

The Jewish Opposition to the Gospel

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

In 1 Thessalonians 1:2-2:16, Paul's intention is to strengthen this young church...

- By Commending Them
- By Confirming the Gospel

Main Idea: The Jews' Opposition to Paul's Message is Evidence for the Truthfulness of the Gospel

1.) Not All Jews Opposed the Word of God.

"...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)

"Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God." (Acts 13:43)

2.) The Jews Who Opposed Paul are Identified with the Jews who Killed Jesus and the Prophets.

...who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets. (1 Thessalonians 2:15)

*"And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. **16** But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." (2 Chronicles 36:15-16)*

"In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion." (Jeremiah 2:30)

"By New Testament times therefore the killing of the prophets had become a common way to refer to the persecution of the faithful remnant by the unrighteous." –Jeffrey Weima

*"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12)*

*""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, **30** and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' **31** "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. **32** Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. **33** Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? **34** Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, **35** that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth..." (Matthew 23:29-35)*

"knew He had spoken the parable against them" (Mark 12:12)

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death, (Acts 2:23)

*"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. **52** Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers," (Acts 7:51-52)*

3.) The Jewish Opposition to the Word was really Opposition to all of Humanity.

*"For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. **14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:13-14)*

*"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in"
(Matthew 23:13).*

"God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah 2 That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 6 Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. 7 God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." (Psalm 67)

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! 2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 117)

4.) The Jewish Opposition to the Gospel was opposition to God.

*"And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing **39** but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God." (Acts 5:38-39)*

"preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him." (Acts 28:31)

5.) The Jews who Reject Jesus are Ultimately Rejected by God.

A.) The Jews who rejected Paul's Message Do Not Please God

"those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8)

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10)

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

B.) The Jews who rejected Paul's Message Are Filling Up Their Sin.

*"Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. **16**
But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." (Genesis 15:15-16)*

"Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt." (Matthew 23:32)

C.) Wrath was Coming Against All Who Opposed the Gospel of Christ.

Application:

*"Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded."
(Romans 11:7)*

1.) The Warning: Do Not Think Your Gospel Advantages are Enough.

2.) The Call: Jesus is Able to Deliver Us, So Trust Him.

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John
14:6)*