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THE 444: The Messiah /NOS

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Response Paper 5

Kingdom of God 1: The Content of the Messianic Movement

The article discusses the Messianic message in both Judaism and Christianity. Flusser argues that there is a new sensitivity in contemporary Jewish thought that is open to the possibility of a Messiah who is both human and divine, which brings Judaism closer to Christianity (109).

Flusser highlights that the concept of the Messiah is central to both Judaism and Christianity, and that both religions have different understandings of what the Messiah's role will be. He notes that while traditional Jewish thought focuses on a human Messiah who will restore the Jewish people to their homeland and establish a new era of peace and justice, contemporary Jewish thought is more open to the idea of a divine Messiah who will also bring salvation to the world (110).

Flusser goes on to discuss the Christian message, which he argues is based on the belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah who fulfilled the Jewish prophecies of the coming of the Messiah. He notes that Christians believe that Jesus was both human and divine, and that his death and resurrection provided salvation for all humanity (109-112).

Overall, Flusser's article highlights the similarities and differences between Judaism and Christianity in their understanding of the Messiah. He suggests that contemporary Jewish thought is becoming more open to the possibility of a divine Messiah, which brings Judaism closer to Christianity (118). However, he also notes that there are still significant differences between the two religions, particularly in their understanding of the role of Jesus as the Messiah.

The message of the article is highly relevant to Christians today, particularly in terms of their understanding of the Messiah and the Jewish roots of their faith. First, Flusser's discussion of the concept of the Messiah in both Judaism and Christianity can deepen Christians' understanding of their own faith. By exploring the differences and similarities between the two religions' understanding of the Messiah, Christians can gain a greater appreciation for the historical and theological context in which Jesus lived and taught. This can deepen their understanding of the significance of Jesus as the Messiah, both in his own time and in contemporary Christian thought.

Secondly, Flusser's observation that contemporary Jewish thought is becoming more open to the possibility of a divine Messiah can provide Christians with an opportunity for dialogue and understanding with their Jewish neighbors. Christians can engage in respectful dialogue with Jews, sharing their own beliefs about Jesus as the Messiah while also learning more about Jewish understandings of the Messiah. This can foster greater mutual understanding and appreciation between the two faiths.

Finally, Flusser's article can help Christians to recognize the Jewish roots of their faith and the importance of the Jewish scriptures for understanding Christian theology. By engaging with Jewish thought and understanding the Jewish context of the Bible, Christians can gain a

richer understanding of their own faith and its connection to the broader religious traditions of which it is a part.

Expectation of the Followers of the Messiah

The Messianic movement is a movement of Jewish believers in Jesus as the Messiah who seek to preserve their Jewish identity while also embracing Christian beliefs. The movement is characterized by a strong sense of connection to Jewish history and culture, and a belief in the ongoing importance of Jewish practices and traditions.

One of the key themes of Flusser's article is the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, particularly in terms of their understanding of the Messiah. For Messianic believers, this relationship is central to their identity and their understanding of their faith. Messianic believers seek to embrace their Jewish identity while also recognizing the significance of Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy regarding the Messiah.

Flusser's observation that contemporary Jewish thought is becoming more open to the possibility of a divine Messiah is particularly relevant to the expectations of Messianic believers. This openness provides an opportunity for dialogue and understanding between Jews and Christians, as well as a shared appreciation for the significance of the Messiah in both religions.

Furthermore, Flusser's discussion of the Jewish roots of Christianity and the significance of the Jewish scriptures for understanding Christian theology is also relevant to the expectations of Messianic believers. Messianic believers seek to preserve their Jewish identity while also recognizing the importance of the Jewish scriptures and traditions for understanding their faith.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Flusser's article on the Messianic message in Judaism and Christianity is highly relevant to Christians today, particularly in terms of their understanding of the Messiah and the Jewish roots of their faith. The article provides Christians with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of their faith, engage in respectful dialogue with their Jewish neighbors, and recognize the Jewish roots of their faith. For Messianic believers, the article is particularly relevant as it highlights the relationship between Judaism and Christianity and the significance of Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy regarding the Messiah. Messianic believers seek to embrace their Jewish identity while also recognizing the importance of Jesus as the Messiah, and Flusser's observations provide a framework for understanding and articulating this relationship. Overall, Flusser's article provides a valuable contribution to the ongoing dialogue between Judaism and Christianity, and its relevance extends to all those seeking a deeper understanding of the Messianic message.

Work Cited

Flusser, David. "A new sensitivity in Judaism and the Christian message." *Harvard Theological Review* 61.2 (1968): 107-127.