

The **Hebrew Roots Movement** *An Awakening!*

History, Beliefs, Apologetics, Criticisms, Issues

Fourth Edition

4.09

By Michael G. Bacon

The Hebrew Roots Movement:
An Awakening!
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4/22/22

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The public domain version of the King James Version, published in 1769 and available for free on the E-Sword® Bible Computer Program, is primarily utilized with occasional contemporary word updates of my own: e.g. thou=you, saith=say, LORD=YHVH.

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And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:

freely ye have received, freely give.

—Jesus the Christ / Yeshua haMashiach (Matthew 10:7-8)

Important Note: Please refer to http://www.ourfathersfestival.net/hebrew_roots_movement for the latest edition. There are old editions of this book still circulating on the internet.

4.09

4/22/22

Clean-ups and Tweaks

Chapter I: Added Christian repentance to #3 of Three Primary Hebrew Roots Beliefs

Added AWVI Survey 2021 and additional 2020 Results

Colossians 2:13-22: Added Missler quote and Roman prison debts

Appendix E1: Hanukkah: Reorganized

Appendix F: M?HR COG Differences: Updated and Reorganized

Appendix E2: Christmas. The topic is taken from the body of the book and placed into a separate Appendix

Appendix K: Added Edom in the End Times in the Restoration of the Jewish State

CORRECTION: The land of the State of Israel is *not* all desolate.

4.08

8/21/21

Updated Appendix F: HR and COG Differences (Updated)

Hebrew Roots. A Beginnings; Apostasy Begins: Anabaptists (Added) and a

CORRECTION: The Quote of Eusebius' Book now corrected and properly attributed to Theodoret.

Tweaks in various sections

4.07.01

3/21/21

Clean Ups (end notes, quotation marks, etc.)

4.06

2/21/21

Appendix F; 4) set-apart. Added two COG financial requirements

Appendix J: Updated

The Applicability of the Torah (Pie Chart)

Unconditional love (subject): Updated

Two House Theology: Jewish sects further explained

4.05

August 20, 2020

Appendix H: Law of Christ: Lord, Lord. A Second Interpretation (Added)

Appendix K: The Two House Controversy: Quote by David Rudolph (Added)

What is Hebrew Roots?: AWVI 2020 Survey Results (Added)

4.04

June 10, 2020

1906 Jewish Encyclopedia: (Added Anglo-Israelism article quote).

Replacement Theology: (Definition edited and text reformatted)

Steven Collins endnote on II Chron 35:17-18 (Added)

Ishmael and Arab population statistics: (Added in "Questions: Is it a matter of Faith?")

WCG Singles (Added paragraph in Appendix F)

4.03

June 1, 2020

Assurance of Salvation: (Added Past, Present and Future)

British-Israelism: (Added Steven Collins quote).

Hebrew Roots History A. Beginnings: (Added *Birkat haMinim*)
Jeremiah 7:22-23 (Expanded)
Hebrew Thinking versus Hellenistic (Greek) (“Thinking” Table Expanded)
Law and Grace: (Added Duane Christensen quote)
Lies: (Added Two Tables)
The Worldwide Church of God and Assemblies of Yahweh: (Added Alan Ruth Quote)
Who is Israel? (Added Wooten quote)

4.02 February 23, 2020

Colossians 2:8-10 (New)
Religious Success Today: (Added A.W. Tozer quote)
Indentured servant (Added Nehemia Gordon and Dr. Stephen Jones quotes)

4.01 February 12, 2020

D. Today (Added Dean Wheelock and Tim Kelley quotes)

4.0 February 10, 2020

CORRECTIONS

Deleted “Yahushua” etc name spellings
Orthodox Jewish Opinion: Clarified how many believe in Two House.
Stranger was the Gentile: believers and non-believers changed to Israelites and believing
Gentiles.
The word for commandments (as in the ten commandments is *dabar*—not *mitzot*
Typos and grammatical errors corrected...and more will be.

UPDATES

Some organizational changes in material
41,000 Denominations (updated and clarified in footnote)
American Messianics (Updated)
I Corinthians 9:19-23 (Added)
II Corinthians 3:13 (Added)
Appendix A: HR Ministries (Updated NATSAB and Teshuva Ministries)
Appendix E: Hanukkah (Added: Quotes by Bailey and Kent and Dr. Simkovich)
Appendix F: HR and COG Differences: (Updated: Additional Sources, 3) use of 3rd tithe, 4)
exclusive churches, 10) Singing Psalms
Appendix I: The Name of God: (Added: The Name of Yahweh, The name of Jesus Christ.
The Name of Yeshua, Sixteen Rabbis who pronounced the name of god)
Appendix J: Sojourner (New)
Appendix K: Two House Controversy (Updated: Added: What does a “multitude of nations”
mean?
Beards: (Two quotes added)
Secular / Pagan Holy Days: Christmas (Updated: Glenn Kay source with quotes added)
Core Difference #1: (Added *The States of Belief*).
Ephesians 2:14-15 (Added: Josephus quote on wall of partition)
Fringes: (indigo plant)
Galatians 2:16 (Added)
Galatians 4:8-10 (Updated: Lystra and Asia)
Hebrew Roots Movement B: History: (Updated: Clarence Dodd, David Pack, COG membership
numbers, HR homeschooling and An Awakening)
Millennium Viewpoints (Updated: Churches that believe in it, Ron Matsen quote)
Numbers: (Added: Danya Ruttenberg quote)
Paul’s Writings: (Updated with new section heading)

Preface

Peace within the Body: Spiritual Immaturity and Carnal Thinking In Breaking Fellowship
 Politics: (Added Table on Institutional Confidence)
 Prosperity Gospel: (Dennis Prager quote)
 Shalom or Schism? (Added: Monte Judah Quote)
 Repentance and Sin: (Added: Paul Washer's "shocking message")
 Salvation is a life long process: (Updated and renamed: Assurance of Salvation)
The Second Exodus: (Added: Number of Jewish returnees to Israel, Quote by Rabbi Allen S.
 Maller, and Mark Byrd comment)
Talmud: (Added: John Lightfoot and reason for spitting on the ground)
 Trinity (New)
What is Hebrew Roots? (Updated: #2 Primary Belief, The Word Messianic)

3.0 (August 14, 2019)

Peace in the Body (CORRECTION: horseback riding on the Sabbath is *not* resting an animal)

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Preface

In 2005 I took a motorcycle trip to Tucson on a “get outta Dodge” weekend jaunt to attend my first Messianic conference upon the recommendation of a friend. Some 50 people had gathered to hear Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry teach at a hotel/inn for two days. Plus...he was the only speaker.

