

Jews in Spain - Part VII... From the Virtual Jewish History Tour: Spain

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- Nahmanides, *Rambam*.
- The *Kuzari* by *Rabbi Yehuda Halevi*.



Disputation of Barcelona

Though their holy texts were often burned by royal decree, and many Jews were forced to convert to Christianity, the Spanish monarchy started to take an interest in Jewish philosophy and religion, so that they could better understand Jews and convince them to convert.

In 1263, King James of Aragon convened a special council of Dominican (Christian) and Jewish clergymen to debate three key theological issues: whether the Messiah had already appeared, whether the Messiah was divine or human, and which religion was the true faith. [Nachmanide](#) (Rabbi Moshe ben Nahman Gerondi, Rambam), a Jewish theologian and philosopher was called upon to represent the Jews; while Friar Pablo Christiani, a Jew who had converted to Christianity, represented the Church.



Nachmanides

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