Topics to Cover

- Branches of Judaism Today
- Major Obstacles We Face in Sharing the Gospel with Jews.
- How to Respond to Major Jewish Objections to Christianity.
Branches of Judaism

- Orthodox Judaism
- Conservative Judaism
- Reform Judaism
Orthodox Judaism

- Revelation
  - Bible is God's Word.
  - So is the Oral Law.

- Creed
  - Nothing quite like the Westminster Confession
  - The Shema (Deut 6:4-5)

- God
  - Derived from Bible, but reject Trinity
Orthodox Judaism

- Emphasis on Practice
  - Law (as taught by Rabbis) is to be obeyed.

- Creation
  - Good; to be enjoyed within limits of God’s law

- Man
  - Basically good; can become better by good deeds
  - Eternal soul; eternal paradise for righteous
  - Evil allowed to test human character
Orthodox Judaism

- Israel
  - Elect; chosen to help establish God's rule & glorify Him
  - Will one day live in peace in the Promised Land

- Messiah
  - Still to come, will bring in world peace, establish Israel
  - Not Jesus! Not God!

- End Times
  - There will be a resurrection of the dead.
  - Humans will live eternally.
Conservative Judaism

- Established as an alternative to Orthodox and Reform Judaism.
- More adapted to Western and secular culture than are Orthodox Jews.
- Rabbis have less authority.
Reform Judaism

- Maintains Jewish identity.
- Very liberal in theology
  - May or may not believe in God
  - Feel no obligation to obey the Bible or Rabbinic tradition
Major Obstacles to Gospel

- Persecution by the Church
  - Many Jews killed & oppressed in name of Jesus

- Theological Differences with Christianity
  - God
    - no Trinity
    - God cannot be divided
Major Obstacles to Gospel

- Theological Differences
  - Jesus
    - Not the Messiah; didn't set up Kingdom
    - God cannot be man.
    - The Rabbis don't accept him.
  - Sin
    - Man is basically good, made in God's image.
    - Righteousness is increased by good deeds.
Our Responses

To the Major Objections of Jews to the Gospel
Persecution of Jews

- Admit wrong done, express sorrow & regret.
- Explain prejudice as having source in our sin nature.
- Use this as a way to show that all are sinners (Ps 14:2; 51:5, 9)
Trinity

- Word "one" in Deut 6:4 is *achad*, a plural unity (Gen 2:24; 11:6), in which two or more things are combined into one.
- Another word, *yachid*, is used to mean "only one" (Gen 22:2).
Jesus

- Jesus didn't bring peace.
  - Jesus brought inner peace to those who trust him.
  - When he returns he will bring outward peace.
  - The Rabbis' two Messiahs (suffering & reigning) are actually one — Jesus!

- God cannot be a man.
  - Is anything impossible for God?
  - Isa 7:14 – Virgin will bear son, Immanuel.

- The Rabbis don't accept him.
  - Some have. Would you believe if I showed you?
Sin & Salvation

Sin nature
- Ps 14:2-3 – no one does good, not even one
- Ps 51:5, 9 – sinful at birth; blot out my iniquity
- Jer 17:9 – heart is deceitful above all things
- Isa 6:5 – woe to me… unclean lips!

Salvation by works?
- No sacrifice for willful sins – Num 15:30-31
- David cried out to God for mercy – Ps 51
- Abraham declared righteous by faith – Gen 15:6
- Isaiah saved by God's mercy – Isa 6:7
Forgiveness

- Sins were forgiven by a blood sacrifice – Lev 17:11.
- Where is our atonement today?
  - Does God accept a bloodless sacrifice?
- Why did God allow the temple to be destroyed?
  - 1st temple destroyed for 70 years
    - Because of Israel's disobedience
  - 2nd temple now destroyed for 1930+ years
    - Destroyed only some 40 years after Jesus' death
The Gospel in the Hebrew Bible

- All are sinners.
  - Ps 14:2; Jer 17:9; Isa 6:5
- Sins separate us from God.
  - Isa 59:2; Ex 34:33; Dan 12:2
- Our good deeds are not enough.
  - Isa 64:6 – all our righteousness like filthy rags.
The Gospel in the Hebrew Bible

- God gave a blood atonement.
  - Lev 17:11; Ex 12:7, 13

- God promised a Messiah to bear our sins.
  - Isa 52:13-53:12

- How do we know Jesus is the promised one?
  - Micah 5:2; Dan 9:26; Zech 12:10; Psalm 22
The Gospel in the Hebrew Bible

- Salvation is by faith.
  - Gen 15:6; Isa 26:3-4; Ps 2:12
- There is a life after death; where will you spend it?
  - Dan 12:2
Major Messianic Verses

- Gen 3:12 – wounded but will crush Satan
- Gen 49:10 – from tribe of Judah
- 2 Sam 7:16 – from line of David
- Ps 2:12 – trust/believe in Messiah
- Psalm 22 – will suffer; deliverance to be worldwide news
- Psalm 110 – Messiah to be a priest & king
Major Messianic Verses

- Isa 7:14 – born of a virgin
- Isa 9:6-7 – boy who is God & king forever
- Isaiah 11 – will bring peace to Jews & Gentiles
- Jer 23:5-6 – a king who is God
- Zech 9:9-10 – will enter Jerusalem on a donkey, yet rule all the earth one day
Major Messianic Verses

- Zech 12:10-13:1 – Israel will see the one they have pierced and they will mourn.
- Mic 5:2 – to be born in Bethlehem, yet active for ages past.
May God encourage and empower you to reach out to your Jewish friends and acquaintances!