

By Joseph "Rick" Reinckens

Some say, "Messianic Judaism is nothing other than born-again evangelical Christianity in disguise!"

Oh, really?!?

I ***am*** Messianic. Ask your evangelical Christian friends some of ***these*** questions. See how many of them ***they*** can answer. See how many of them they even ***understand***. Take the questions to a ***church*** and see how many the ***clergy*** can answer.

1. Who is *Elohim*?
2. Who is *Adonai*?
3. Who is *Yeshua*?
4. What is *mashiach*?
5. What is *Eretz-Yisrael*?
6. Who was *Moshe*?
7. What is the *Shema*?
8. Recite it – in Hebrew. (And let's see them pronounce the *chet*'s and *chaf*'s and *resh*'s properly!)
9. Translate it.
10. Cant it.
11. Sing both melodies commonly used.
12. Recite the *Shema v'ahavta*.
13. Translate it.
14. What is the *Torah*?
15. What are the names of the books in Hebrew?
16. Translate the names.
17. What does the word *torah* mean?
18. What is the *Tanakh*?
19. What does *Tanakh* stand for?
20. What is the *Haftorah*?
21. What is the *Shoa*?
22. What is *Yom HaShoa*?
23. What is *Sukkot*?
24. What is *Yom Teruah*?
25. What do you make for *Sukkot*?
26. What is *Simchat Torah*?
27. What is *Pasach*?
28. What is a *hagaddah*?
29. What is a *seder*?
30. What is a *shofar*?
31. What is it made of?
32. How many candles are in a menorah?

33. What is the difference between a menorah and a *chanukiah*?
34. When lighting the candles in a menorah, what is the procedure, including the lighting sequence?
35. What is the *Ner Tamid*?
36. Where would you expect to find it?
37. In a synagogue, where would you expect to find an ark?
38. What would you expect to find inside it?
39. If you are facing the ark, what direction (part of the world) would you normally be facing?
40. Cant the *Etz chaim*
41. What is the difference between a *sofer* and a *seyfer*?
42. How many letters are in the Hebrew alphabet?
43. What is next in this sequence: *aleph, bet, gimmel*?
44. What is "Massoretic text"?
45. What are *nikkudot*?
46. Tell me the story of Chanukah--from memory.
47. Who was Judah Maccabee?
48. Who was Titus? (not the guy in the New Testament)
49. What did he do?
50. When was the Second Temple destroyed?
51. Who was Rabbi Akkiba?
52. Who was Shimon bar Kosiba?
53. What other name was he known by?
54. About when did he live?
55. What is the Talmud?
56. Name them.
57. When were they written?
58. What was at Yavneh?
59. When?
60. Who was *Judah haNasi*?
61. What is *kaddish*?
62. What is the difference between *hatzi kaddish* and the mourners' *kaddish*?
63. Recite the mourner's *kaddish*.
64. What is the difference between *kaddish* and the *kiddush*?
65. When would you expect to say *kaddish*?
66. Cant the *motzi*.
67. Translate it.
68. Complete the following: *Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha*.
69. Where is it from?
70. Translate it.
71. What is the difference between Rambam and Ramban?
72. Who was Maimonides?
73. About when did he live?
74. Name at least one of his major works.

75. How many "Principles" did he write?
76. What were they regarding?
77. Who was Rashi?
78. What is he known for?
79. What does it mean to build a fence around the Torah?
80. Who built it?
81. What is the *Kohen gadol*?
82. How many judges were on a Sanhedrin for major crimes?
83. What is a *minyan*? (Explanation)
84. How many does it take to make a *minyan*?
85. What is a *tallit*?
86. What are *tzitzit*?
87. How many *tzitzit* would be on a *tallit*?
88. What color must a *tallit* have?
89. How many commandments do the rabbis say there are in the Torah?
90. What are the two types of "making *aliyah*"?
91. For each type, where would you be when you start?
92. For each type, where would you be when you have made *aliyah*?
93. What is a *parasha*?
94. How many *aliyot* are there in a *parasha*?
95. What is a *bimah*?
96. What is *Tisha b'Av*?
97. Name three things that happened on *Tisha b'Av*.
98. What is the reason the rabbis give for *Tisha b'Av*?
99. What is a *dredl*?
100. What do the letters on a *dredl* stand for?