Who were these people of which some have traveled long distances? Why the seemingly large number attending? Because they were keeping the Sabbath, observing the feasts, and the Torah. After meeting everyone, I was again taken back to discover that only two other people were formerly associated with the Worldwide Church of God (WCG)—a church that I formerly had been a member for 22 years (and before that a member of another faith). The WCG was the only church that I knew of that taught the Sabbath and feasts should be kept by everyone. When I asked Brad Scott when this movement took off, his response was “in the mid-90s.” Was this just a coincidence that the WCG formally fractured in 1995? I asked if he saw a connection between the two. His response was “Yes.”

That was the beginning of my investigative journey into the Hebrew Roots® Movement (HRM) and the Messianic Jewish Movement (MJM)

Sometime before I heard Brad Scott, I already had begun a study as to which Old Testament (OT) laws were still in effect today. Not long after that, a friend mentioned to me that one of her friends (another Christian, but non-Messianic, non-WCG) believed that all the OT laws were still applicable today. I immediately grasped that simple, logical perspective. Perhaps one could call that the “plain truth.” There was no cherry picking of what and what not to obey. It seemed clear to me.

Since 2005 my curiosity led to attending other Messianic conferences, congregations, home fellowships, reading books as well as searching the internet. After reading many erroneous criticisms of Hebrew Roots® beliefs on the internet and experiencing the movement, I decided to write this paper (now a book) in 2011 on what I have discovered.

The purpose of this book goes beyond answering criticisms. This book will summarily document the history, beliefs, offer *summary* answers (apologetics) on these beliefs and discuss current issues in the Hebrew Roots® Movement.

Special Note: I do not claim to be an expert on the continuing story of Hebrew Roots®. This is a dynamic work in progress paper that is updated. Please refer to http://www.ourfathersfestival.net/hebrew_roots_movement for the latest issue. This is determined by the publication date on the second page. End notes are included for those seeking sources and additional information beyond the scope of this paper.

All web site links referenced in this paper may be accessed on the internet by clicking on the underlined blue hyperlink. These links are *not* an approval of all things listed or taught on a specific web site, but only the material directly linked to. We are not all perfect in our understandings in all things that one may find on a web site. We are each responsible to “prove all things.” *Your writing to inform me of any errors in this paper are appreciated.* Please contact me at the address noted on the festival web site.

I. WHAT IS HEBREW ROOTS® ?

Hebrew Roots® (HR) is a contemporary grass-roots driven global spiritual awakening in Christianity that advocates the return and adherence to the first century walk of faith in Jesus Christ. HR adherents pursue to walk as Christ walked in obedience to His instructions/His commandments—the *Torah*.

1 John 2:6 he that says he abides in him ought himself also to walk even **as he walked**.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (ESV)

1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers (imitators-ESV) of me, even as I also am of Christ.

John 14:15 If ye love me, **keep my commandments** (quoting Deut. 5:10).

Deut 5:10 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and **keep my commandments**.

The HR walk of faith is further accomplished by seeking a better understanding of the culture, history, religious politics and the persecutions of the early centuries which later led to core differences with both the Jewish, and later, Christian communities.

THREE PRIMARY HEBREW ROOTS BELIEFS

Hebrew Roots adherents hold to three primary beliefs.

1) Scripture is the inspired Word of God.

God does not change notwithstanding the hard to understand translated and even mistranslated writings of the Apostle Paul. Christ was slain from “the foundation of the world” because He knew that man was going to sin. Why would Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things, give a Torah to ancient Israel if it was *impossible* to keep? Then send His people into horrendous life circumstances when His Words were disobeyed? This is beyond reason. God is not a torturer.

2) The acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior and the receiving of the Holy Spirit is required to be saved (1 John 3:16, etc).

Torah keeping does *not* bring salvation.

As Abraham believed God it was counted to him as righteousness (Gen 15:5, Rom 4:3). The thief on the cross only believed and He will be in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Christ's righteousness is imputed to us while we are yet sinners (Rom 4:22-25). Yet we are *not* to continue in sin (Rom 6:1-2). If it was only about believing, the devils would be saved as well (James 2:19).

3) Repent from sin (1 John 3:4, Rom 3:20) and walk as Christ walked (1 John 2:6) by pursuing the Torah.

Christianity today typically does *not* teach repentance and the definition of sin in the many tracts placed about by Christians in various places. Neither is it mentioned at altar calls. Altar calls at Billy Graham Crusades have statistically been shown not to change the hearts of 95% of the people into becoming church goers.¹ Yes, God does have a plan for each one of us. Yes, God is love. His primary characteristic; however, is “holy, holy holy” (Rev 4:8) which encompasses all the fruits of the Spirit of His Character.

Belief in Christ is the work of God (John 6:29). Repentance is also needed? Why? Because belief *alone* is not enough. Even the demons believe in Christ and tremble (James 2:19).

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What does one repent of when one is ignorant of the Biblical definition of sin?

Why do so many not even know the Biblical definition of sin?

Even God, Himself, must grant the change of heart for repentance to occur:

Rom 2:4 not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance?

Repentance entails a lifelong spiritual journey and pursuit to obey God's Word including the Torah which brings blessings—*but not all blessings may be given in this life*. Life is difficult for all of us!

Abraham did not see his inheritance fulfilled in his lifetime. We obey and keep His commandments because we love Him (John 14:15; 15:10). Obedience to His commandments is expected for those who wish to enter His Kingdom (Matt. 19:16-17; Rev 14:12, etc.); otherwise they are walking in sin, i.e. lawlessness (Matt 7:21-23). One's spiritual journey involves serious Bible study which is why HR adherents can readily defend their faith.

We are humanly able to keep the commandments physically (Deut 30:11-14) but *not* spiritually. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to spiritually overcome sin in our hearts and thoughts. It is a matter of head *and* heart.

