I think there was a family that was taken out last night, an Israeli family that was killed, because a ballistic missile hit that specific room.

FRANK:

I'm not aware, yeah-- I'm not aware of how guided these missiles are because usually when you say ballistic missile, it means it's not guided. It's ballistic. It could go anywhere. But they seem to be targeted at residential areas. And one thing that I saw in the initial attack, the preemptive attack that Israel had against Iran is they put a missile into an apartment and the rest of the building was fine.

Because they wanted to take out the leaders that were meeting in that apartment and they were trying to spare civilians. So, I know I'm tired, and I know you as an Israeli citizen are tired of the media trumpeting the nonsense that Israel is targeting civilians, when in fact Israel appears to be doing everything they can to avoid civilian casualties.

Yet, Iran is sending ballistic missiles into residential areas in Tel Aviv. I don't know if they've done so in Jerusalem yet. If they do, they might hit the Dome of the Rock or the Al Aqsa Mosque, and they wouldn't like that. So, I wonder what's going on in their calculus there. Do they really think that they're going to be able to stop or break the will of the Israeli people by sending this stuff into residential areas?

JEFF:

That's been, I think, the MO of Israel's opponents since the inception of the country. And so, to incite terror, to break the will of the people. But, you know, God's on the throne here. And so, I think what's interesting is that Jerusalem hasn't been hit yet, at least from what I've heard. So,

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

maybe there's a golden dome over Jerusalem right now, of protection. But, yeah, they're definitely targeting civilian areas. And it's not-- Yes, you said it was ballistic missiles, and they are ballistic, but they can control the range, and they can kind of shift and see where they're shooting.

So, it hits Tel Aviv, but it also hits some surrounding areas, some a little bit in the north as well. There's been some pretty bad, missile strikes in, Haifa and north of Haifa. So, I would say nowhere is really safe. But fortunately, where I live, I have a bomb shelter room in my home in the basement. So, it's kind of like double protected. But those in the buildings are-- Even though they have a shelter room, they're still, in danger.

FRANK:

Now, before we get into your ministry, Jeff, what is the vibe on the ground politically, that you feel or that you sense, or in the media about this entire engagement? Are people generally supportive of the preemptive strike? Are there a significant minority who are saying this shouldn't have been done? What's the vibe?

JEFF:

You're going to find supporters and non-supporters in anything that Israel does from the ground here. You're going to find people that say this is horrible timing because things were just starting to quiet down. We are still working on the hostage situation and now they're not being mentioned in the media as much and it's not good timing.

Some people say no better time than the present. Nobody's taking on Iran and Israel has the courage, and strength, and backing to do it. And I'm not going to say here nor there, but I would say in most cases the population are coming together, in this period of time to support each other. I, mean, you should—

We honk at each other on the street and we're like, come on, get out of my way. But when stuff like this goes down, we all really gather together, and we join together, and we come together as a nation supporting each other, dying for each other, fighting for each other.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And it's really a special thing to see. So, I don't really get into the politics on the ground, but especially right now when things are so hot and they're so, raw. Politics kind of gets shoved aside for a second and everybody kind of unifies.

FRANK:

So, you're used to this kind of situation. You're surrounded on all sides by enemies.

JEFF:

Right.

FRANK:

And the Israeli people always seem to come together. And there's only 10 million people in Israel, ladies and gentlemen. I think there's 60 or maybe 70 million in Iran. Israel is about the size of New Jersey, for those of you in the United States. And yet, Iran-- I don't know how much bigger Iran is, like 60 times bigger, something like that.

And Iran is reeling from this more so than Israel is. And Iran, as far as the experts say, are running out of ballistic missiles and they don't really have any other weapon at this point, as far as we know. The idea, of course, was to take out the nuke capabilities for Iran. I don't think that's been completely accomplished.

They might need a bunker busting bomb in order to do that, as far as the reports that I've seen. But if a jihadist government gets a nuclear weapon-- And people seem to think that they were very close to it. Some were saying just days away. They might have used it. When they say they're going to use it, typically they do. I mean, jihadists will tell you what they're going to do and then try and do it. So, it's kind of hard to argue against this preemptive strike.

I know you said there are a lot of people out there, or there's some people on the ground there who's saying, hey, this was bad timing. Has anyone, to your knowledge, made a cogent argument against doing this, given the realities on the ground that Iran is about to have a nuclear weapon? Anybody in Israel, a prominent politician. Has anyone said we shouldn't have done this at all?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

JEFF:

I haven't heard anything yet. As we're watching the news, they're really only showing reports of what's happening on the ground, what's happening in Iran, and what's happening in Israel right now with regards to the missile strikes, the missiles that are also being taken out in the sky, which is the majority, which is still amazing.

I mean, we're getting hit pretty hard right now. But the amount of missiles that are taken out is astonishing. I mean, if there wasn't an iron dome system protecting Israel right now, and the amount of missiles that came in, it would be horrific. But any casualty is horrific.

But no, I haven't heard any because really what I'm doing is at the moment, I'm doing my best to take care of my family, figure out how to pivot with regards to ministry, and what the people in Israel right now need. And what they're showing on the news is primarily what is happening with regards to attacks from both sides.

FRANK:

Well, let's talk about you and your ministry because I've noticed that Jeff Morgan's not a Jewish name. [Laughter]

JEFF:

That's right.

FRANK:

Yet, you are Jewish. So, how did your name become Morgan?

JEFF:

Well, it only happened about one generation ago. My ancestors were from Belarus, Jews from Eastern Europe, from Belarus. And during World War I, there was a lot of antisemitism. There's always been a lot of antisemitism in that part of the world. My family from that area decided to move from there to the east coast.

And upon doing so, a couple generations or one generation later, they changed their last name from Cohen. And Cohen is one of the quintessential Jewish last names. And the meaning of that

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

name is high priest or priests from the Levitical tribe. So, I honestly, I wish I would still have that last name. But my father was born Morgan, but his actual-- His older sister was actually born Cohen. So, just this last generation before me, we were Cohen.

FRANK:

So, you went—

They went from Belarus to the United States?

JEFF:

Yes.

FRANK:

And changed their name from Cohen to Morgan.

JEFF:

Yeah.

FRANK:

And then where were you brought up and how did you become a Christian?

JEFF:

Yeah, I brought-- Good question. I was brought up in California.

FRANK:

All right.

JEFF:

And I came to Israel for my first time when I was 24. So, that was back in 1997. Did you want me to get into my testimony?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

Yeah, do that. Yeah. Tell our listeners how you became a Christian and then how you got into Jews for Jesus.

JEFF:

Yeah, so that's great. So, it was really a miracle, Frank, because growing up in a Jewish family, I didn't have any context for the New Testament, no context at all.

All I was told was, you know, we're Jewish. These are the kind of things we do, but we don't believe in Jesus. So, I was like, okay. I didn't ask any questions. And it's kind of-- It's a very common narrative in Jewish families. So, growing up in this environment, you know, we celebrated the traditional Jewish festivities, holidays.

