

## CHRISTIANITY VS CHRISTIAN CULTS

- In this class we will discuss the difference between Christianity and Christian cults
- Recently Lucius and I teamed up with a group of other teachers to teach a class about the Black Hebrew Israelites
- Lucius and his family were a part of the Black Hebrew Israelites before they came to Christ

### Lucius's Story

- It was the mid to late '90s, and I was in my late twenties when my wife and I got involved in the Black Hebrew Israelite movement
- My wife and I were active in our local church, but we struggled professionally and personally.
- In those days, I would have said I was a devout knowledgeable believer in Christ. However, the reality was I knew little about my Christian faith.
- A friend shared a video cassette with me of BHI teaching on the streets of New York, and I was hooked.
- Not long after watching that video, I left my church and got involved in the movement.

### Who Are Some of the popular spokespeople for the Black Hebrew Israelites?

- Since the BHI class that we held months ago there were a few well known actors and sports figures that identified themselves with the BHI and many people have denounced their speech as **hate speech** and they have been labeled a **hate group**.
  - A suspect in the deadly attack on a kosher market in Jersey City was connected to the Black Hebrew Israelites,
  - Desean Jackson (football player)-had to apologize
  - N\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ - refused to apologize and now has cut ties with Disney
  - K\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ (continues to shout out BHI in his lyrics)

## What Are the Tenets of the Black Hebrew Israelites?

- African Americans, H\_\_\_\_\_, and Native Americans Indians are the true I\_\_\_\_\_.
- Salvation is by works
- The Bible cannot be understood by any none Israelite.
- BHI may or may not believe in Jesus Christ.
- BHI presents slavery, racism, incarceration and other social ills as divine punishment from God for disobedience that can only be cured by embracing BHI ideology.
- BHI teach D\_\_\_\_\_ 28: \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage individuals to embrace their true identity as God's chosen children or continue to suffer in society.
- Some more extreme BHI sects teach that only Israelites will be allowed into heaven.

**We are talking a lot about BHI but many of the same aspects of this cult apply to the others.**

## What Does the Word CULT mean?

- In a Christian context, the definition of a cult is, specifically, **“a religious group that Claims to be Christian but denies one or more of the F\_\_\_\_\_ of biblical truth.”**
- A cult is a group that teaches D\_\_\_\_\_ that, if believed, will cause a person to **remain unsaved.**
- They appeal to people by making it seem as if they are just another Christian D\_\_\_\_\_.
- In fact if you asked them, they would claim that they are Christians, yet the Christian church has uniformly denounced them.

***They are like wolves in sheep's clothing***

**CHRISTIANITY VS CHRISTIAN CULTS****What is it that lures people to become a member of the BHI?**

- They project concern about social and political issues.
- They project a sense of f \_\_\_\_\_
- They project s \_\_\_\_\_, knowledge and a \_\_\_\_\_
- They give a sense of i \_\_\_\_\_.

*-We could spend a year going over all of the different cults and religions there are out there.*

*But as I have stated since the beginning, the main thing that we must focus on is not knowing everything there is to know about every false religion and cult but instead to focus on what they believe about Jesus?*

**Who do the BHI say that Jesus is?**

- Some camps believe that the New Testament was created by the C \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ and so they reject it. And because they reject the New Testament they reject all teachings about Jesus Christ.
- Some camps declare that Jesus was the Son of God. However, they teach Jesus saves by the l \_\_\_\_\_ and grace.
- BHI adherents use ancient and manipulated variations of Hebrew, rather than accepted versions. “Y” is heavily used, and other vowels are eliminated. Individual groups favor different variations but many refer to God and Jesus as Yahawashi, Yahawah, YHWH, or Yahweh and reject spellings or pronunciations of mainstream Judaism.
- Some camps teach that God never had a s \_\_\_\_\_ and reject all Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

**How do we use this information to share our faith with those who believe this way?**

**Lucius Talks about Sharing the Gospel with BHI's**



CHRISTIANITY VS CHRISTIAN CULTS

- As Christ followers we must adopt a Mission-Driven Life Style (Matthew 28:9, Isaiah 52:7). People around us always need to be ministered to. Therefore, we should always be living a mission centered life wherever God has placed us.
- Know how and why Christ has fulfilled the law (Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:24-25, Ephesians 2:14).
- Know God’s Redemption plan to save all people (Isaiah 45:22, 1 Timothy 2:14).
- **Be prepared to have a competent discussion about racism and religion?**

Much of Black Hebrew Israelite mythology revolves around the idea that “Europeans”, or white people in America, are deceiving and pacifying people of color with a whitewashed Christianity.

In some cases, this does happen. However, it is not a good representation of Global Christianity or the strong activism and Biblical worldview of the historic black church. This heresy often leads to racism and xenophobia amongst certain camps.

Edomites are often seen as condemned and not part of God’s redemptive plan (Deuteronomy 23:7, John 10:16).

- Be acquainted with some of the beliefs of the BHI camp you’re attempting to reach

-There are a lot of things here that can help us as we talk to Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons as well.

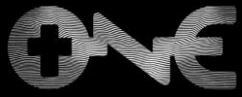
Many of these people are sincere in their beliefs but they are sincerely lost.

Conclusion

There are 3 things that we know for Sure:

1. Jesus is the light. If we shine the light of Christ it will **draw all men to him**

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.  
-John 12:32*



**CHRISTIANITY VS CHRISTIAN CULTS**

2. People trapped in cults will never know the truth **unless someone tells them**

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*

*-Romans 10:14-15*

3. The reason that you and I are still here on earth is because God wants to **use \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ THEM.**