

## **PAUL CRITIQUED BY ANCIENT PAGANS AND MEDIEVAL JEWS**

**Moses Maimonides' life (1135-1204) and influence: part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance, which included the re-introduction of Aristotle into the West. Moses M. attempted to reconcile Aristotle with medieval Jewish thought.**

**Maimonides, also known as Ramban (Hebrew nickname), was a medieval Sephardic Jewish philosopher and physician. Born in Cordoba, Spain, he worked in Morocco and Egypt. His body was taken to Galilee and buried in Tiberias (on Sea of Galilee).**

**Maimonides' best known writing is his *Guide to/for the Perplexed*, but he wrote many other surviving pieces.**

**Maimonides' rejection of three "false prophets": Jesus, Paul, and Mohammed ("Epistle to Yemen")**

**Maimonides' declaration that Paul was the "great Confuser-in-Chief" (term added by modern Christian-turned-Jewish group)**

**Maimonides in his "Mishneh Torah" declares that Jesus failed to be the messiah, and was executed by the court (Quotes Daniel 11:14: "The renegades among your people shall exalt themselves in an effort to fulfill their vision, but they shall stumble.")**

**Maimonides and Celsus (author of "On the True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians"—ca 178 CE/AD)—similar arguments against Christians  
This is the first known pagan Greco/Roman attack on the early Christian Church. It was totally lost until it was reconstructed and attacked by Origen of Alexandria (Contra Celsum—248 CE/AD). Celsus had argued that Christianity was irrational, that Jesus was a magician, learned as a boy in Egypt. He argued that Jesus was an imposter God, and not to be trusted. No true God would be crucified, let alone be raised from the dead. Above all, rejected the resurrection.  
Rämbän—Chinese tea from 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. BCE, now a probiotic named after Maimonides. Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY—Moses M. was a physician.**

**Stanley M. Burgess July 10, 2022**