And I went to Jewish summer camp, had bar mitzvah, Hebrew school. You know, I put on phylacteries or tefillin, we call it, every once in a while at Jewish events, yarmulke, Friday night, Shabbat meals, where we light the candle, say the prayer.

So, it was very Jewish, but it wasn't religious. So, there was really no God in my home growing up. And so, as time went on, I left the house to go to college. I was very insecure, Frank. I got bullied when I was younger. I was a gymnast, a competitive gymnast as well.

So, I got bullied by the guys. I loved dancing, I loved the arts, so I was bullied by guys. I was also bullied because I was Jewish, which I couldn't figure that out when I was a 12 year old kid getting pushed around because I was Jewish. I was like, what does it have to do with anything?

And that was tough. So, growing up in this environment, left the house kind of insecure. But I loved the arts. And so, I would always get into music, dancing, singing, choreography, songwriting, and show production. And I thought, well, college is kind of boring. So, I'm going to go down to Los Angeles, see if I can become a pop star and a songwriter.

So, I went down to LA and because of my insecurity, I felt like the business there was really eating me up. So, I got really into things like New Age spirituality that really promised a lot of peace, and security, and knowing yourself, and self-awareness.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

So, I thought, well, this is good because I'm insecure and I'm in a land where they'll eat you up if you don't have confidence. And so, I started doing these interesting meditation techniques. I got involved with a cult leader, which was kind of like a spiritual guru who had total control over my mind.

We were practicing occult practices, practicing meditation practices, and I started to have experiences that made me feel like, well, wow. I'm really connecting to a spiritual world. And growing up in a household where there was no God or Bible, I didn't know that there was such thing as darkness and light.

I just thought it was all self-development. And so, as I'm going through the years of doing this out in California, I'm having a great time because I'm in my early 20's. I feel empowered, I feel great. Didn't really have any responsibility.

But at the same time, I started to feel like I was being controlled spiritually. Started to feel like I was being tormented even, spiritually. And I didn't realize I was getting into a pretty dark world where the dark, spirits or demons, basically, could really take a hold of me and control me.

And so, as this started to happen, I started to feel a bit strange. And I thought, wow, I really feel like I need to get out and get away, move away. And I decided as a Jew, I'm like, I'll just go to Israel and start something new. I'm going to disconnect from my family and friends.

Which is kind of a popular thing to do when you're in New Age, is to detach from everything that you know because you want to get away from negative influences, not knowing that you're actually one yourself. And so, I start meditating and I'm going deep, and I fly to Israel. And I'm having a great time in my early 20's.

But as time goes on and I'm practicing these things, I'm starting to feel oddly tormented. I'm getting impulses to cut myself, to harm myself, to even disconnect more from people that love me and that I love, and to be isolated, taking me out of society, thinking that the only way to peace was on a mountaintop.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And, you know, you've talked about this in great detail with some of your colleagues, about the trappings of New Age spirituality and the dangers of it as well. And I was definitely getting into those. But thank God I met my wife and we had two kids relatively quickly. And this was in my mid-30's. So, this slowed down my, you know, intense spiritual practice because they weren't having any of it.

They were like, dad, you're weird. I'm like, no, I'm cool, and I'm spiritual, and I'm peaceful. Come and do what I do. And they're like, no, no. I was kind of bummed out about that, but I'm glad they didn't. And they didn't go down that path. And so, we had decided, because I was becoming more tormented, and more depressed, and more anxious, and fearful during this whole time.

And I couldn't figure out why. I thought, wow. I'm supposed to be enlightened by now. You know, 10, 15 years into this meditation practice, I'm supposed to be high flying. And so, what I found was the opposite was happening. I was becoming depressed, anxious, fearful, suicidal.

And I felt tormented. And so, what that was doing was it was taking me away from my family, and I was unhappy. And so, I said, we were living in Israel at the time, and I said, let's move to California. I want to reunite with my old buddies and create the life there. You know, just kind of one last stab at happiness.

And I went there, and my wife was like, I'll go with you, but I'm scared that in a year from now you're going to fall back into depression. And we would have moved all the way out here and left my family for nothing. And I said, no, everything's going to be great. Sure enough, a year later, I was miserable, miserable.

And I was 46 at the time. And so, I thought, I've just spent 20 years, 22 years with all this meditation practice and all these New Age spiritual disciplines. And I was very disciplined. And sure enough, one year later, I hit the floor, and I just said, honey, I have no idea what I'm doing anymore.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

I give up. I give up on life. And she's like, oh no. I knew it. I knew it. I knew this was coming. And she was in her mind thinking of ways to leave me, take the kids, go back to Israel. And, you know, while this spiritual guy figures this stuff out.

FRANK:

What were her religious beliefs at the time, Jeff?

JEFF:

I would say she had a mild understanding that God existed. But because of my practices and they were so dominant in our relationship, she was trying to figure out ways to make sense of spirituality.

But she didn't know anything. No New Testament background, no Old Testament background. And to be fair, I never read the Old Testament either, to that point. And so, she was kind of just following me around until she realized that I was bringing my family into debt, into depression, into isolation.

And she was trying to figure out a way to get out. And I thought, oh, my gosh. I'm going to lose my family. I have no job that I've ever liked in my life. I'm in debt. And the question that brought me to my knees, Frank, was, is this as good as it gets?

And as soon as I asked that question, I heard an astounding yes, most likely in your case, Jeff, this is as good as life is going to get for you. And that was it. I broke. I completely, completely broke. And I fell to the floor.

And my wife hears me wailing in the bedroom. And she runs into the bedroom, she says, what's going on? And I'm wailing. And, I said, I give up. I give up on life. I'm down, and I will not get up. I don't know what I'm doing anymore. I have no answers. I have nothing to pass down to our kids.

I am a miserable failure. And it was at that time that Jesus started to reveal himself, making himself known to us, through experiences related to Jesus everywhere I went, my wife went, my older son went for like, 45 days straight. I mean, I got up. I was miserable, angry, feeling like

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

I was about to commit suicide. And then all of a sudden, I started having experiences related to Jesus everywhere I went. And it was very strange because we're Jewish, and we were told not to believe in Jesus.

But yet here he is, everywhere. And my wife and my older son were having experiences at the same time, separately. So, we would all go out of the house. We'd have these experiences related to Jesus and come home and talk about them. But something amazing was happening. I started to feel like I was coming back to life.

And instead of weeping tears of anguish, I was weeping tears of joy. And I'm thinking, what's going on with me? Something's changing inside of me, and I don't know why, and I don't know what it is. But the only thing that's changed in my life right now is the fact that Jesus is here.

Who is he? And so, one day, I met these couple guys at the gym that were sharing and praying for me at the gym, which was amazing. And one invited me to church. So, I go to church one day and they're teaching about the transfiguration of Jesus.

And the story goes as such where Jesus is speaking with Elijah and Moses. And I'm thinking, well, I know these guys. I've heard these names before, but what are they doing on this side of the book? Talking to Jesus.

