

THE  
SEVEN  
FAITH  
TRIBES



*Who they are  
What they believe  
Why they matter*

**By George Barna**

**Religion in America, 2010**

ENCOUNTER WEDNESDAY 6:45PM

# THE COSMIC CRUCIFIED

# CHRIST

A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24

# "I Believe..."

**PROCLAIMING  
THE APOSTLES' CREED**



**A Lenten Series Beginning February 21**



# HERESY

**Why It Matters  
What Christians Believe**

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# Jews in America



# American Jews

- About 6.5 million Jews in America
  - About 2% of Americans
- A religion or a culture?
- Less emphasis on beliefs and doctrine
- Emphasizes continuity and survival
- Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed

# The Spectrum of Judaism Today

God's Law – its interpretation and observance

## *Orthodox*

Do all they can to live within God's law as detailed in the written and oral law.

10%

## *Conservative*

Try to avoid either extreme in their observance of Torah.

45%

## *Reformed*

No longer tethered to the traditional understandings of Torah

35%

# American Jews

- View themselves as tough and resilient
  - achievers
- Lowest tribal scores in
  - happiness
  - joy
  - feeling at peace
- 63% more likely than average to be in top 20% of household incomes
- 71% more likely to be college graduates
  - Have embraced education more than any other tribe

# American Jews

- Tight-knit families and friends
- Not bound by traditional moral perspectives
  - only 20% believe in moral absolutes (same as skeptics)
- Only 2% mention faith when talking about what is important to them
  - less than skeptics
- Causes?
  - the state of Israel and social justice
  - tend to give money more than time

# American Jews

- Intermarriage
  - Of Jews married before 1970, only 13% are mixed marriages
  - Of Jews married between 1996 and 2001, 47% were interfaith unions
  - 96% of children born to parents who are both Jewish are raised in Judaism
    - but only 33% of those born to parents in an interfaith union

# American Jews

- Very liberal overall
  - suspicious of attempts to “legislate morality”
  - tend to favor an extensive role for govt in promoting social justice and providing services
- Voted for Gore over Bush by 5 to 1
- Voted for Kerry over Bush by 3 to 1

Why Are  
Jews  
Liberals?

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*Author of WORLD WAR IV*

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Norman  
Podhoretz

# American Jews

- Culture or religion?
  - Barna's research clearly demonstrates that most American Jews would answer "culture."
- Only 40% see themselves as "deeply spiritual"
- Only 24% see their primary purpose as loving God (Deut. 6:5)
- Only 25% think of their faith in a typical day

# American Jews

- Only 1 of 3 view the Torah as holy and sacred.
- Most reject the biblical miracles and even many of the non-miraculous stories.
  - *How much could have survived the holocaust?*
- Only 1/3 hold an orthodox view of God.
- Another 1/3 embrace some “Eastern” notions of divinity.
- Most do not believe that God is personally involved in people’s lives.

# American Jews

- Only 1 of 4 go to synagogue at least once a month.
  - But 3 out of 4 participate in a Passover *seder*
  - 60% fast for Yom Kippur
- Only 25% refer to their faith as life-transforming.
  - The only tribe where “faith” makes less difference to them is the no-faith tribe of the Skeptics.

# American Jews

- 15% have made a personal commitment to Jesus!
  - Jews for Jesus
  - nearly one million!
- Median annual giving to a place of worship
  - \$78

# *Prayer*

