

Maccoby, *The Mythmaker*, Chapters 12 and 13
Wesley Advocates 15 January 2017

The "Jerusalem" Church

What evidence indicates the Nazarenes in the Jerusalem Church continued as observant Jews?

Why was James, rather than Peter, leader of the Jerusalem Nazarenes?

How did belief in Jesus's resurrection contribute to the Nazarenes' continued hope for messianic revolution?

What significance lies in the parallels between Jesus's awarding Peter the "keys of the kingdom" and Hezekiah's awarding the key to the house of David to Eliakim?

For the Acts writer, what is the significance of the Pentecost he reports? What was the traditional significance of Pentecost in Judaism?

What is the difference between describing Jesus as a divine savior and describing him as a man singled out by God?

What role did baptism play in traditional Judaism? In Pauline Christianity?

Of what significance is it that the first ten so-called bishops of the Jerusalem Church were all circumcised Jews?

What is a re-Judaizer?

See page 129: "... which is more likely, that Jesus' closest disciples failed to understand his most important message, or that Pauline Christians, writing Gospels about fifty years after Jesus' death, unaware of Pauline doctrines, had to insert into their Gospels denigratory material about the Apostles in order to counteract the influence of the 'Jerusalem Church'?"

What is HM's point about Cornelius of Cesarea as a God-fearer?

What three key issues did the Jerusalem Council address with regard to Jews and Gentiles?

What conflict arose between Peter and Paul? According to Paul in Galatians and elsewhere, how was it "resolved"? How does the Acts writer present the conflict?

According to HM, Paul regards his authority as superior to James's and to that of all the apostles and to the Jerusalem Church because?

What are the Noahide Laws, and why are they important to the Jerusalem Council's decisions?

Why do the writers of the New Testament consistently seek to de-politicize Jesus?

The Split

Why is the Jerusalem Church regarded as a monarchical movement within Judaism?

Why does the Acts writer wish to minimize conflict between Paul and the Jerusalem Church's leaders?

According to the Acts writer, what does James say about Judaism's "irksome restrictions" when dealing with Gentile converts to the Jesus movement? How likely is it that James would have used such language?

What exactly do these Noahide laws mean: abstention from things polluted by idols, abstention from fornication, abstention from blood?

Apparently the Apostles leading the Jerusalem Church concluded that the Jesus movement could include two categories of people. Which two? Why?

Again, why did Paul regard his authority as higher than that of the apostles?

What precisely did Paul gain from—or leave with—following the Jerusalem Council?

How does Paul represent his conflict with Peter in Antioch? What does HM perceive as Paul's skewing of the truth? What does it matter?

Do you perceive the Jerusalem Council and its results as the significant break that led directly to creation of Pauline Christianity? Why or why not?

What elements of traditional Judaism in particular does Paul dispense with? Why?