This is really strange. And so, there's this big grand moment where Jesus is radiant in all his glory. And Moses and Elijah, Moses representing the law, Elijah representing the prophets, are no longer there. And the voice of God comes out of the mountain and says, this is my beloved son. Listen to him.

And Frank, if you knew me, you'd know that I'd been listening to spiritual gurus and self-help teachers for two decades. And I was a good listener, and I was very disciplined. But when I heard, listen to him, that was it. I knew Jesus was the one I was looking for.

So, I ran home, and I told my wife, and I recognized Jesus. She recognized Jesus. And all of that depression, anxiety, and fear fell off of me. My hands went up in the sky and I said, I'm free. I am free. The spiritual torment was cut. And I knew that I was completely freed from it, and I

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

didn't do it. And so, we gave our lives to Jesus. We fell to our knees at the same time. And I just told God, put me to work for you.

FRANK:

One church service? I mean, there was a lot that led up to it. But was it just one church service where you became a Christian?

JEFF:

It was the first church service.

FRANK:

Wow.

JEFF:

Yeah. And God orchestrated in such a way that what I needed to hear, I heard and what I needed God to take care of, Jesus did. And so, I needed-- I was praying for money. I was praying, you know, God, you know, take me out of this situation. The God of my own understanding, which is what they call it in certain self-help groups. It was really the God of my own understanding. And so, I would just scream out, you know, bail me out of this situation.

Help me, heal me, fix me, you know. But what he did was he took away my spiritual torment, which freed me to see the truth. And by seeing the truth, I could be free. Because obviously Jesus says the truth, you know, you'll know the truth and the truth will set you free.

And I didn't know that the truth was a person. I was looking for a concept. And so, when I recognized Jesus, the truth set me free. And my hands went up. I fell to my knees. And the next morning I was a completely different person. I mean you should have-- If you knew me before, I had a filthy mouth.

I was very arrogant, very narcissistic, and my lustful thoughts. And I was very faithful to my wife, but my mind was all over the place. But the next morning it was completely changed. And I took all the idols that I had in my room, smashed them, ripped them up, threw them away,

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

and nobody deserves to have these. And I got up and led my family. And my wife saw a miracle happen in my life. And she said, I believe because of what I saw him do to you.

FRANK:

We're going to hear a lot more from Jeff Morgan right after the break. So, don't go anywhere because there's a lot more to this story and a lot more you'll hear about his ministry in Israel right now that's bringing people who are not Christians, mostly Jews and even some secular Jews to faith. So, don't go anywhere.

I want to mention that this month later this month in June, on June 29th, I'll be at Faith Assembly Church in Orlando. I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist in the morning services, and then in the evening service as well with plenty of Q&A.

So, if you're anywhere near Orlando, would love to see. I also want to mention we're almost full now in CIA, the CrossExamined Instructor Academy. We may have a few seats left in the non-presenting track. So, go to crossexamined.org, click on events. You will see 'What is CIA?' there. It's the CrossExamined Instructor Academy.

If you want to be better at presenting the evidence for Christianity and answering questions, you can learn from apologists like Greg Koukl, and Alisa Childers, and Natasha Crain, and Allen Parr, and myself, and Richard Howe, and several others.

It is August, well actually July 31st to August 2nd. It's in Charlotte, North Carolina. You have to apply, so go to crossexamined.org. Click on CIA. What is CIA? And you can follow the cues there. Also want to mention we've got several great online courses this summer.

So, don't let up just because you're on vacation. You can take online courses in a self-paced way. Go to crossexamined.org, click on online courses. You will see it there. Let me go back to my guest, Jeff Morgan, all the way from Israel.

And Jeff, can you relay to our audiences? We have a visual audience, viewers and also listeners on the podcast. You mentioned in the last segment that you and your wife kind of had these

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

independent experiences while you're in California that directed both of you to Jesus. Can you just relate a couple of them from each side?

JEFF:

Yeah, for sure. So, my personal experiences were such that I would go to the gym, where that was really my only hobby, the only thing that kind of gave me any kind of joy. And I just noticed a couple of guys in the gym. And I thought, I don't know why, but for some reason, I feel like I have to talk to them.

There's a hundred people in the gym, and I turn around and pick up some weights, and one of them actually comes to me, taps me on the shoulder, says, hey. And I said, hey. And he says, can I ask you a question? I said, yeah. He goes, what do you eat? I was like, okay, that's a weird question.

Because he's like, you know, you're in good shape, you're working out, and we're about the same age. And so, we got into a conversation of health and fitness. And so, I asked him, what do you do? And he says, I'm a pastor. And I didn't know why at the time. I know now what happened.

The spirit of God pushed through me. And I was asking this guy questions, like, question after question. Why do people need church? Why do people need community? Can people have their own spiritual life on their own? And he would give me wonderfully precise biblical answers. And there was another guy over at the other side of the gym who was just full of life.

And so, I went over to the guy and shook his hand. I just said, hey, I just wanted to meet you. And he looked at me and he said, can I pray for you? And I was like, what? And he prays for me from the book of Psalms. He's like quoting Psalms and praying for me. And at the end of the prayer, he says, in Jesus' name.

And I look at him and I'm like, what do I do with that? I'm a Jew. I was told not to believe in Jesus. I'm in the gym praying. And I said, but you know what? I've got nothing to lose. Amen. Amen. And every day, he would pray for me. And I'd go out of the gym, and I'd see a billboard, and a television show, and somebody would hand me a book about Jesus, everywhere. And my

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

wife met a lady at our son's school who took her out to coffee and begins to explain to her how her three year old son was cured from terminal leukemia through prayer.

And when my wife asked her who she was praying to, she said, Jesus, of course. And my wife was like, who's Jesus? And the woman was shocked. She's like, you're Jewish and you don't know who Jesus is? Don't all Jews believe in Jesus? And my wife said, no.

Actually, the opposite is true. And so, my wife was really like floored. And so, she goes home, and she starts Googling miracles, and Jesus, and does her own independent search, and starts to find testimonies online of Jews who believe in Jesus and starts to get into it that way.

FRANK:

Wow, so you both became Christians about the same time. Was this 2016? 2017? When is it?

JEFF:

2018. Right at the beginning of 2018.

FRANK:

Beginning of 2018. So, you're living in California. When do you go back to Israel and join Jews for Jesus?

JEFF:

Yeah, good question. So, about a year after we both became followers of Jesus, I thought, you know what? I think God is moving on my heart. I'm a Jew, I believe in Jesus. It just makes sense. Let me contact Jews for Jesus. So, I started working for the Jews for Jesus ministry while in California.

And about a year later, I felt God calling us back to Israel. And we moved back to Israel. And the funny thing is, Frank, when I felt like God was calling us back to Israel, I was like, yeah, God, we'll go back to Israel on one condition. You don't make me that guy that goes on the streets talking to people about Jesus. [Laughter] So, interestingly enough, that's—

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

God laughs at our plans, Jeff.

JEFF:

Totally.

FRANK:

That's exactly what you're doing now.

