

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Yeshua's Essene Teachings

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Quote:

A Parallel of Christ & Essenes

We will condense from Philo, Josephus, and other authors.

1. Philo says, "It is our first duty to seek the kingdom of God and his rightness as he believed and taught."

Scripture parallel. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. vi 33; Luke xii. 31.)

2. Philo says, "They abjured all amusements, all elegances, and all pleasures."

Scripture parallel. "Forsake the world and the things thereof."

3. The Essenes say, "Lay up nothing on earth, but fix your mind solely on heaven."

Scripture parallel. "Lay not up treasures on earth," &c.

4. "The Essenes, having laid aside all the anxieties of life," says Philo, "make their residence in solitary wilds and in gardens."

Scripture parallel. "They wander in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth." (Heb. xi. 38.)

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mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth." (Heb. xi. 38.)

5. Josephus says, "They neither buy nor sell among themselves, but give to each other what they wanteth."

Scripture parallel. "And parted them (their goods) to all men as every man needed."

6. Eusebius says, "Even as it is related in the Acts of the Apostles, all their possessions and their substance, and divide among all according as they needed, there was not one among them in want."

Scripture parallel. "Neither was there any among them that lacked, for as many as lands or houses sold them, and brought the price of the things that were sold, and brought it to the apostles, and distributed it unto every man as he had need."

7. Eusebius says, "For whoever, of Christ's disciples, were owners of estates and brought the price thereof, and laid them at the apostles' feet, and distributed every one had need. So Philo relates things exactly similar of the Essenes."

Scripture parallel. (The text above quoted.)

8. "Philo tells us (says Eusebius) that the Essenes forsook father, mother, houses and lands, for their religion."

Scripture parallel. "Whosoever forsaketh not father and mother, houses and lands, cannot be my disciples."

9. "Their being sometimes called monks was owing to their abstraction from worldly things," says Eusebius.

Scripture parallel. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

10. "And the name Ascetics was applied to them on account of their rigid fasting, self-mortification, &c., as they made themselves eunuchs."

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Scripture parallel. "There be eunuchs which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake."

11. "They maintained a perfect community of goods, and an equality of estates." (Dr. Ginsburg, p. 83.)

Scripture parallel. "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."

12. "The Essenes had all things in common, and appointed one of their number to carry a common bag." (Dr. Ginsburg.)

Scripture parallel. "And had all things in common." (Acts ii. 44; see also Acts iv. 32.)

13. "All ornamental dress they (Essenes) detested." (Mich. vol. iv. p. 83.)

Scripture parallel. "Whoso adorneth himself, let it not be that outward adorning of gold, and putting on of apparel." (1 Peter iii. 3.)

14. "They would call no man master." (Mich.)

Scripture parallel. "Be not called Rabbi, for one is your Master." (Matt. xxiii. 8.)

15. "They said the Creator made all mankind equal." (Mich.)

Scripture parallel. "God hath made of one blood all them that dwell upon the earth."

16. "They renounced oaths, saying, He who cannot be believed without oaths."

already." (Mich.)

Scripture parallel. "Swear not at all."

17. "They would not eat anything which had blood in it, or meat which had no life; and food was hyssop, and bread, and salt; and water their only drink." (Mich.)

Scripture parallel. "That ye abstain from meat offered to idols, and from things sacrificed to idols, and from things that have been sacrificed to idols, and from things that have been sacrificed to idols, and from things that have been sacrificed to idols."

18. "Take nothing with them, neither meat or drink, nor anything necessary for the body."

Scripture parallel. "Take nothing for your journey;

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neither staves nor script; neither bread, neither money, neither have two coats,

19. "They expounded the literal sense of the Holy Scriptures by allegory."

Scripture parallel. "Which things are an allegory." (Gal. iv. 24.)

20. "They abjured the pleasures of the body, not desiring mortal offspring, nor marriage, believing it to be detrimental to a holy life." (Mich.)

Scripture parallel. It will be recollected that neither Jesus nor Paul ever discouraged the marriage relation. Christ says, "They that shall be counted worthy to attain unto the resurrection neither marry nor are given in marriage." And Paul says, "Let each of you love the things of the Lord." (1 Cor. vii. 32.)

21. "They strove to disengage their minds entirely from the world."

Scripture parallel. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

22. "Devoting themselves to the Lord, they provide not for future subsistence."

Scripture parallel. "Take no thought for the morrow, what ye shall eat and what ye shall drink."

23. "Regarding the body as a prison, they were ashamed to give it sustenance."

Scripture parallel. "Who shall change our vile bodies?" (Phil. iii. 21.)

24. "They spent nearly all their time in silent meditation and inward prayer."

Scripture parallel. "Men ought always to pray." (Luke xviii. 1.) "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. v. 17.)

25. "Believing the poor were the Lord's favorites, they vowed perpetual charity." (Mich. 7.)

Scripture parallel. "Blessed be ye poor." (Luke vi. 20.) "Hath not God chosen the poor?" (1 Cor. i. 26.)
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26. "They devoted themselves entirely to contemplation in divine things."