Mainstream Messianic Judaism (MJ) differs from Messianic/Hebrew Roots in two primary points:

1) The MJ primary mission is to convert Jews to Christ.²

2) MJ believes that only Jews are required to keep the Torah—not Gentiles, notwithstanding Micah 4:2:³

Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Is Hebrew Roots "Messianic"? Yes. A number do call themselves Messianic. Is it Messianic Jewish? No. *If this seems confusing...it can be to the new comer...*as it was for me! I will address such definitions and labels later in the Commonalities Chapter. Hebrew Roots Torah keeping adherents may peaceably attend MJ congregations generally because there is no other place to worship as a Sabbath and Festival keeping community of believers.

HR has been called "Christian" notwithstanding the above three stated beliefs. The 41,000 denominations⁴ of Christianity including 1500 in the U.S., as commonly stated, cannot agree among themselves. (See this endnote on how the 41,000 is calculated). This figure probably does not include the approximately 700± independent Messianic-Jewish congregations of which each has its own doctrinal statement of beliefs, plus the former Sabbath and Festival keeping Worldwide Church of God with 250+ splinters, the Sacred Name groups, and who knows what other small churches.⁵

No one can place a specific label on these denominations and then have it apply to every Christian.

Being a Christian entails more than just "believing in Jesus" or "accepting Jesus in one's heart." A Christian is someone who is an active follower and imitator of Jesus, who has surrendered his or her life, been baptized and has received the Holy Spirit. He or she is working to "put on Jesus Christ," to walk and conduct his or her life as Jesus did when He was on the earth.—Mike Blackwell⁶

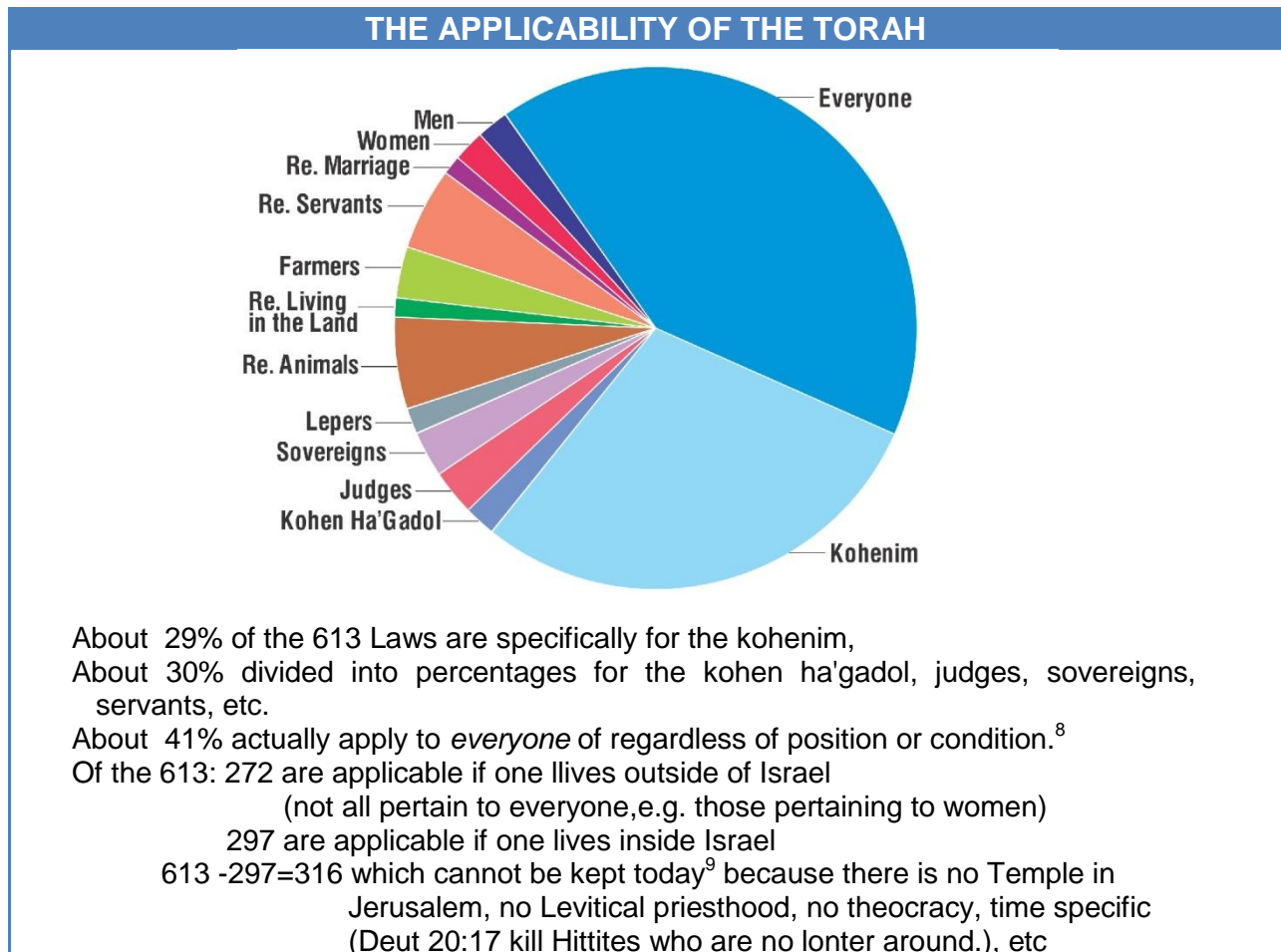
I. WHAT IS HEBREW ROOTS® ?

A true Christian is a person who has put faith and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ, including His death on the cross as payment for sins and His resurrection on the third day.—Got Questions.Org⁷

It is therefore evident that Hebrew Roots is Christian.

When the believers of the first century received Christ as their savior, they were not confronted with 41,000 versions of doctrinal belief statements to be saved.

Many Christians state that one cannot keep 613 "Jewish" laws (of which many do *not* apply to everyone) as if there are too many of them. Yet many of these critics obey thousands of man-made laws and numerous religious laws (e.g. pray and obey) and find no issues in claiming 1050 New Testament "laws" (of which many *do* apply to everyone) are to be obeyed including adherence to only 8 or 9 of the 10 commandments. Another claim is that following the *Torah* is legalism and salvation by works (i.e. Human effort), but obeying the New Testament commandments is *not* legalism and *not* salvation by works. This logic is bewildering--if not irrational.



