

Similarities between Judaism and Mormonism

As a Jewish convert to Mormonism I feel like I have added to my religion not taken away from it. My purpose in life is to help the Jews and the Latter-day Saints better understand the similarities and prophecies that join them together.

There are too many similarities between the tribes of Joseph and Judah. Both migrated to find justice and a homeland for their religious beliefs. There is a great affinity for the Jews by the Mormons as both have endured both persecution and suffering for their 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 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 principle. There is simplicity in their places of worship. Jewish boys have their Bar Mitzvahs about the same time as Mormon boys receive the Aaronic Priesthood.

Nowhere else are there found two groups of people geographically so far apart, yet with so many similarities as the Dead sea to the Great Salt Lake, both have a Jordan River, showing that the land in Utah and Israel are alike in many ways.

Many of the Jewish holidays are in the Book of Mormon. In Alma, chapters 36-42, the traditional Jewish observance of Passover has been discovered, and many of the other Jewish holidays such as Rosh Hashana and 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.) has written an article on the Sons of the Passover showing the Jewish holidays in the Book of Mormon.

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

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.

David Ben Gurion once said, "that there are no people in the world who understand the Jews like the Mormons."

Jeremiah prophesied that in latter times the house of Judah would walk with the house of Israel and they shall come together (Jeremiah 3:18).

Ezekiel 37:16-17 talks about the two sticks, the stick of Joseph and the stick of Judah that will become one in my hand. And this has come to pass. The stick of Judah being the Old Testament, the stick of Joseph being the Book of Mormon.

Both Jewish people and the Latter-day Saints have a strong sense of identity as a people chosen for a special purpose or role to fulfil on this earth. Together they are preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

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

Elissa Molling
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