JEFF:

But what I, yeah—

What I did is say—

What I did say was like, no. I said, God, I'm not going to give you that condition. You died for me. I'll live for you. Whatever you want me to do, I'm sure you'll give me the strength to do it.

FRANK:

So, how did you get so schooled to interact with people? Because you said before you hadn't really read the Old Testament up to that point. But now you're on the street interacting with even rabbis on the Old Testament. Of course, you know the New Testament as well. How did you get up to speed?

JEFF:

That's a good question. I think, because I was so disciplined with my spiritual practices before I came to faith. God kind of used that to say, well, looks like this guy can learn things pretty quickly.

So, I love to study. And God gave me a passion for His Word that was so, palpable that I couldn't get enough. I was consuming Scripture. I read straight through the Bible from Old Testament all the way through to Revelation in the New Testament.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And I just studied, studied, studied. God gave me mentors. God gave me things to find that really enhanced my knowledge and also gave me a passion for Jewish history, a bit of Jewish history, and Rabbinic tradition, and religion.

Because I like to make the point that, Rabbinic Judaism is different from Biblical Judaism. And so, there's many facets and sects of Judaism. And Rabbinic Judaism is the main one, but it doesn't comprise Judaism in its entirety.

And so, I've just been studying for the last seven to eight years, very diligently. And I have some great people that I study with, talk with, and that I trust to give me great information about Rabbinic tradition, the history of Judaism, and so forth.

And also studying Messianic, prophecy within the Tanakh, and how it points to Jesus, how Moses points to Jesus, how the prophets point to Jesus, how the Psalms point to Jesus, and how he's found in there, and so clearly depicted in there. You really have to interpret it intentionally away from Jesus because it just so clearly points to him.

FRANK:

Well, that was a question that I had in watching some of your videos online. My question was the authority for the average Jewish person on the street, maybe an Orthodox Jew who's interested and believes in the Tanakh, the Old Testament. It doesn't seem like their authority is the Tanakh, but the Talmud. Why is that? And is that--?

Well, first of all, is that true? And why is that?

JEFF:

Yeah, so, the authority in Biblical Judaism, meaning from the Tanakh itself, has always been God. And, you know, human beings, they want human leaders. And then what that-- That gets them into, you know, problems and issues.

And so, the Tanakh always points us back to God on the throne. And whenever we put a human being on the throne, we have wars and problems between men and no peace. And so, what's

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

really important to think about is the turn of the millennia, or basically the turn of time, when Jesus came in.

The Second Temple period was a very powerful and influential period of time in Jewish history. And because Messianic prophecy pointed to a specific person and you have a sacrificial system within this temple system that clearly shows how atonement works within God's chosen people and why that specific people was chosen. When Yeshua shows up in the first century and people are starting to wonder, who is this person?

And some of the people that are following him—

This is the one we've been waiting for. This is the one that has fulfilled prophecy. And many are saying, but no, we are under Roman occupation. We are living under torment and occupation from an outside force, and army, and country.

Our Messiah has to deliver us from that. Now, in Jewish literature and also in the Tanakh, it clearly points out that there are different roles to Mashiach or Messiah. And one of those roles is the suffering servant. The suffering servant that comes to atone at a specific time, from a specific place to atone for the people once and for all. Sorry, let me get rid of my—

FRANK:

For those of you just tuning in, we're talking to Jeff Morgan. He is with Jews for Jesus in Israel. At the top of the program, we had an update as to what's going on there right now. If you want to see him online, the YouTube channel is called So Be It.

You'll see an older YouTube channel, Jews for Jesus. There are great videos there as well. But the newer one is called So Be It. So, check that out. It's also on TikTok. On Instagram, I think it's still Jews for Jesus. What's the website, Jeff, just so people know?

JEFF:

Yeah, the website's JewsForJesus.org, JewsForJesus. JewsForJesus.org. Yeah, So Be It is a project, and so it's not the ministry itself. So, yeah, so going back to what I was saying, earlier, that you have room for a suffering Messiah and a ruling and reigning Messiah.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And when a Jewish people is being controlled, and they're being, what's the word? Occupied by a foreign entity. What they're looking for is deliverance from that. Now, when Jesus shows up on the scene in the first century, he's coming to fulfill the first installment basically of Messiah, to make man right with God.

Now, when you're suffering, you want to be relieved from that suffering. It's like through my testimony, I was praying, you know, whoever you are God, deliver me from my financial burdens. And he's like, you need something different. You need me to deliver you from your spiritual burdens first. And so, he did that.

And so, for the people of Israel, he did that. But that's not what they were looking for and hoping for at the time. They were looking for the ruling, reigning Davidic king, and that's not what came first. And so, some people recognized him and followed him, and others didn't. And so, what this creates immediately is a fracture within first—

Second Temple period Judaism. Now, Jesus came, Yeshua came, is fulfilling prophecies, had to come from the line of David, had to come from the tribe of Judah, had to come from Bethlehem, was born in Bethlehem, had to come at a specific time period according to Daniel 9.

And he's fulfilling these things. Bam, bam. Checking the list, right? And so, those that recognized it and through the signs and wonders that he was doing-- Because Jesus was incredible. he didn't just say something. He backed up his claims.

So, he says, I am the light of the world. He gives sight at that moment. I am the bread of life. He feeds the 5,000. He says it and does it and says it and does it. And he says, through these signs, you should be able to understand that I am who I say I am.

I am the Messiah. And so, it disturbed those in control at the time, the Pharisees, because it disturbs their role, their power, what they have at the time. And they're expecting a different Messiah. And so, this creates a fracture. And this fracture leads to the separation of another sect of Judaism, which is Messianic Judaism, is born really at this time. Now, there are rabbinic traditions going all the way back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

Rabbinic traditions going all the way back. So, we understand that that's true. But what religious Jews will say is that this tradition goes all the way back to Moses on Mount Sinai, is divine, meaning it came from God along with the written word.

And everything we need to know about the written word and every way that we need to behave according to the written word, and things that aren't mentioned in the written word are found in the oral Torah, or the oral law, so to speak, which is an oral law given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Now, there are oral traditions in every culture, and Judaism is no different. The Jewish people, it's no different. So, we have an oral tradition going back to Moses. Of course. Of course we have oral traditions. But the real question here is, are these oral traditions divine?

Did they come from God? And so, when Jesus comes on the scene and declares, I am he, and does miracles, signs, and wonders and fulfills prophecy, some are saying, no, that's not true. And as time goes on and Jesus predicts the destruction of the second temple, the second temple is destroyed.

That prophecy is fulfilled. And then all of a sudden, the Mosaic law, which is tethered, or let's say the sacrificial system and the temple and the priesthood, which is tethered to the Mosaic system, where a lot of the Jewish laws, ritual laws, ceremonial laws, come from, was destroyed. And so, all of a sudden, you can no longer really fulfill the law of Moses.

And so, either you believe that Messiah came, or you have some sort of interpretation of prophecy, and the fulfillment of what's going on, or the culmination of what's happening with the destruction of the second temple. You have a different interpretation that builds on a new Judaism without Messiah, without Jesus being that fulfillment.