The claim that keeping the law of Moses by HR believers as a means to salvation is mistakenly and repeatedly made on the internet with *no* sources provided.¹⁰

On the other hand, and to be fair, there are many—in both Christianity and Messianic/Hebrew Roots—who do believe that one must “obey” in order to be saved.

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This is a belief found in part in Matt 10:22 & 19:17 and other notable Scriptures and is further discussed under the topic of Assurance of Salvation.

Matt 10:22 and ye shall be hated by all because of my name, but he who has endured to the end, he shall be saved.

Matt 19:17 And he said unto him, Why call thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments

I heard a Christian minister on a radio broadcast in August 2020 state that the average person believes that he can earn his salvation and go to heaven based upon the good works that he has done in his life. His statement is confirmed by a survey conducted by the Arizona Christian University Cultural Research Center under George Barna, Director of Research. The AWVI survey found that 48% believe that salvation can be earned if one is generally good or does enough good things/works during their lifetime. One-third of adults (35%) disagreed. American Christianity is seemingly in apostasy

American WorldView Inventory (AWVI) Survey 2020 Results ¹¹				
Americans	48% believe salvation can be earned through being generally good or doing goodthings/works. 35% believe (only) it comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.			
Christians	52% believe salvation can be earned though good works even when their church doctrine teaches otherwise. Of this 52%: 70% Catholic 46% Pentecostal 44% mainline Protestant 41% Evangelicals			
Born Again Christians are least likely to hold the belief of “salvation can be earned.” They will go to heaven only because they have they have confessed their sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.				
QUESTION ¹²	Builders 1927-1945	Boomers 1946-1964	GenX 1965-1983	Millennials 1984-2002
CHRISTIAN	83%	79%	70%	57%
DON'T KNOW, CARE, OR BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS	27%	28%	31%	43%
TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU	90%	81%	53%	48%
YOU TRY TO GET EVEN WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU,	10%	12%	33%	38%

AWVI Survey 2021 Results	
Evangelical Christians as a % of the U.S. population:	
2001 - ±25%	
2010 - ±21%	
2021 - ±15% (similar to ±16% of white mainline Protestants)	

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Salvation does *not* come from keeping the Torah. Salvation only comes from accepting Christ as Savior. Yet Christ does place a requirement upon the believer: repent from sin! Stop sinning! When one does occasionally sin one is to repent.

The Torah is the tool that brings blessings. Hebrew Roots® adherents believe that through the gift of the Holy Spirit, one is able, today, to pursue the keeping (we are not perfect) of the applicable Torah laws and to walk as Christ, a Jew, walked in obeying the Father's commandments.

The subtitle under *Hebrew Roots® Magazine* succinctly states "Exploring the Hebrew Roots® of the Faith Once Delivered." Hebraic Roots may also be defined as a return to the roots of the walk of faith once delivered to Abraham, Issac, Jacob, the prophets, the twelve apostles and Jesus Christ. As Noah was the first person noted in Genesis to receive the grace of Jesus Christ (Gen 6:8), Abraham was the first Hebrew to "cross over," to have faith and also keep the Fathers commandments (Gen 26:5). Those who follow the independent footsteps and mindsets of these Hebrew pioneers in the faith courageously step forward in study, faith, and action to receive the call of the Father and to cross over into a new life in Jesus Christ and walk "even as he walked." (1 John 2:6).¹³

The Movement's Influence

The growth of the HR Movement has caught the eyes of mainline Christianity. "Google" *Hebrew Roots®* or *Hebrew Roots® Movement* and one will discover numerous critical web sites on the very first page. Search HR on You Tube and one will also find similar sites. (Google *Hebrew Roots®* to better locate ministries). More people must be actually reading their Bibles¹⁴ and yielding to the Father's call to keep all the 10 commandments (not just 9 or 8) and to cease observing pagan derived myths and observances because a relatively small grass-roots HR Movement / *Awakening* is gaining attention and being written about—pro and con.

According to one writer "The influence of this movement is working its way into our churches and seminaries."¹⁵ Others write that the movement is "mushrooming into one of the significant movements of modern Christianity with millions of devotees across the globe,"¹⁶ and that "It is growing by "leaps and bounds" with an "impact in this end time is being felt in all areas of Christendom."¹⁷ Next to Islam, the Messianic/Hebrew Roots® faith is second in growth in the nation's prison populations.¹⁸ The Hebrew language and Christ's "Jewish Roots" is gaining traction.¹⁹

Other Christian and Messianic ministries have noted the movement as being "dangerous" and "more so than the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and anyone else."²⁰, and "junk roots" "full of errant irresponsible teachings" and "toxic and dangerous these false teachings can be" with "junk scholarship," and more.²¹

These types of statements can categorize HR people and ministries who are of good character.

Is it "dangerous" to be a moral and ethical people²² who actually read their Bibles and strive to keep all 10 commandments in the face of America's spiritual/ethical/moral decline? (Only 19% of churchgoers read their Bible everyday).²³ Dangerous to believe in Jesus Christ *and walk as He walked*? Dangerous to obey the nation's laws?

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Perhaps it is dangerous to the pocketbooks of the nation's churches?

It is dangerous, though, when hyper-independent people begin to share their faith in which they are not even properly grounded and cannot distinguish the foundational from the speculative. *It is dangerous* when the moral and ethical people lack the love, gentleness, and the kindness when sharing their beliefs.

One's dedication to keeping the Torah is understandable. When one repents of sin and wishes to please His Maker, one is cautious and diligent to respect His laws. After all, one is forgiven his debts and trespasses by the blood of Jesus/Yeshua and His sacrifice on the cross. His memorial sacrifice is celebrated every Passover.

Some people can be quite protective of raising their children by withdrawing from others who may believe just a bit differently. People need to be taught proper and practical relationships, yet the Torah does appear to be the primary diet of a number of these people. It is not the gospel of the Torah. It is the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14) It is also about relationships and our primary one with our God. Rules without a proper relationship lead to rebellion.

