I. **Introduction**

Jewish people have many objections to Yeshua and His claims. They can be categorized into three main groups: general, historical, and theological.

General objections vary from “Jews don’t believe in Jesus” to “I was born a Jew, I will die a Jew” to “No religious or educated Jew would believe in Jesus or Christianity”.

Historical objections go from “If Jesus is really the Messiah, why is there so much suffering in the world” to “Jesus cannot be the Jewish Messiah because more Jewish blood has been shed in his name than any other name” to “Without Christian anti-Semitism, the Holocaust would have never happened”.

Theological objections go from “Jews don’t believe in three gods but one” to “Jews don’t believe in a divine Messiah” or “Jews don’t believe in the original sin”.

Additionally, many of the Jewish objections listed here or even unlisted do overlap different categories. We must have a closer look at each section individually starting with the general objections.

II. **General Objections**

A. **It is Not Jewish to Believe in Yeshua**

Jewishness and Judaism must be properly defined in order to tackle this objection.
Biblically, a Jew is a descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob through one of the twelve tribes. Yeshua, His disciples and the Apostles were all Jews and never renounced their heritage. In fact, they were proud of it.

*Romans 11:1* I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! for I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

*2 Corinthians 11:22* Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

A Jew who accepts Yeshua as his Messiah and Lord of his life is not a convert but becomes a completed or fulfilled Jew. He also becomes part of the Remnant of Israel of Romans 11:5 or the Israel of God of Galatians 6:16.

*Romans 11:5* In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.

*Galatians 6:16* And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

One can practice Judaism without being a Jew. Such a person was Ruth who placed herself under the Mosaic Law, yet she was always referred to as a Moabitess (Ruth 1:22;2:2, 21; 4:5, 10).

Jewishness and Judaism shouldn’t be confused as being one and the same.

**Jewishness is an ethnic state**

**Judaism is a religious practice**

**B. If Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah why so few Jews believe in Him**

First of all we need to realize that the majority is not always correct. People laughed when they first heard the earth was round, they laughed at Louis Pasteur, airplanes, telephones and television.

The fact is that Jewish Rabbis and leaders have accepted Yeshua as their Messiah.
By the end of the first century there were at least 1 million Jewish believers in Israel.

Early 20th century Rabbi Isaac Liechtenstein of Hungary publically accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and eventually led his entire synagogue to the Lord.

Rabbi Leopold Cohn from Hungary moved to America to find Yeshua and later founded Chosen People Ministries in 1894.

Many Jewish people misunderstood Yeshua’s dual role as Suffering Servant and King, Lamb and Lion. Most Jewish people expected a King to come and establish the Messianic Kingdom right away, but God had a different plan laid out in His Word for Yeshua to come as the Lamb of God to die for yours and my sins and then return as the King to re-establish the Throne of David (Psalm. 2:6,110, Isaiah 9:6, Zechariah 8:20-23).

**Psalm 2:6**  “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Zechariah 8:20** “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. 21 ‘And the inhabitants of one will go to another saying, “Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go.” 22 ‘So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.’ 23 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”’”

There are more Jewish people who believe in Yeshua than the mainstream Jewish community would like to admit. The issue is more about what kind of Yeshua do Jewish think of when they say His name?
Is it the Christmas baby Jesus in a manger, the tortured and bloody half-naked Jesus hanging on a cross or the Jesus of the Crusades and the Inquisitions?

Do Jewish people really know who Yeshua is? The answer is NO! Let’s face it, any orthodox Jew learning about Yeshua from their rabbi or a few references in the Talmud, will obtain a very biased image of Him.

Additionally, Christians have also painted a rather distorted image of Jesus stripped of most if not all of His Jewishness.

We must also take in consideration the fact that the Bible tells us that for a while, only a few Jewish people will come to faith until God resumes His program with Israel as we see in Romans 11:25-27.

*Romans 11:25* For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”

27 “AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

Note: It is important to mention that this is quoted from the Jewish prophets Isaiah 59:20-21; 27:9 and Jeremiah 31:33-34.

C. What happens to a Nazi who comes to faith in Yeshua as opposed to a Jewish person who perished in the Holocaust at the hands of that same Nazi?

The Bible clearly states that the person who is in right standing with God when they die, will come into His presence for eternity. A wicked person who truly repents and put their faith in God, will be accepted by God.

If the Nazi genuinely repents and comes to faith in Yeshua, then God would accept him as righteous and welcome him into eternity in His presence. And yes, as hard as it is to fathom, if a Jewish person is an atheist or even rebelled against God, their horrible death in the Holocaust doesn’t
transform them into a “saint” or a “godly” person securing them a place in Heaven.

Of course, while repentance remains the same concept throughout the ages, the object of repentance went from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in general in the Tenach, to Yeshua and his sacrificial death and resurrection in the New Testament in particular. God is quite clear about repentance in Ezekiel 33:11-16 and 18:30-32.

**Ezekiel 33:11** “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’

12 “And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, ‘The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he will not stumble because of it in the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous man will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.’

13 “When I say to the righteous he will surely live, and he so trusts in his righteousness that he commits iniquity, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; but in that same iniquity of his which he has committed he will die.

14 “But when I say to the wicked, ‘You will surely die,’ and he turns from his sin and practice justice and righteousness,

15 if a wicked man restores a pledge, pays back what he has taken by robbery, walks by the statutes which ensure life without committing iniquity, he will surely live; he shall not die.

16 “None of his sins that he has committed will be remembered against him. He has practiced justice and righteousness; he will surely live.

**Ezekiel 18:30** “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.
31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel?
32 “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”

Two powerful examples of some very evil men who repented and were accepted by God are the stories of Ahab in 1 King 21:27-29:

1 Kings 21:27 And it came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently.
28 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,
29 “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son's days.”

Hezekiah's son, King Manasseh of Judah who reigned starting at age 12 from BC 697-642, also is the proof that God values repentance, as we read in 2 Chronicles 33:6, 9-13:

2 Chronicles 33:6 And he made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.
9 Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.
10 And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.
11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze chains, and took him to Babylon.
12 And when he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
13 When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

Rabbi Saul of Tarsus (better known as the Apostle Paul) helps us understand repentance and justification by faith in Acts 20:21 and 26:20

Acts 20:21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Acts 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

The subject of the Holocaust must be handled very carefully. While it is possible for a murderous Nazi with a hardened heart towards his fellow men to repent and turn to God, it is not the norm.

As for the many Jewish people who perished during the Holocaust, their death was tragic, gruesome and definitely unnecessary. They were innocent victims, but that does not make them into godly people in right standing with God. They also needed to put their trust in the finished work of Yeshua. God is just AND merciful at the same time. We might end up being surprised about who makes it in Heaven and who doesn't.

III. Conclusion

General objections are usually very emotional and seldom based on facts. They usually came be summed up by the statement “Jesus is not for the Jews”. If you can make one refrain from any emotional decision about a Yeshua that certainly do not know, then you might be able to reason together and introduce to him or her, the real Yeshua based on facts not fiction.