And so, that's kind of where this fracture comes. And so, as tradition goes on and time goes on, religious Judaism develops in a way, in dispersion, actually, because after the Romans destroyed the temple and Jerusalem, the Jews were expelled from the land. And in order to maintain Jewish identity, and Jewish heritage, and tradition, they formulated little synagogues

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

and little temples, wherever Jewish people lived. And so, as rabbis instead of priests gained control and influence, rabbis basically became the go to.

We now trust in the rabbis instead of God's perfect plan for saving humanity through Messiah. We trust the rabbis. Messiah will come later and take us out. And now the Judaism that we see today is a consequence or a reaction to the development of Messianic Judaism or early Christianity, because of Yeshua's arrival and the work that he did.

FRANK:

So, correct me if I'm wrong here, then, since the temple's been destroyed, as you mentioned, you can't actually follow the Old Testament laws to bring a lamb to the temple and sacrifice and all that.

So, now Judaism has gone to remote locations called synagogues, even around the world, and the atonement is done through one day, Yom Kippur, where people fast, and remember their sins, and try and atone for their sins. But I thought you had mentioned that—

We all agree the authority is God, but God is expressed through the Tanakh, the Old Testament. And you're saying he's expressed through an oral tradition. But isn't that oral tradition now written down in the Talmud, or are those two different things?

JEFF:

No, yeah, it's written down in the Talmud. So, in the second century, someone by the name of Judah the Prince, decided to codify the oral law, still oral at the time. I don't think it was written down for still maybe another couple centuries, but it was orally codified and written down later. And this was what was called the Mishnah, or basically the way of Jewish law and expressing Jewish life within the Jewish culture.

And this oral tradition was codified in the Talmud centuries later. And the Talmud is basically the Mishnah, which is what I just described, and the Gemara, which is the explanations and commentaries on the Mishnah.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

So, these are rabbis that are, you know, 2nd century, 3rd century, 5th century, 11th century, 12th century rabbis that are coming up with compiled commentaries describing, and answering, and debating what the Jewish life and Jewish religious life is supposed to be like.

And so, what religious Jews today usually trust is they're trusting in rabbis to give them an understanding of what God wants for them.

FRANK:

So, when Jesus said to the Pharisees, you nullify the word of God on account of your tradition, he's referring to the oral tradition at the time that went beyond and even contradicted what the Bible said at the time.

JEFF:

Right.

FRANK:

So, if rabbis are all doing this now, Jeff-- And by the way, we're talking to Jeff Morgan of Jews for Jesus. If rabbis are now doing this, how do they adjudicate between rabbis who disagree over tradition?

JEFF:

That's a great, great question. Now, they have rabbis that they trust as basically the big authorities like Rashi, Rabbi Shlomo, Yitzchaki, and Rambam or Maimonides, which are 11th and 12th century rabbis. You can ask what were they doing before and who were they trusting in earlier. But yes, they've basically decided to put their trust in the commentaries, and opinions, and decisions of rabbis.

The thing is though, is that Judaism has become more of a philosophy. I think a lot of it was Greek influenced, where argument and discussion about spiritual matters suddenly takes precedence. And studying for the sake of studying is important. And so, what a lot of religious Jews would call Torah is actually Talmud. It's not necessarily the Torah. It's not the five books of Moses, it's not the Tanakh. It's rabbinic commentary.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

So, they're studying rabbinic commentary. And what they feel is that studying for the sake of studying is what really brings you closer to God. And that the Jewish person's role is to really study the commentaries, the Talmud, the Mishnah, the Oral Torah, the Oral law, and debate on it and talk about it and really flesh these things out and grow spiritually.

And obviously there's the Mosaic Law that they're still trying to hold on to, and make, I would say, amendments to be able to, at least say that they're fulfilling that.

FRANK:

I've noticed in your videos—

And friends, you can see these great videos at So Be It, which is a YouTube channel. I've noticed in your conversations, Jeff, that you were having a conversation with an Orthodox Jew at one point, and you were going back and forth with him. And I think you were talking about Isaiah 53 for him. And he said, we need to refer to the Talmud to tell us what that means.

So, how do you, or how does anybody now talking to a person who's serious about Judaism today, how do you broach the Messiah to get them to be interested if they're just going to say, well, that's your interpretation of Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9 and Micah 5:2, and, you know, on, and on, and on.

JEFF:

Right.

FRANK:

I've got to go to the Talmud to tell me what all that means. How do you break through if that's their authority? The Talmud, not the Scriptures?

JEFF:

Yeah. The question we usually ask-- I think the most important thing is to learn from Jesus. And so, we ask a lot of questions, and like you as well, how did you come to that conclusion? How did you come to the conclusion that the Talmud is what you need to be looking to? How do you come to the conclusion that the rabbis from the 12th century or 11th century on are the ones

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

we need to listen to, even though the ones that came before them disagree with them? How did you come to that conclusion? Or did you just grow up in it?

FRANK:

What do they tend to say to that?

JEFF:

They said you have to ask a rabbi. You have to talk to a rabbi. You have to go and study on your own. Right? But we know for sure that Jesus isn't the Messiah because that's idol worship. And so, we really—

It kind of initiates a larger conversation. But when you bring up prophecies with people, it's important, because when you're talking to Jewish people on the streets, I'm Jewish myself.

You don't start with the New Testament, and you don't start with Paul. You know, you don't start with the Epistles. You start with the Hebrew Scriptures, and you say, okay, well, what are considered Messianic prophecies? And some of those, like you said, Isaiah 53, which talks about the suffering servant whose sins are—

Who the sins of the people are placed upon. You have Daniel 9 talking about the timing of the Messiah coming, which is incredible. Supposed to come before the destruction of the second temple. You talk about Micah 5:2, where the Messiah is supposed to be born.

And even, rabbis previous to the rabbis who are followed with regard to their commentary today will say that Messianic prophecy, Micah 5:2 points to the Messiah being born in Beit Lehem or Bethlehem, coming out of Beit lehem.

And Isaiah 7:14, the virgin birth. Isaiah 9:6, the divine child, or the child born called mighty God. Psalm 22, covering the crucifixion details until Daniel 7, which talks about the divine Son of Man who receives everlasting dominion and receives worship from all nations.

When you bring these things up, you ask, if you read this plainly, who do you think this would be pointing to? And we bring this question in front of secular and religious Jews.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And sometimes we'll bring these Bible verses out to the streets without telling them where they're from. We'll just read them, and we ask, where do you think this is from? Old Testament or New Testament? And nine times out of 10, if they don't think they're trying to be tricked, you know—

Or if they're like it's a trick question, they'll say it's from the New Testament. And we'll ask why? And they'll say, because it sounds like Jesus. And I said, exactly. These are prophecies from the Old Testament backed up by Jewish sages that predate the Jewish sages that you follow today. And so, our job isn't to push a point and prove a point.

Our point is to get people thinking. Really? Maybe that's true. Maybe there is something to what they're saying. Maybe I should question what I've been told or taught. Because, you know, we-- Religious Jews are just like everybody else, me, you.