As FirstFruits of Zion states "we need to grow [the inference being grace and knowledge] together in unity."²⁴ And they are correct! When one considers the 1500 Christian denominations in our nation, their own inherent divisiveness, the past reluctance of numerous churches to speak out as a large united body against the moral and spiritual decline of our great nation (e.g. the removal of prayer from the classroom), the injustices, the corruption and the inability or reluctance of the Christian majority (many pastors and politicians) to collectively stand up for virtue, why the concern about Hebrew Roots® and its various, if not divisive, Heinz 57® varieties when there are far more important national events occurring, today?²⁵ Why a witch hunt? Especially when pastors report that the "Moral values of a Christian are no different than those who consider themselves as non-Christians."²⁶

Survey: "The Moral values of a Christian are no different than those who consider themselves as non-Christians."

Christian Attitudes

In a 2016 survey, A George Barna Survey found that 35% of American Christians considered themselves as "born again," 23% as bible minders and 7% as evangelical as based on seven criteria.²⁷ In 2010, the percentage of Evangelicals was about one-sixth of Christians who call themselves born-again are Evangelicals who meet seven (7) additional theological perspectives. Yet not all Evangelicals are in agreement with each perspective.

Barna asks the question "How do self-reported evangelicals differ from those adults whom we categorize as evangelical on criteria other than being born again." He then gives the following percentages:

% Agree	Evangelical Beliefs*
87%	1. Their faith is important.
51%	2. Sharing their faith with non-Christians.

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33%	3. Satan is real.
42%	4. Salvation is only available through grace, not works.
61%	5. Christ lived a sinless life.
73%	6. Scripture is accurate.
87%	7. God is all-knowing, all powerful, and sovereign.
*George Barna. 2011. <i>Futurecast</i> . 260p. p228-9. Recommended.	

Greek thinking is correct beliefs. Hebrew thinking is correct actions. Are Christians living up to their beliefs that they wish to share with others? Barna conducted another survey whose results should make all believers think. *Christians: More Like Jesus or Pharisees?* It reveals that Christians are more like Pharisees.²⁸ Ouch!

In 2016, David Kinnaman of the Barna Group summarized the results of research concerning American attitudes about the Bible.

With each passing year, the percent of Americans who believe that the Bible is 'just another book written by men' increases," he wrote. "So too do the perceptions that the Bible is actually harmful and that people who live by its principles are religious extremists.—David Kinnaman²⁹

Religious Success Today. Billy Graham preached at 417 crusades in 185 nations and territories worldwide in 58+ years, reaching 84 million people face to face with a total of 215 million by satellite feeds and 2.2 million responding to the invitation to become a Christian.³⁰ Billy Graham thinks that only 10%-15% of people attending church, today, are "saved"³¹ He is well aware that many who step forward to the altar call at the end of his crusade message will not last in the faith. Less than 5% of those making a confession or profession of faith at the altar calls at the Billy Graham crusades later become active members of a church fellowship.³² In comparison, those holding to the similar teachings of John Calvin's theology of those being destined for damnation or salvation may believe that most people will be lost (I have read that this could be up 90%-98% of humanity).³³

According to a yet another Barna Survey in 2014, 90% of those pastors surveyed expressed their measure of success as having "large" number of members, number of square feet in their building, amount of dollars given in offerings, staff, and programs. Although large churches can encourage small in-home study group, they can lose their fellowship flavor when worship services are consecutively stacked upon each other on Sunday mornings. Do members feel their duty to God is fulfilled by attending such a service and leaving shortly afterwards without any meaningful fellowshiping? People line up to leave in their vehicles like a cattle chute before the next line of vehicles arrives with the need to park for an hour (or so) worship service.

How many Christians can consider it their duty to convert others and measure their success on the number of converts? Chuck and Nancy Missler explain:

It's grievous that the church today seems to be relying upon the illusion that being born again and bringing others to Christ is the ultimate goal of preaching the gospel. It's not!—Chuck and Nancy Missler³⁴ (My emphasis)

We're here to be worshippers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of him. God never meant it to be so. God

I. WHAT IS HEBREW ROOTS® ?

meant a convert should learn to be a worshipper, and after that he can learn to be a worker. The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it.—A.W. Tozer ³⁵

We need to remember Y'shua's statement:

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Henri Nouwen, a priest wrote "When we come to realize that...only God saves, then are we free to serve, then we can live truly humble lives." Phillip Yancy in *Vanishing Grace*, explains that

During [Nouwen's] six month stay [on a mission trip to South America], Nouwen concluded that a desire to save, where from sin or poverty or exploitation, is one of the most damaging motives in ministry....Nouwen changed his approach from "selling pearls" or peddling the good news, to "hunting for the treasure" already present in those he called to love—a shift from dispensing religion to dispensing grace.

It makes all the difference in the world whether I view my neighbor as a potential convert or as someone whom God already loves.— Phillip Yancy, *Men of Integrity* ³⁶

When one "converts" a person only to let him go and find his/her on his own way in a church, such a person can make spiritual mistakes affecting himself and others. So do we wish to take the time to shadow and mentor the person in their spiritual growth, or just cut him loose because one thinks his job is finished in bringing the person to Christ? If the latter, one's religion can become a *hand grenade theology* where we pull the conversion pin, toss the person to the wind without a mentor with potentially bad results. **Politics.** Barna reveals that politics is controversial. Controversy can preclude people from attending church, contributing financially and attending church programs. Many pastors avoid controversial topics (such as same-sex marriage and abortion) to maintain all the tithes coming in. ³⁷

BARNASURVEY (2014) ³⁸	
Reasons Why Pastors Do Not Speak Out for Scripture On Controversial Political Issues	
%	Reason
31.86%	Threat of punishment by ACLU or IRS
23%	Believes politics, church are separate
15.78%	Told to do so by elders/deacons
13.15%	Denominational constraints
7.53%	Unfamiliar with those issues

What do these pastors think of the key issues in our nation? Once again, according to Barna, 90% of the pastors agree that the Bible speaks to these issues, yet less than 10% of these same pastors will speak to their congregants about them. In addition, pastors do almost nothing to encourage their congregants into the political process. ³⁹ Some churches may not believe they should engage in the political process at all. ⁴⁰

