

from  
synagogue  
to  
sanctuary



## Week 2: The Days of the Apostles

Jesus did not appear as the founder of a new religion, and what we now know as Christianity did not exist for perhaps two generations after his death. Jesus was a Jew, and the Jesus movement originated as a Jewish sect.

~ L. Michael White

Why did Rabbinism and not Christianity triumph with Jewish communities in Palestine? First of all, nationalist sentiments were strong among the Jews of Palestine in the first two centuries of the current era, and Jewish Christianity would have found it hard to cope with any form of intense nationalism.

~ James D. G. Dunn

Christians stressed the spiritual nature of the kingdom and de-emphasized the territorial dimension of Judaism. Such radicalism was out of joint with the spirit of the times.

~ James D. G. Dunn

Jewish messianism was national, ethnic, political and material, while Christian messianism was universal, cosmopolitan, ethical and spiritual. Here is the origin of the divide.

~ William Scott Green

Traditionally Christianity has defined itself in opposition to Judaism: a central element of its self-assertion has been that it is *not* Judaism. By teaching that Jesus ushered in the "New Covenant," early Christians were claiming that his movement was NOT a part of the "Old Covenant."

~ Philip S. Alexander

When Orthodox Jews stoned Stephen (a Christ-follower) to death as a blasphemer, this confirmed the fracture with Judaism.

~ Brian Moynahan

To be wrong about Jesus is to be wrong about everything.

~ Stewart K. Weber

From the earliest days of Christianity we find an astonishing shift, for which nothing in Jewish traditions of the time had prepared Jesus' followers. They remained firmly within Jewish monotheism; and they said, from very early on, that Jesus was indeed the divine.

~ N. T. Wright

Jesus was not busy with a religious revival, he was busy with a revolution – a revolution in religion, in politics, and in everything else.

~ Albert Nolan

**My Kingdom is not of this world.**

~ Jesus