We tend to do what we're told until a certain age where we start to ask questions and challenge maybe our faith and what we've been taught. And so, I, think it's really important that when Jewish people-- There's a lot of loaded words, Frank, in vernacular.

There's Christianity, the church, and all these things. And Christianity or Christian is a very loaded word to Jewish people. Jewish people will think of the cross, they'll think of the Crusades, they'll think of Catholicism, they'll think of persecution.

And what's important to portray or to get across to Jewish people is that believing in Yeshua doesn't mean leaving Judaism. It doesn't mean leaving or abandoning your Jewish people. It means you're walking into the fulfillment of God's promises through the Jewish Messiah. And I was talking with a Christian man not long ago who's not Jewish. And he says, I follow a Jewish Messiah.

And I thought, wow, that's so wonderfully put. Because if Jewish people understood that they're not leaving, they're not converting out of something. Sorry, they're not converting out of something. They're stepping into the promises of God that he made through our prophets, through Moses, through David, through the Psalms, about the coming Messiah. And so, I think

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

that's important to understand that the word Christian really is a Greek rendering of the Hebrew word Messiah or Mashiach.

And so, a Christian really is a follower of Messiah. And so, as Jewish people accept the Messiah, are fulfilled in their Jewishness or Judaism, Gentiles or non-Jewish people are coming into the fold of Israel, believing in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through God's promise and through the Messiah that was supposed to come forth from the Jewish people.

FRANK:

How much openness have you found, Jeff, when you ask, say, people on the street there who are following some brand of Judaism-- If you ask them, if Yeshua really did rise from the dead and fulfilled so many of these Old Testament prophecies to prove he was the Messiah, would you follow him? What kind of response do you get, generally?

JEFF:

Frank, I think I want to thank you for this question because I think because of your influence, we've taken that question out on the streets. We asked them if Jesus was the Messiah, if he was the one that checked the boxes and will come again, because we do have a suffering servant and a ruling and reigning, Messiah, King Messiah, and there's room for both. Religious Judaism actually talks about two Messiahs. But we don't have to get into that now.

That's another discussion. But we just believe there's one that comes twice. If that was true, and he was the atonement for our sins that reconciled us to our holy God, and by faith in him we have forgiveness of those sins and everlasting life in the presence of our Creator, would you believe in him? It astonishes me, but most people say no, I wouldn't.

FRANK:

Really?

JEFF:

Yeah, I wouldn't.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

And—

JEFF:

Yeah.

FRANK:

Well, let me ask you, and maybe you can relate your own personal experience to this. When you became a follower of Jesus and you believed he was the Messiah, how did your own family, I mean, your parents react to this? Maybe brothers and sisters who remain Jewish? Were you shunned at all? What was the reaction?

JEFF:

Well, I think the reaction that people expect, which is very real. And it's understandable why people would hesitate to accept Jesus. And I think family rejection, suspicion from peers, job loss, family loss, divorce, losing kids, all those things play a role in people's minds.

And some people just say, we've got Moses. We're good. We've got Moses. But you know, my family, I don't want to talk too much about them, because I don't want to necessarily bring them into this. But it was a little bit tough for my family in the beginning.

My parents, they're so sweet. You know, they come from their own specific upbringing and understanding. And one of the questions my mom asked, which is a very legitimate question, was why can't you just be Jewish? Why do you have to go become a Christian?

Which like I said before, it's erroneous to think that by accepting the Jewish Messiah, you're leaving the Jewish people and becoming a part of a different group. And so, it was hard for her. My dad, as an atheist, was like, well, you know, it's strange, but as long as it makes you happy.

Now, over time they saw a transformation within me that had them softening to the whole concept. They saw a man who was depressed and anxious, couldn't lead his family, and the exact opposite was happening.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

So, they liked the consequence, but they didn't necessarily like the cause. But you know, God's been working on their hearts. And it was tough though in the beginning. It was hard for my wife's parents as well.

FRANK:

Do you think that's probably the reason most people say no? It's not the fact that they don't necessarily want to believe it, but they'd have to give up too much if they did?

JEFF:

Yeah, like you say, it's a heart issue.

FRANK:

Yeah, yeah, it's incentive.

JEFF:

Yeah, it's a heart issue. And look, to be fair, a lot of Jewish people, when they see Christianity or they see maybe street preachers coming from overseas to Israel to share Jesus and give New Testaments and tracts, the Crusades come to mind and the forced conversions come to mind.

And so, they're suspicious. And so, they push it away because of the history of Christian and Catholic persecution towards the Jews, which I know for sure that a follower of Jesus doesn't do those things.

And so, for political reasons and whatever other reasons, were happening, which I think is also the adversary playing a big role in all of this because, you know, what better way to have Jewish people rejecting their Messiah and coming to, reconciliation with God than from those that are bringing that news?

And so, it's a hard nut to crack. We realize as people that share the love of God with our people and his plan for salvation, we realize that it's not our job to change their hearts. It's our job to make him known. And so, if we do that, and we get to watch God working on their hearts at the same time—

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And I've seen someone very, very close to me. His heart soften, and him recently put his faith in Yeshua, which just brought me to tears. And we get emails, comments, all kinds of correspondence on a regular basis from Jewish people around the world saying that we helped, that it all makes sense to them. And they got a New Testament, and they put their faith in Jesus. So, we're really seeing a lot of fruit come out of this.

FRANK:

We see the scope of your ministry on YouTube and TikTok and Instagram but tell us what we're not seeing. What else do you do at Jews for Jesus?

JEFF:

That's a great question. Jews for Jesus is an incredible ministry. We have teams that feed the poor, feed the hungry, take care of people on the streets, take prostitutes and drug addicts off the streets, and they-- Humanitarian aid, especially right now.

I mean, the way that Jews for Jesus Israel has pivoted since Iran started attacking and praise the Lord, that nothing has happened at the moment while we're talking, because I think this is important to get across. Jews for Jesus has pivoted, jumped to the front lines, gone out to those that are helping with the destruction, the families that are displaced, they're providing food.

They're providing shelter. They're providing the immediate humanitarian needs that are essential when people are in shock and in trying to figure out where they're going to sleep and have just lost someone.

Now, obviously, through these ministries, the food ministries, the poor ministries, the widows, the displaced people, you know, a lot of the things we've done through in Ukraine and to help with refugees. The gospel absolutely is at its center.

But as a Jewish ministry, we understand that there's really an appropriate timing with what to say and what to give. Jews for Jesus works in tandem as well with a ministry called Firm, which is a ministry here in Israel, that also is-- It's a collective.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

F-I-R-M Ministry that is, it stands for Fellowship of Israel related Ministries. And it's also a trustworthy network of local ministries in Israel that combine humanitarian outreach with the gospel. So, we always share the gospel, but obviously there's a timing when people are reeling and in pain. You're not going to go, hey, have you read the New Testament? What do you think about Jesus? You're going to provide them with the immediate need, develop relationship, and then show them where they can find true hope.