And if the evangelical Christian just happens to guess the first hundred, ask these.

101. What is the *shehechianu*?
102. Who was Hillel?
103. What did he start?
104. About when did he live?
105. Explain the story behind this: "The rest is commentary."
106. What was the name of Hillel's most famous grandson?
107. What is the grandson known for in Judaism?
108. Who was Shammai?
109. What did he start?
110. About when did he live?
111. What was the general difference between Hillel and Shammai in their views?
112. What is Purim?
113. Who was Esther?
114. Who was Vashti?

115. Who was Mordecai?
116. Who was Haman?
117. What did Haman try to do?
118. What are *hamantashen*?
119. **Bonus question:** Why are they shaped that way?
120. What is *Ein K'elohenu*?
121. What does it mean?
122. What is the *Aleinu*?
123. What is *Adon Olam*?
124. Finish this: *Oseh shalom ...*
125. Sing it.
126. What is *V'sham'ru*?
127. Sing it.
128. Translate it.
129. What is *Hiney mah tov*?
130. Sing it.
131. Translate it.
132. Sing the other melody.
133. If you go to a synagogue on the sabbath in the U.S., what two greetings can you expect to hear?
134. What is *Kol Nidre*?
135. What are the Ten Days of Awe?
136. When are they?
137. What is the *birkat haKohanim*?
138. What is the Aaronic Benediction?
139. What are *tama'im*?
140. What are cantillation marks?
141. Where would you expect to find them?
142. What is *Micha mocha*?
143. What is *Ein sof*?
144. What is the *Shulchan Aruch*?
145. What does *HaShem* mean?
146. What is the other translation?
147. What does *baruch haShem* mean?
148. Finish this cantillation: *Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach*
149. What is *Mah tovu*?
150. Cant it.
151. Translate it.
152. Who said it?
153. What were the circumstances?
154. When would you expect to hear someone say, *L'shana tova*?
155. What does it mean?
156. What does "*Oy, gevalt!*" mean?

157. Finish this: *Mah nishatanah halaila*
158. What is it from?
159. What is the answer?
160. What is *maror*?
161. Where would you expect to find it?
162. What is *karpas*?
163. Where would you expect to find it?
164. What is *charoset*?
165. Where would you expect to find it?
166. What is *challah*?
167. What is unusual about *challah*? (day of week...)
168. What is *kashrut*?
169. What is *treif*?
170. Salmon and catfish – which one is *treif*? (Hey, ... I live in Texas ...)
171. Why?
172. What is *yud hey vav hey*?
173. How would it be pronounced in reading?
174. What is a *mezzuzah*?
175. Where would you expect to find one?
176. What would be inside it?
177. Why did G-d say to where *tzitzit*?
178. What does *yud yud* mean?
179. What are *Sephardim*?
180. What is the difference between Ashkenasic and Sephardic?
181. Who are the *morranos*?
182. What did Nehemiah and Ezra do?
183. What was significant about the daughters of Zelophehad?
184. Who was *Korach*?
185. What are his sons (descendants) known for?
186. What is the *akedat yitzchak*?
187. Draw a *magen David*.
188. Finish this: *Melech, ozair*
189. What year did Israel become a nation?
190. Who was Antiochus Ephiaphanes?
191. What did he do at the Temple?
192. What did he forbid Jews to do?
193. What are the *targums*?
194. Why were they necessary?
195. By the time of Jesus, what language did most Jews speak in the area of Israel?
196. Why?
197. Who were Nadab and Abihu?
198. What happened to them?
199. What is the official reason stated in the Torah?

200. What is the reason Jewish tradition gives?

The deer-in-the-headlights look is because they're evangelical Christians, and not Messianics.

But, hey, since you say Messianics are just evangelical Christians in disguise, let's ask more!

