

As a Jewish convert to Mormonism I feel like I have added to my religion and not taken away from it. I love the gospel with all my heart and soul. It is my greatest treasure on earth, more precious than gold, silver, or jewels.

I feel like a pioneer in the Church because of my Jewish heritage. I love my birthrite and culture and I want to share it with others.

Gaining the gospel did not come easy for me. I had to give up much but where much is given much is expected. I was scoffed at, disowned, persecuted by my family and friends but the Lord was with me. He gave me personal revelation for my problems and inner peace. This was a great comfort to me. Since joining the Church my trials have become greater but I have gained much wisdom and understanding. The gift of the Holy Ghost has been a great companion to me through many of the hard times. I feel that my purpose in life is to help the Jews and the Latter-Day-Saints to better understand the similarities between the two of them.

On April 3, 1836 as the Jewish people the world over were celebrating the Passover Sader and preparing a place for Elijah at their tables, unknown to them he was making an appearance to the Prophet Joseph Smith at the Kirkland Temple.

There are many similarities between the tribes of Joseph and Judah. Both migrated to find justice and a homeland for their religious beliefs. Both caused the hostile and barren desert to bloom like a rose, and the people prospered. But before they could come to this point they both suffered great trials and tribulations. Both are a covenant and a temple building people, they are strongly family oriented, they each remember their pioneers with pride and gratitude. Both peoples place education high on their priority list. Both have dietary laws. Both honor their ancestors and hold them in high esteem. Both believe in the fasting principal. Jewish boys have their Barmitzvahs about the same time as the Mormon boys receive the Aaronic Priesthood. Both Jewish people and Latter-Day-Saints have a strong sense of idenity as a people chosen for a special purpose or role to fulfill on this earth. Together they are preparing for the coming of the Messiah. Deu. 7:6-9,11

Many of the Jewish holidays are in the Book of Mormon. Alma chapters 36-42, the traditional Israelite observance of Passover has been discovered. And many of the other Jewish holidays (Alma 30:2) such as Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur. While no festivals are mentioned explicitly many unmistakable clues of specific festivals are found.

The foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (F.A.R.M.S.) have written an article on the Sons of The Passover showing the Jewish holidays in the Book of Mormon.

October 24, 1841 the Apostle Orson Hyde stood on the Mount Of Olives and dedicated the land for the return of the Jews. All that was prophesied at that time concerning the Jews has come to pass. On the site where he dedicated the land there now stands a beautiful Orson Hyde Memorial Garden which the Prophet Spencer W. Kimball dedicated in 1979.

I know that Jesus is the Messiah the Jews are still waiting for. I am thrilled that the Lord has seen fit for me to gain this knowledge and for my family to also gain their own individual testimony.

*Elisha Molling  
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