So, if you want to learn more about what we do and jump on board with Jews for Jesus, you can go to jewsforjesus.org, and you can also go to FIRM Israel, F I R M Israel as well. And, you know, when you support Jews for Jesus or FIRM, you're meeting urgent physical needs and sharing eternal hope.

FRANK:

How big is the organization, Jeff? And what is your place in it? I mean, we see you kind of as the face out there, being on YouTube, and TikTok, and Instagram. But how big is Jews for Jesus?

JEFF:

Well, Jews for Jesus is a worldwide organization ministry with a few hundred members. The people that actually go and share one on one Jesus with the Jewish people, they have to be Jewish. That's part of it. But we have Jews and Gentiles, non-Jews, coming together and serving in ministry together.

In Jews for Jesus, we have about 11 or 12, branches around the world right now. Places like Budapest, South Africa, London, LA, New York, Israel, you name it. Israel is actually the biggest branch. And it's so beautiful that we have-- Let me check if I have any alerts coming through the phone. No, nothing right now. Praise God. Israel is the biggest Jews for Jesus branch, which is wonderful because it shows that people living in Israel, are really coming to faith.

Jews are becoming curious. They're online all the time, so they're able, in the anonymity and quiet of their own home, to be able to look online and see YouTube channels like yours, Frank, and like ours, so be it, that addresses the Jewish people directly on the streets here in Israel, and learn about these things, and get a different perspective.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

We were in Budapest a few weeks ago and this Israeli Jew points at me and he's like, I know you. I watch your videos. I'm like, we're in Budapest. This is strange. He's like, yeah, I love your stuff, man. I'm like, are you a believer?

He's like, no, but I just love learning about new things. I'm like, you're Jewish? Yeah. You're Israeli? Yeah. I said, want to be in a video? He's like, yeah. So, we had this great conversation. It just came out a couple of days ago. He's like, where do you find the Son in the Tanakh? You know, where can you show me the Son?

FRANK:

Oh, I just saw that video.

JEFF:

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And that was the video. And so, that video is doing really well. It was a really wonderful conversation. And we find more and more Jewish people and Israelis here in the land becoming more curious and open because they've been disillusioned by religious Judaism.

And religious Judaism, I'm not going to bash it. It's beautiful. It has wonderful tradition, and you can get a lot from it. And it's something that's really helped keep our Jewish people together during times of dispersion. And it has a beautiful culture.

But the fact that it goes all the way back to Moses as a divine law, that's something we don't find evidence for in the Tanakh. And so, Jewish people are finding that out. And so, they're just saying, well, if this isn't divine, what we're practicing today, what is? And so, ministries like Jews for Jesus and our YouTube channel, so be it. Give people the resources to be able to search that out.

FRANK:

Couple more questions, Jeff. One is, I've had conversations, with people who are Jewish and are maybe more Orthodox. And I'll bring up something like Daniel 9, as I know you do, or Isaiah. And I've had people in that realm say the prophets are not as authoritative as the Pentateuch, the first five books.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

So, we don't have to take everything in the prophets, at the same level as the Pentateuch. Is that common? Do you hear people saying that? Where they kind of dismiss some of the prophets they don't want to deal with?

JEFF:

I don't really hear that as a normal argument.

FRANK:

You don't? Okay.

JEFF:

No, I mean, you can-- There are other sects of Judaism that go only by the five books of Moses. But that's kind of a fringe minority. Usually, the Jewish people take the Tanakh in its entirety as the word of God and him—

And you see his plan weaved throughout the five books, moving on to the prophets, moving on to the writings, and moving through the Tanakh, pointing to Messiah all the way through the end of the Old Testament, where you see God leaving you with a future hope, and then the New Testament picking up where that future hope left off.

And so, if you stick with the Old Testament, you're stuck with a narrative that ends short. It has a lot of laws in it, and you're stuck with basically relying on your own human capacity to fulfill certain laws that are no longer possible to fulfill.

And so, I think if you look at the Tanakh as a narrative with laws in it and covenants in it, and you see God working through the Jewish people, I think there's a book that you like to mention, that talks a lot about how God moves through the Jewish people and works with them.

What's that book called? That talks about, you know, Frank, I think you either co-wrote it or you refer to it, that talks-- It's okay. It's neither here nor there, but God working through, taking the Jewish people from where they are, and the practices they have, and moving them forward through the covenantal promises that he makes with them.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

Yes, well, there's several books that deal with that a little bit. We deal with it a little bit in *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Chapter 14. Barry Leventhal, who became a Christian through basically the Old Testament prophecies.

JEFF:

Right. Oh, yeah, it was, 'Is God a Moral Monster?', that one.

FRANK:

Oh, 'Is God a Moral Monster?' I was about to go to Paul Copan. Paul Copan talks about that. Yeah. In the context of dealing with the Old Testament passages that talk about, you know, killing the Canaanites, or slavery, or these kinds of issues. Yeah. Paul Copan talks about how God was taking people who were in a world—

The ideal world was Genesis 1. But it has fallen to the point now God is trying to bring people along incrementally and bringing them back to a position where they can regain their sanity about some of these moral issues.

And we don't have time to dive into those issues right now. But Copan deals with that. And I'm trying to think of who else does. I mean, we all know if we're reading the entire Bible, that if you go to Hebrews 8:13, it says the Old Covenant is obsolete. And so, there are laws in the Old Testament that no longer apply to us today. Jesus himself gave, you know, got rid of the dietary laws and—

JEFF:

Yeah, and if I can say something.

FRANK:

Yeah.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

JEFF:

Yeah, if I can say something about that as well, it being obsolete. Look, the New Testament, you know, Christianity doesn't make the Old Testament obsolete. You have to in order to understand that—

FRANK:

The old covenant is fulfilled.

JEFF:

Yeah, exactly. In order to understand the new covenant, you have to understand the old covenant or the first covenant. And that's not necessarily even the best way to explain it, because there are many covenants throughout the old covenant or the Old Testament.

But if you see that each covenant points forward to the next one and more of God's plan is being presented and what we call progressive revelation, it's revealed progressively, then you can really see God working through the Jewish people.

And then when the New Testament comes along, it's the new covenant that was promised to us in Jeremiah 31, where God will bring a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Not like the covenant that he made with their fathers when they took them by the hand out of Egypt, though he was a husband to them.

So, this is the covenant that he will write on our hearts, and he'll be our God, and we'll be his people, and he will take away our sins. And so, this covenant is made within as a promise. It's a covenant that is promised in Jeremiah, fulfilled in the New Testament or the new covenant.

And on the Passover, Jesus raises the cup and says this is the new covenant in my blood. Jesus ushers in this new covenant in perfect alignment with the old covenant promises. And so, you know, a lot of Jews are offended when we call it the old covenant.

But when you think about it, it is made obsolete simply by the fact that it no longer, it can no longer be supported. The sacrificial system is destroyed, the priesthood is destroyed, no longer exists. The temple no longer exists.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

You cannot fulfill it. So, what does fulfill it? The new covenant ushered in by Jesus. And so, it is a fulfillment. It is a walking into. But we don't remove it from our history. We don't remove it from our minds. We see the necessity of understanding the Old Testament, how it points to the new covenant.