201. What is a *midrash*?

202. What is G-d?

203. What is L-rd?

204. Why are they written that way?

205. Why do religious Jews write B.C.E. and C.E. instead of B.C. and A.D.?

206. Who were Miriam's two brothers?

207. What is the *b'rit milah*?

208. What is a *moel*?

209. When would a *moel* do a *b'rit milah*?

210. What is a *kippah*?

211. What are *tefillin*?

212. What do you do when you "lay *tefillin*"?

213. What are *pe'ot*?

214. Why do we open the door at the *seder*?

215. Name at least six of Israel/Jacob's sons.

216. What is a *sabrah*?

217. When would you expect to hear someone say, "Next year in Jerusalem"?

218. What is *daiyenu* about?

219. What are *mitzvot*?

220. What is *olam haba*?

221. What is *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheynu, Melech ha'Olam*?

222. Finish and cant: *Vayehi bin so aharon...*

223. What are *Etz chaim*?

224. Where would you expect to find them in a synagogue?

225. **Bonus question:** What is unusual about the first letter of the pages of a torah scroll?

226. **Bonus question:** What is done to determine that a torah scroll can be certified as kosher?

227. Besides pigs, name two other types of creatures that are not kosher.

228. What would you expect to find in a *tzedaka* box?

229. About how long is a torah scroll fully opened?

230. How much does a torah scroll weigh?

231. What is it called when you remove a torah scroll from its cover or put it in its cover?

232. What is the relationship between a gentile who wants to convert to Judaism and a *beit din*?

233. What is a *chupah*?

234. When would it be used?

235. What is the usual period between death and burial of a Jewish person?

236. Why?

237. How many months are there in the Jewish calendar?
238. What is *Adar II*?
239. Explain *Meshiach ben Yosef* and *Meshiach ben David*.
240. What are "the four questions"? (General description)
241. Who asks them?
242. When?
243. ***What is the difference between the Jewish Ten Commandments and the Christian ones?***
(The Christian ones begin, "I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.)
244. What is *Kaballah*?
245. Who is *Moshe Rabenu*?
246. Who is *Avinu Avraham*?
247. What is the *Magillah*?
248. What is a *shul*?
249. Name four food items you would find at a *seder*.
250. Who was the first Prime Minister of Israel?
251. What is *HaTikvah*?
252. What is a *mikvah*?
253. What is the Oral Torah?
254. When would you say *chag sameach*?
255. Where would you find *parashat-bereshit*?
256. Where would you find *parashat-sh'mot*?
257. Where would you find *parashat-vayikra*?
258. Where would you find *parashat-bamidbar*?
259. Where would you find *parashat-devarim*?
260. What is a *siddur*?
261. What are the *kituvim*?
262. What do you do with a torah when you finish *devarim*?
263. How many different types of *shofar* blasts are there?
264. **Bonus question:** Name them.
265. Name four people who have been Prime Minister of Israel.
266. When did Israel regain control of Jerusalem?
267. Name a major Israeli newspaper.
268. Who was *David melech-Yisrael*?
269. When did he live?
270. Name two months of the Jewish calendar.
271. Which book of the Torah describes the feasts of the Lord?
272. Which chapter contains the descriptions?
273. Name the two spies who brought back good reports.
274. Why did Israel/Jacob not give his favorite son Joseph a part in his sons' inheritance?
275. What is a *yeshiva*?

Evaluating the Questions

Christians won't have a clue about the vast majority of these questions, so here is a guideline.

For a Messianic, about 85 percent of the questions are about this level of difficulty:

- a. What is *France*?
- b. Where would you find it?
- c. Who is *Jesus*?
- d. What is the *New Testament*?
- e. What is *Easter*?
- f. What is *Christmas*?
- g. What is the *Pope*?
- h. What is a *pulpit*?
- i. What is a *wedding gown*?
- j. Who was *Roman Emperor Julius Caesar*? *

* None of these expect "scholarly dissertations". The correct answer would be "Julius Caesar, Emperor of Rome." About 85 percent of the questions ***really are that*** basic – ***for a Messianic***.

Want to Know the Answers?

Do what Messianics do!

- Attend synagogue regularly.
- Take biblical Hebrew courses.
- ***Study!***