I. WHAT IS HEBREW ROOTS® ?

You know, you get sick of hearing the talking heads talk about the moral decline and the moral decay and all that. You hear all this talk, it's an awful lot of lip service, but there doesn't seem to be an awful lot of people doing anything about it.—Sam Elliot. actor ⁴¹

INSTITUTIONAL CONFIDENCE Gallop Poll (2019) ⁴² Percentage of Americans who have a 'great deal' or 'quite a lot' of confidences in these institutions	
73%	Military
68%	Small Business
53%	Police
38%	Presidency
38%	Supreme Court
36%	Church*
36%	Medical System
30%	Banks
29%	Organized Labor
29%	Public Schools
24%	Criminal Justice System
23%	Big Business
23%	Newspapers
18%	TV News
11%	Congress
* Includes organized religion	

The Definition of "Hebrew"

Before we explore any further, a definition of the term "Hebrew" would be most helpful. The Hebrew word *ibriy* is first used in Genesis 14:13 where it states "Abraham the Hebrew." *Ibriy* is derived from the word "ever" which means "to cross over," "to pass through" ⁴³ and "the other side." As we explore Abraham's background, we discover three things:

1) Although Scripture does not indicate where he was born, we do know that he lived in Haran in southeastern Turkey and also Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen 11:31) which was the capital of the mini-empire of Sumer in southeastern Iraq. In his journey to the land of Canaan (the "Promised Land") Abraham crossed over the Jordan River from the "other side" or the country or region beyond (viz. Ur and Haran).⁴⁴

2) Abraham made a stand to recognize the One God of all Creation "on the other side" and reject heathen gods.

3) Abraham was a descendent of Eber (Gen 10:24) who was the great-grandson of Noah's son Shem."⁴⁵

According to *Eastons Biblical Dictionary*, the word Hebrew is defined as follows:

Hebrew [N] [S] a name applied to the Israelites in Scripture only by one who is a foreigner (Genesis 39:14; Genesis 39:17; 41:12, etc.), or by the Israelites when they speak of themselves to foreigners (Gen 40:15; Exodus 1:19), or when spoken of an contrasted with other peoples (Genesis 43:32 ; Exodus 1:3; Exodus

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1:7; Exodus 1:15; Deuteronomy 15:12). In the New Testament there is the same contrast between Hebrews and foreigners (Acts 6:1; Philippians 3:5).⁴⁶

Believers today also have spiritually "crossed over" with Abraham as they are regarded as the children of Abraham:

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

The Definition of Messianic

The word Messianic comes from the English word Messiah which comes from the Hebrew word *maschiach* meaning "anointed one." The word has nothing to do with Freemasonry organizations. A Messianic is one who accepts the Jewish Messiah and the associated Hebrew and Jewish Roots of Scripture.

The English word Christ comes from the Greek word *christos* which also means "anointed one." A Jew who accepts Christ as Savior becomes a Messianic-Jew. A Christian who supports and attends a Messianic-Jewish congregation may call himself a Messianic or Messianic Gentile.

Captured by Religious Paradigms, Fibs and White Lies

Isa 63:8 For he said, Surely they are my people, children **that will not lie**: so he was their Saviour.

2 Thess 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they **received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

Chuck Missler has noted that the collapse of a nation occurs in three stages: spiritual apostasy, immorality and political anarchy.⁴⁷ It is my opinion that to discover spiritual truth and be blessed one should always tell the truth in one's daily life. Stop lying (John 3:20-21; 8:12, Psa 146:6). Without a God there is no such thing as morality. Evolution is the survival of the fittest. Carried to its ultimate conclusion, it is every man for himself. We accept lying from our nation's leadership in when it furthers our own agendas.⁴⁸ How fearful are we that we desire to lie?⁴⁹

Lies result in one's ultimately deception when one does not oppose them. It is deception by a thousand cuts which can ultimately result in physical as well as spiritual injuries to oneself, one's marriage, family, community, and in the largest sense—one's nation as people begin to believe the "big lies" and "fake news."

I have heard said among believers that they have been lied to by their church. This can strike deep into the heart among those seriously studying Scriptures for the first time. Let's keep in mind that church goers can be deceived into believing their church paradigms because their leaders are "inspired" --even when/if a leader disagrees with other church leaders.

Adults and children may be taught that it is OK to tell "white lies."⁵⁰ If one is seeking spiritual truths, one must inculcate truth in every aspect of one's daily life. God's people are to be "holy" (set apart) as God is. This means no fibs, no "white" lies, no "it's for the children's happiness" (e.g. Santa Claus, etc). Kathy Benjamin states that "By age four, 90% of children have grasped the concept of lying, and it just gets worse from there." Who taught them? She adds: "Just how bad is it? According to a 2002 study conducted by the University of Massachusetts, 60% of adults can't have a ten minute conversation without lying at least once."⁵¹ In addition, consider husbands and wives, dating sites,

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resumes, social niceties (e.g. "How are you doing?"), elected government representatives, etc.

One survey indicates that "The average American will tell 23 lies a day" ⁵² and another that the "average person lies about 11 times a day, and will slip in at least two dishonesties in a 10-minute conversation, according to lying expert Robert Feldman." ⁵³

One story that has been told to me a few times is what do you tell your wife when she asks, "How do I look in this dress, honey?" My response is a question and any answer. Why do women wish to place their husbands into temptation? Tell the truth is my answer. This does *not* mean one may be blunt, rude and inconsiderate to others people's feelings. One needs to be gentle, kind, considerate, and perhaps, even quiet at times. These are some of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). Women must ask why their egos demand flattering words instead of the truth.

Lie Frequency in a 24 hour Period*			
Age Group	No Lies	1-5 Lies	6+ lies
6-8	62%	29%	7%
9-12	43%	43%	14%
13-17	26%	59%	15%
18-44	46%	45%	9%
45-59	50%	39%	11%
60-77	56%	34%	10%

**Yudhijit Bhattacharjee 2017, June. Why We Lie. *National Geographic*. p39

Why Do We Lie?*					
Self Protection	Self Promotion	Help	Hurt	Polite	Unclear
36%	44%	5%	4%	2%	9%

*Yudhijit Bhattacharjee 2017, June. Why We Lie. *National Geographic*. p39

CAPTURED BY RELIGIOUS PARADIGMS

“A paradigm is a standard, perspective, or set of ideas. A paradigm is a way of looking at something.”—vocabulary.com

People are so accustomed to the trappings of what is considered religious and truth as far back as their childhood (Ezk 14:3-7; 20:16) —not by what Scripture teaches. It can be difficult to critically think when we are influenced by long held, perhaps cherished paradigms, such as church services. The early church services do not resemble those found today. ⁵⁴ Paradigms do not just have to be religious. They can also be political, social, cultural, etc.