FRANK:

Yeah, all believers are temples now, ladies and gentlemen. So, there's no need for a temple anymore, because once you become a believer, you are a temple. I did want to ask you this, Jeff, and then we're going to wrap up. Some have said there's an increase in Jews becoming Christians in Israel. Have you seen evidence of that?

JEFF:

Yes, absolutely. And I do want to make the point again that Christian is a great word. I love it. If you understand what Christian means, yes. I am a Christian. I'm Jewish. I'm a Christian. I'm a Jewish Christian. A lot of times we'll say, I'm a messianic Jew. I'm a Jewish believer in Jesus. Because the term Christian is a stumbling block for a lot of Jewish people. But all that's just a misunderstanding.

And so, a lot of Jewish people are becoming followers of Jesus. They're putting their faith in the Jewish Messiah because they're finally able to see through YouTube channels like ours, like yours, that information has been kept from them, has been changed. They've been believing in some—

They've been believing in the interpretations and the authority of man. Which sounds, doesn't it sound oddly reminiscent of Jesus' ministry and the things that he told the Pharisees? They put their faith in man, and they realized that wait a second, what really is God trying to tell us and do with us?

And how is it that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is known throughout the world and worshiped by non-Jews? We know the Messiah is supposed to bring the knowledge of Torah and of God, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to the world. And yet, here it is. And so, it's kind of an eye-opening.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And so, we're seeing Jewish people get baptized here in Israel. They're coming to faith. We have about, I think, almost 300 messianic, communities that you can become a part of and worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with other non-Jewish Christians here in the land of Israel.

So, we see this community growing. It's estimated that there are tens of thousands of Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel right now. When, in 1948, with the recreation of the land of Israel and the Jewish people coming back to the homeland, which is also prophesied in the Old Testament, there were like a handful, and now we see tens of thousands. So, we see this happening on the ground. We get a lot of Jewish objections to Jesus, and we're, you know, here and available to answer them.

FRANK:

Well, how can we pray for you, Israel, and the other believers there, Jeff? And then also mention how you're funded. If people want to support you, how do they do it?

JEFF:

Yeah, well, thank you so much. We want to pray for peace in the land of Israel. This is a very difficult time right now. Very difficult, because it's a continuous onslaught. So, pray for peace in the land. First of all, thank you so much for having me here and thank you for the viewers for hanging on this long.

Pray for the end of the war, protection over Israel and the families here, comfort for those that are grieving, strength for the soldiers that are fighting a war that they don't want to be fighting, openness among the hearts of the Jewish people, strength and boldness for the believing community, to come together.

We see the body of Messiah right now in unity, worshiping. You know, even in bomb shelters, we see a lot of our messianic Jewish community out here playing music and worshiping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

And so, we really appreciate that. And yeah, please just follow JewsForJesus.org, you can go to the website, sign up for the newsletter. You can follow us on So Be It. Subscribe to the channel. And we are a completely donor funded ministry. And so, any prayer and support is greatly appreciated. And even just saying a prayer right now for the people of Israel is so wonderful and so helpful.

FRANK:

Are there resources, on the website that can help people witness to people who may be of Jewish background, Jeff, that they can get some instruction there?

JEFF:

Yeah, and I think one of the best resources is to go to the So Be It YouTube channel because we have conversations, real life conversations, because you can get tips. But when you see people face to face, a Messianic Jew, you know, Jewish believer in Jesus, or a Jewish Christian speaking to an Orthodox Jew, or a secular Jew, or a Buddhist Jew, you can see how we move through these conversations with compassion, understanding, but yet being direct with our message that, okay.

You may have your way, but God says there is a way, and he gave us the way, and the truth, and the life. And so, we understand where they're coming from. We try to understand and empathize from where they are making their decisions, how they're coming to their own conclusions, understanding the fact that persecution is big in the Jewish mindset.

And so, you can just watch the interactions and it's really helpful. But JewsForJesus.org has amazing articles that you can check out and find out really the top messianic prophecies to share, how to share them, how the Passover points to Jesus. I mean it's so deep. You can go really deep. They have amazing articles there.

FRANK:

Yeah. And friends, I want to go back to something Jeff said earlier. And that is when people treat and have treated Jews poorly in the past, that is actually the illogical outworking of Christianity, not the logical outworking of Christianity.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

You know, we've talked about John Dixon's maxim there. When somebody plays Beethoven poorly, who do you blame? You don't blame Beethoven. Okay? So, when somebody plays Jesus poorly, you don't blame Jesus. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Jesus is Christianity, not Christians.

So, just because Christians have done evil in the past doesn't mean Christianity is false. In fact, it's one more piece of evidence it's true because if we weren't fallen, we wouldn't need a savior. So, Jeff, we're going to keep praying, and supporting, and why don't we pray for Israel right now? Would you lead us, Jeff?

JEFF:

I would love to.

FRANK:

Go ahead.

JEFF:

Abba [unintelligible], thank you God in heaven for your mercy and your grace. Thank you for Jesus that you would give us the way out of this world of sin and darkness. We thank you for your saving grace and mercy.

Father, would you continue to put your protection over the land of Israel right now? Bless believers that are watching this. Encourage them to stand with us in prayer and pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. Open people's hearts to the Jewish people and understand that history has treated the Jewish people very unfairly. That hearts can also be open to sympathize and empathize with the Jewish people.

So, we just pray for your protection over the land of Israel. That hearts would be open, that you would comfort those that are mourning and suffering here. Lord, in your word it says that those that mourn will be comforted. Blessed are those that mourn for they will be comforted.

So, Father, protection, guidance, prayer and also for the kids, the children here in Israel that you protect and guard their hearts. This is a traumatic situation. Thank you for Frank's ministry.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

Pray that you continue to bless his ministry and that more and more people will come to know their Messiah. In his name we pray, Amen.

FRANK:

Amen. And Father, we pray for Jews, for Jesus and all of Jeff's work out there. And so many people need to hear the truth. Help their hearts and minds to be open to the truth. Maybe difficulty like this war will make them more open to the truth. We pray that you can do that through difficulty.

Of course, Lord, you also told us to pray for our enemies. So, the enemies of Israel need to convert and become Christians as well. And we pray for the people of Iran. We pray for leaders in every area of this conflict. The purpose of war is to bring forth peace and to restore peace.

So, we pray that would be done. We pray there'd be no nuclear exchanges, and Iran would not get a nuclear weapon. We pray their hearts would be softened to accept the Messiah, the true Messiah as well. And we pray for our leaders here in America, our leaders in all the countries involved, because we want peace and we want to follow you. At least we do here.

We pray the rest of the world will as well. Thank you for blessing us. Thank you for all the listeners who are and viewers who are blessed, listening, and watching, and pray that we would continue to seek your face and not just our own desires. In Christ's name. Amen.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**

