

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

THE SHERMAN LECTURES 2015

IN JEWISH STUDIES

THE CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Jesus, Judaism and Christianity:

Old Prejudices and
New Possibilities

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Monday 27 April

Jesus in His Jewish Context: The Importance of
Recovering History

Tuesday 28 April

The Mistakes Jews and Christians Make About Each
Other

Wednesday 29 April

Is the New Testament Anti-Semitic?

Thursday 30 April

Messianic Judaism, Conversion to Christianity,
Intermarriage, Inter-religious Households:
Disputes for the Sake of Heaven

**Daily 5.15 - 7.00pm. Arts Lecture Theatre, Samuel
Alexander Building, The University of Manchester**

www.manchesterjewishstudies.org

Jesus, Judaism and Christianity: Old Prejudices and New Possibilities

Sunday 26 April

Manchester Jewish Museum
Community Lecture: 7.30pm

Speaking of the Middle East:

Jews and Christians in Dialogue and Dispute

Jews were embedded in the ideas and practices of every community of which they formed a part. Yet the experience of living as a Jew or with Jews varied greatly between European regions and over time. This lecture will consider the circumstances surrounding the settlement of Jews, and the interactions and attitudes that developed towards them. It will point out, in particular, the diverse attitudes and interactions experienced in different milieus: monastic, urban, scholastic, courtly, as well as in Latin, English and French.

Monday 27 April

Lecture 1: Jesus in His Jewish Context:

The Importance of Recovering History

Jesus and his first followers were Jews, thoroughly grounded in Jewish Scripture, Jewish ethics and theology, and Jewish hopes. To understand the New Testament materials is thus to recover part of Jewish history. This presentation explores how knowledge of this common history not only became lost, but how Christian interpretation began to bear false witness

against Jesus' Jewish context by characterizing it as legalistic, elitist, obsessed with ritual purity, misogynistic, vengeful, and xenophobic. It then shows how the Gospels themselves can be used to correct these false and noxious stereotypes.

Tuesday 28 April

Lecture 2:

The Mistakes Jews and Christians Make About Each Other

Although both Jews and Christians share a common ancestry in the Scriptures of Israel, the parting of the ways between Synagogue and Church has led to ignorance and stereotyping of the other. This presentation addresses the major misconceptions Christians and Jews have of each other.

Wednesday 29 April

Lecture 3:

Is the New Testament Anti-Semitic?

What does the New Testament say about Jews and Judaism? Is it appropriate to call it "Anti-Semitic" or "Anti-Jewish"? What are the major problematic passages, and what explanations are typically made by pastors, priests, and theologians to defuse them of doing harm? How do anti-Jewish interpretations arise, and what can be done to prevent them?

Thursday 30 April

Lecture 4:

Messianic Judaism, Conversion to Christianity, Intermarriage, Inter-religious Households:

Disputes for the Sake of Heaven

Jews who believe in Jesus of Nazareth as Lord and Savior have, from the first-century to the present, been regarded by the majority Jewish community as best misguided and, at worse, as apostates and traitors. Jews who marry Christians have been rejected by their family and community; intermarried couples today may struggle with how to raise their children: as Jews, as Christians, as neither... Inter-religious dialogue has been regarded by some Jews as a waste of time, if not as a dangerous pretence designed to encourage Jews to convert to Christianity. What are the major issues facing Jewish-Christian relations today, and how do we achieve shalom bayit (peace in the household) without sacrificing the particulars of our own traditions on the altar of inter-religious sensitivity? While answers that will satisfy all are not possible, addressing these questions should make us all better informed about twenty-first century Jewish communal issues.