Men like the opinions to which they have been accustomed from their youth; they defend them, and shun contrary views; and this is one of the things that prevents men from finding truth, for they cling to the opinion of habit.—Maimonides (aka Rambam, Jewish Rabbi, 1135-1204) *Guide for the Perplexed*.

We will accept our parents' teaching when young; however, when adults are confronted with opposing teachings we demand much proof. Where was our demand for proof from our parents?

Those wishing to discover spiritual truth and be blessed should always tell the truth in their

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daily lives...and stop lying (John 3:20-21; 8:12, Psa 146:6). Satan has deceived the entire world (*all of us* in some way or another. Rev 12:9) into myriad religions and denominations of which many teach that only their particular church belief system is true. The depth of our individual deception varies. So slowly count to 10 and give yourself—and others—a break in life! Extend grace to others as they meet the challenges of everyday living yet seek to grow spiritually.

“Let Go and Let God” is a trite but meaningful phrase of which we can demonstrate faith. Do not be so critical or arrogant toward others not in the faith or your faith. Let the light of your faith shine through your conduct in life as it bears the fruit of the Spirit—not through debates.

II. HEBRAIC ROOTS® HISTORY

A. Beginnings

Hebraic Roots Theology is traced back to the earliest Scriptures⁵⁵ to the time of Abraham—the first Hebrew. It can be seen to carry through to the Nazarenes (Natsarim, Acts 24:5) of the first century who kept both the *Torah* and the faith and testimony of Jesus Christ.⁵⁶

Even the "Church father" Epiphanius wrote of the Natsarim, whom he called "heretics," because they observed the Commandments of Yahuah and were indistinguishable from "Jews," except that they believed in the Mashiak.—Lew White⁵⁷

7,1 "But these sectarians...did not call themselves Christians-but Nazarenes," ...However they are simply **complete Jews** (emphasis added).

7,2 "They use not only the New Testament but the Old Testament as well, as the Jews do. They have no different ideas, but confess everything as the Law proclaims it and in the Jewish fashion--except for their beliefs Messiah, if your please! For they acknowledge both the resurrection of the dead and the divine creation of all things, and declare that God is one, and that his son is Yeshua the Messiah."⁵⁸

7,3 "They are trained to a nicety in Hebrew. For among them the entire Law, the Prophets, and the... writings...read in Hebrew, as they surely are by the Jews... (5) 5) They are different from Jews, and different from Christians, only in the following, They disagree with Jews because they have come to faith in Christ; but since they are still fettered by the Law-circumcision, the Sabbath, and the rest—they are not in accord with Christians...

9,1 "they are nothing but Jews themselves.

9,4 "They have the Gospel according to Matthew in its entirety in Hebrew. For it is clear that they still preserve this, in the Hebrew alphabet, as it was originally written. —Epiphanius (c310–320 – 403,⁵⁹ Bishop of Salamis) in Panarion 29 (a very large compendium of listing and addressing the arguments of 80 heresies).⁶⁰

They (the Nazarenes) are characterized essentially by their tenacious attachment to Jewish Observances. If they became heretics in the years of the [Catholic] Mother Church, it is simply because they remained fixed on outmoded positions. They well represent, though Epiphanius is refusing to admit it, the very descendants of that primitive community, of which our author [Epiphanius] knows that it was designated by the Jews, by the same name of "Nazarenes". —Marcel Simon, historian⁶¹

Note: That "primitive community" was the followers of "the way" (Acts 18:25-26; 19:23; 24:5,14,22) of which Paul was the "ringleader" of the sect.

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The Nazarenes do not differ in any essential thing from them [the Jews], since they practice the customs and doctrines prescribed by Jewish law, except they believe in Christ. They believe in the resurrection of the dead and that the universe was created by God. They preach that God is One, and that Jesus Christ is His Son. They are very learned in the Hebrew language. They read the Law...Therefore they differ...from the true Christians because they fulfill until now [such] Jewish rites as the circumcision, Sabbath and others.—Epiphanius, *Against Heresies* ⁶²

To learn more about the Natsarim, view the You Tube® video *The Natsarim: The Elect of the End Times*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtwdyefVxkU>

Apostasy and Persecution Begins. The process of falling away from the Sabbath and Torah by believers is Christ did not take long. The seeds of apostasy away from God's instructions (Torah) and our Hebrew Roots began in the days of the apostles. So it should not be a mystery when history records that the earliest of “church fathers” departed from the faith. As Paul writes:

2 Tim 1:15 This thou know that **all they which are in Asia** be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. (Note: Paul was probably referring to the Roman Province of Asia which was located on the eastern side of the Aegean Sea. The seven churches of Revelation are located here) ⁶³

2 Thes 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity (*musteriou ede energetai tes anomias*) does already work: only he who now let will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Iniquity (*anomias, anomos* in Greek) means without "law, lawless." The English language has the word antinomianism (pronounced an-ta-nome'-ee-ann-ism; Gr.*anti*=against, *nomas*=law) which according to Webster's Dictionary mean "the law is of no use or obligation." ⁶⁴

Antinomianism is contrary to everything the Bible teaches. God expects us to live a life of morality, integrity, and love.— www.gotquestions.org.

One might be labeled an *antinomian* if he believes that works are needed for salvation. We are rewarded according to our works, but we are saved through faith. This is a huge difference. Tradition records that Ignatius and his friend Polycarp were both disciples of John the Apostle. ⁶⁵ Yet Ignatius turns away from the keeping of the 4th commandment and the Torah.

