

from
synagogue
to
sanctuary



Week 3: The Days of the Rabbis

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

The rejection of war is not an optional ethical issue. Rather, it is the clearest indication of the church's calling to be a community free from nationalist and other forms of domination.

~ Richard Deats

Tell me, how can a Christian defend Scripturally retaliation, rebellion, war striking, slaying, torturing, stealing, robbing and plundering and burning cities, and conquering countries?

~ Menno Simons

The only people on earth who do not see Christ and His teachings as non-violent are Christians.

~ Mohandas Gandhi

Christ says just what he means when he says "Resist not evil." These words, understood in their direct and simple meaning, were for me truly a key opening everything else.

~ Leo Tolstoy

We Christians no longer take up sword against nation, nor do we learn to make war any more, having become children of peace for the sake of Jesus who is our leader.

~ Origen (248 C.E.)

We have learned from the precepts and laws of Christ not to repay evil for evil, to endure injury rather than inflict it, to shed our own blood rather than to stain our hands and conscience with the blood of another.

~ Arnobius (304 C.E.)

The overwhelming evidence suggests that the followers of Jesus were pacifists for the first three centuries. Many early church leaders and documents underscore the unwavering commitment to nonviolence.

~ Charles Kimball

We who hated and destroyed one another, and on account of their different manners would not live with men of a different tribe, now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them. We pray for our enemies and seek to win over those who unjustly hate us.

~ Justin Martyr (155 C.E.)

And of all our race He has marked the American people as His chosen nation to finally lead in the regeneration of the world. This is the divine mission of America.

~ U.S. Senator Albert J. Beveridge (1898)

It should be obvious by now that violence, and not Christianity, is the real religion of America. This is why it cannot be stressed too much: love of enemies has, for our time, become the litmus test of authentic Christian faith.

~ Walter Wink

My Kingdom is not of this world.

~ Jesus