Scripture parallel. "Meditate upon these (divine) things; give thyself wholly unto them." (Col. iii. 2.)

27. "They fasted often, sometimes tasting food but once in three or even four days."

Scripture parallel. Christ's disciples were "in fastings often." (2 Cor. xi. 27.)

28. "They offered no sacrifices, believing that a serious and devout soul was sufficient." (1 Tim. ii. 2.)
71.)

Scripture parallel. "There is no more offering for sin." (Heb. x. 18.)

29. "They believed in and practiced baptizing the dead." (C. ii. 71.)

Scripture parallel. "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead?" (1 Cor. xvi. 16.)

30. "They gave a mystical sense to the Scriptures, disregarding the letter."

Scripture parallel. "The letter killeth, but the spirit maketh alive." (1 Cor. ii. 14.)

31. "They taught by metaphors, symbols, and parables."

Scripture parallel. "Without a parable spake he not unto them." (Matt. xiii. 35.)

32. "They had many mysteries in their religion which they were sworn to keep secret."

Scripture parallel. "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. xiii. 35.) "Great is the mystery of godliness." (1 Tim. iii. 16.)

33. "They had in their churches, bishops, elders, deacons, and priests."

Scripture parallel. "Ordain elders in every church." (Acts xiv. 23.) For "deacons" see Acts vi. 6.

34. "When assembled together they would often sing psalms."

Scripture parallel. "Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms." (Col. iii. 16.)

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35. "They healed and cured the minds and bodies of those who joined the church."

Scripture parallel. "Healing all manner of sickness," &c. (Matt. iv. 23.)

36. "They practiced certain ceremonial purifications by water."

Scripture parallel. "The accomplishment of the days of purification." (Act

37. "They assembled at the Sabbath festivals clothed in white garments."

Scripture parallel. "Shall be clothed in white garments." (Rev. iii. 4.)

38. "They disbelieved in the resurrection of the external body."

Scripture parallel. "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual bod

39. Pliny says, "They were the only sort of men who lived without money

Scripture parallel. "The love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Tim. vi. without money and without scrip, and "eschew the lusts of the flesh."

40. "They practiced the extremist charity to the poor." (C. ii. 71.)

Scripture parallel. "Bestow all thy goods to feed the poor." (1 Cor. xiii. 3

41. "They were skillful in interpreting dreams, and in foretelling future e

Scripture parallel. "Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your ol (Acts ii. 17.)

42. "They believed in a paradise, and in a place of never-ending lamenta

Scripture parallel. "Life everlasting." (Gal. viii. 8.) "Weeping, wailing, a xiii. 42.)

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43. "They affirmed," says Josephus, "that God foreordained all the event

Scripture parallel. "Foreordained before the foundation of the world." (1

44. "They believed in Mediators between God and the souls of men."

Scripture parallel. "One Mediator between God and men." (1 Tim. ii. 5.)

45. "They practiced the pantomimic representation of the death, burial, a God" Christ the Spirit.

Scripture parallel. With respect to the death, burial, resurrection of Chri

46. "They inculcated the forgiveness of injuries."

Scripture parallel. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do

47. "They totally disapproved of all war."

Scripture parallel. "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants be gathered together."

48. "They inculcated obedience to magistrates, and to the civil authorities."

Scripture parallel. "Obey them which have the rule over you." (Heb. xiii. 17.)

49. "They retired within themselves to receive interior revelations of divinity."

Scripture parallel. "Every one of you hath a revelation." (1 Cor. xiv. 26.)

50. "They were scrupulous in speaking the truth."

Scripture parallel. "Speaking all things in truth." (2 Cor. vii. 14.)

51. "They perform many wonderful miracles."

Scripture parallel. Many texts teach us that Christ and his apostles did the same.

52. Essenism put all its members upon the same level,

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forbidding the exercise of authority of one over another." (Dr. Ginsburg.)

Scripture parallel. Christ did the same. For proof, see Matt. xx. 25; Mark x. 42.

53. "Essenism laid the greatest stress on being meek and lowly in spirit."

Scripture parallel. See Matt. v. 5; ix. 28.

54. "The Essenes commended the poor in spirit, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and the merciful, and the pure in heart." (Dr. Ginsburg.)

Scripture parallel. For proof that Christ did the same, see Matt. v. 3-12.

55. "The Essenes commended the peacemakers." (Dr. Ginsburg.)

Scripture parallel. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

56. "The Essenes declared their disciples must cast out evil spirits, and perform signs and proof of their faith." (Dr. Ginsburg.)

Scripture parallel. Christ's disciples were to cast out devils, heal the sick, and perform signs and proof of their faith. (Mark xvi. 17.)

57. "They sacrificed the lusts of the flesh to gain spiritual happiness."

Scripture parallel. "You abstain from fleshly lusts." (1 Peter ii. 11.)

58. "The breaking of bread was a veritable ordinance among the Essenes
Scripture parallel. "He (Jesus) took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it

59. "The Essenes enjoined the loving of enemies." (Philo.)

Scripture parallel. So did Christ say, "Love your enemies," &c.

60. The Essenes enjoined, "Doing unto others as you would have them do