WHY

From: The Jewish Book of WHY?

Why do Jewish texts use B.C.E. and C.E. in place of B.C. and A.D. in their system of dating?

B.C., meaning "before Christ," and A.D., meaning "*Anno Domini*" (Latin for "in the year of the Lord"), are abbreviations used by Christians. Their use implies the acceptance of Jesus Christ as divine, a concept rejected by Jews. Hence, in Jewish scholarship B.C.E., meaning "before the Common Era," and C.E., meaning the "Common Era," were introduced to draw a distinction between Christian and Jewish belief.

Why are some Jews averse to using the designation "New Testament"?

As with the use of B.C. and A.D., described above, some Jews believe that to refer to a *New* Testament is to give credence to the Christian idea that the New Testament is the fulfillment of the promises and teachings of the Jewish Bible. In fact, Jews often refrain from the use of the words "Old Testament" because it implies a *New* Testament.

Why is a Paschal lamb no longer offered on Passover, as prescribed in the Bible?

The practice of sacrificing animals was in vogue only while the Temple in Jerusalem was in existence. With its destruction by the Romans in 70 C.E., the sacrificial system came to an end, and prayer services (which had been conducted even while the Temple still existed) replaced it completely.

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