

Twenty-Six Reasons Why Jews Don't Believe in Jesus

(Asher Norman. Nanuet, NY: Feldheim, 2007.)

REASON NUMBER TWENTY (Revisited)

REASON NUMBER TWENTY: The Stories of the Betrayal by Judas are not Consistent

The story is highly conflicted and lacks credibility.

Thirty Pieces of Silver

Matthew 27:7-10 vs. Jer. 32:6-9
(Whoops! Cf. Zech 11:11-13)

Conclusion: The devil is in the details. Significant contradictions undermine credibility.

The Two Passages:

Zechariah 11; Jeremiah 32

Critical Explanation:

1. Matthew's Error
2. A Scribal Error

Apologetic Explanations:

1. A lost Jeremiah text
2. "Jeremiah" means "Prophets"
3. A source compendium

Greek Matthew's Sources:

Written or Oral or Both?
Hebrew Matthew – Written
Q – Written

The Apostles and Prophets

"Of Him all the prophets bear witness."
(Acts 10:43)
1 Peter 1:10–12
Cf. Acts 1:20 and the Judas story
A significant body of Midrashim

Textual basis for Midrashic association between the two passages

What is Midrash?
Verbal cues and wordplay.
Gezerah Shevah
Eg. Mark 12:30-31
You shall love: Deut 6:5
You shall love: Lev 19:18

- Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. (Jeremiah 32:8)
- They ... will know that this was the word of the LORD. (Zechariah 11:11)

The exact phrase "אדע/ידעו כי דבריי הוא" appears only in these two passages, forging a strong *Gezerah Shevah* (verbal analogy).

Field of Blood

Chakal Dama (חקל דמא)
Potter's Field

An Apostolic Midrash Reconstructed

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" (Mat 27:3–4)

It is written IN THE PROPHET JEREMIAH [32:8], "You have the right of possession and the redemption is yours. Buy it for yourself." But who is this who owns the right to possess and the right to redeem? The Messiah son of David. And with what does He purchase? He buys it for Himself with the thirty shekels of Judas, for Jeremiah says [in 32:8–9], "Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. I bought the field ... and I weighed out the silver." And it also says [in Zechariah 11:11–13], "Those who were watching me knew that this was the word of the LORD ... SO THEY WEIGHED OUT THIRTY SHEKELS OF SILVER AS MY WAGES. Then the LORD said to me, 'Throw it to the potter, THAT MAGNIFICENT PRICE AT WHICH I WAS VALUED BY THEM.' SO I TOOK THE THIRTY SHEKELS OF SILVER AND THREW THEM TO the potter in the house of the LORD." Thus they gave them for THE POTTER'S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME, saying, "Buy it for yourself." Cf. Exodus 21:32 "His life."

Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "AND THEY TOOK THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE PRICE OF THE ONE WHOSE PRICE HAD BEEN SET by the sons of Israel; AND THEY GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER'S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME." (Matthew 27:9–10)