

**This is the Eighth Lecture marking the special series on “Faith, Theology, and Community” commemorating 60 years of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel**

# **What Jews Want Christians to Know About the Jewish People, Their Faith and Israel: An Orthodox Jew Meets Evangelical Christians Face to Face**

**Gidon Ariel,  
Root Source**

**25 March 2026, 20:00 IST (14:00 EST; 19:00 CET) via ZOOM**

Gidon Ariel is the founder and CEO of Root Source, an organization dedicated to promoting respectful relations between pro-Israel Christians and Jews. Root Source’s flagship program brings knowledgeable, authentic Israeli teachers and curious Christians together to study the Jewish texts and concepts that are foundational to their faith. Gidon has given presentations to churches, public gatherings, classrooms, and university settings which build bridges of understanding and cooperation between the Jewish and Christian communities both in the United States and in Israel.

Gidon made Aliyah from Queens, NY when he was fourteen. He spent close to a decade in advanced Jewish studies institutes (Yeshivas) and the Israeli Army. After twenty years in the Tank Corps, today he is a reserve officer in the Spokesperson’s Office. A pioneer in Jewish-Christian relations, Gidon is a seasoned Hebrew and Judaism instructor and public speaker.

Gidon is a delegate to the Central Committee (the Merkaz) of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s Likud Party. He lives in Maale Hever, a suburb of Hebron in the West Bank, where he moved with his family in 2012, and served as his community’s representative on the regional council. Gidon is married with five children and ten grandchildren.

He shares:

“During this presentation and discussion, I will share my life’s story and personal experience, having made Aliyah (immigration to Israel) at age fourteen (without my parents), serving in the IDF and studying at Yeshiva, while pursuing encounters and relationships with pro-Israel evangelical Christians. Forming meaningful connections as well as entertaining lively discussions with faithful Christians often reveals that the issues about which we agree to disagree are far outnumbered by beliefs we share in common together. Christians often ask me, “What do we need to understand about the Jewish people and their faith experience? What do we share in common? Why is Israel so important?” Please participate in the question-and-answer discussion following my presentation.”

Yours fraternally,

Dr. Brad H. Young,  
President ETRFI