Let us therefore no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner, and rejoice in days of idleness, ... But let every one of you keep the Sabbath after a spiritual manner, rejoicing in meditation on the law, not in relaxation of the body ... and not eating things prepared the day before, nor using lukewarm drinks, and walking within a prescribed space ... And after the observance of the Sabbath, let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's day as a festival, the resurrection-day, the queen and chief of all the days [of the week]. Looking forward to this, the prophet declared, 'To the end, for the eighth day,' on which our life both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in Christ:—Ignatius, 50-108 A.D., Second Bishop of Antioch, Turkey in his Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians Letter to the Magnesians 9, Roberts and Donaldson translation, p89.

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Be not seduced by strange doctrines nor by antiquated fables, which are profitless. For if even unto this day we live after the manner of Judaism, we avow that we have not received grace ... If then those who had walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer observing Sabbaths but fashioning their lives after the Lord's day, on which our life also arose through Him ... how shall we be able to live apart from Him?—*Ignatius to the Magnesians* 8:1, 9:1-2, Lightfoot translation.⁶⁶

But if anyone shall preach the Jewish law unto you, hearken not unto them.”
"If any one celebrates the Passover along with the Jews, or receives the emblems of their feast, he is a partaker with those that killed the Lord and His apostles. —1st century *Epistle of Ignatius to the Philippians*. Ignatius (50-108 A.D.) was the 2nd Bishop of Antioch, Turkey (50-108 A.D.)

Polycrates, Bishop of Ephesus (130-196 A.D.) wrote to a letter to Victor and the Roman Church advocating the keeping of Passover as Polycarp (69-155 A.D.) also did.⁶⁷

And Polycarp in Smyrna, who was a bishop and martyr...All these observed the fourteenth day of the passover according to the Gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith. —Eusebius, Church History, Book V, Chapter 24⁶⁸

As we can see, two of the chief Apostolic Fathers, Polycarp and Ignatious, disagreed on keeping the Passover. Something happened.

The word Christian is first used in Acts 11:26 in Antioch in a city which had a reputation for coming up with such nicknames.⁶⁹ Some historians think it was Ignatious who coined the new terms “Christian” and “Christianity.”⁷⁰ Ignatius is also responsible for the first known use of the Greek word *katholikos* meaning "universal," "complete" and "whole" to describe the church, writing:

Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. It is not lawful to baptize or give communion without the consent of the bishop. On the other hand, whatever has his approval is pleasing to God. Thus, whatever is done will be safe and valid.—Letter to the Smyrnaeans 8, J.R. Willis translation

Justin Martyr (c100-c165 A.D.) contributes his written opposition to Judaism:

As for their scrupulousness about meats, and their superstitions about the Sabbath, and their much vaunted circumcision, and their pretentious festivals and new moon observances - all of them too nonsensical to be worth discussing....

As for the minute way they scrutinize the moon and starts for the purpose of ritually observing the months and years, and chop up the divinely appointed cycle of the season to suit their own purpose...could anyone pretend that this indicates true reverence, and not simply a deranged intellect?—2nd Century *Epistle to Diognetus* by Justin Martyr in the second century

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We do know that teachers such as Polycarp of Smyrna (69-155 A.D.), a disciple of the Apostle John, stood fast for the keeping of various Torah instructions regarding the Sabbath and feasts in the face of opposition.⁷¹

All the churches in Asia (probably the Roman Province so named) departed from Paul who taught and kept the Torah (which included the “customs of the fathers” (I Tim 2:15 Acts 24:12-14; 25:8 28:17). There are relatively few historic records of the later apostolic years which address the “falling away” from the Torah and the period up to about 150 A.D.⁷² Some refer to this period as the “lost century” with some taking exception to it being “lost” at all.

The outcome, however, remains the same. The Hebrew or Jewish (as some call it) Roots of the faith were “lost” or, more than likely, simply discarded by the believers in Christ. This is due, in part, to Jewish and later Roman and Christian persecution of Torah pursuant Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ as well as heresies that arose later.

In his *Life of Constantine*, Eusebius Caesarea (c260 – 341 AD, noted as the “father of Church History”) writes that the sun worshipping Roman Emperor Constantine stated “Let us have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd.”⁷³ Constantine He offered a paid trip to the 300 bishops and their entourage to attend the Council at Nicea with the purpose of their rubber stamping some of his predetermined conclusions—including the observance of the first day of the week known as Sunday (not SONday).⁷⁴

Theologian Theodoret (393-458) of the School of Antioch later wrote on Passover in his *Epistle of the Emperor Constantine* and echoes Eusebius:

It was, in the first place, declared improper to follow the custom of the Jews in celebration of this holy festival because their hands, having been disdained by this crime, the minds of these wretched men are unnecessarily blinded; let us, then have nothing in common with the Jews..who are our adversaries, avoiding all contact in the evil way.... Theodoret⁷⁵

The Jewish people of that time had their own way of persecuting their fellow Jewish believers in Yeshua. In their prayer book, called the Siddur, was the Amidah. It is a prayer which is recited daily among observant Jews. The Amidah’s had a number (18-19) parts or benedictions. The twelfth benediction as called the *Birkat haMinim* (“blessing on the heretics”) which is a Jewish curse on heretics (*minim*).⁷⁶ This prayer was not part of the original prayers and was later added. Today’s benediction is *not* the original which reads as follows from the year 90 A.D.:

For the renegades let there be no hope, and may the arrogant kingdom soon be rooted out in our days, and the Nazarnes [the Natsarim] and the Minim perish as in a moment and be blotted out from the book of life.⁷⁷

The Hebrew word *minim* is an acronym for *mah-ah-mi-nay yeshu notzi* which translates into “believers in Yeshu the Nazarene”. Jewish believers in Yeshua would be immediately discovered when they would not recite this prayer against themselves in the Jewish synagogues. The Christians countered with their prayer for Jews called “Constantine’s Creed.” A Jew had to confess the following prayer which states (in part):

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Must confess and denounce verbally, the whole of the Hebrew people, forthwith declare that with a whole heart and a sincere faith he desires to be received among the Christians.....and renounce all of the feasts of the Hebrews...and Sabbaths...and observances of the synagogues...⁷⁸

Other notable and influential religious figures such as Marcion (c85-c160) and John Chrysostom (the Golden Mouth, 347-407) Marcion further denigrated the Jewish people. Although discredited by "Church Fathers" and others, various tenants of Marcion's heretical beliefs,⁷⁹ nevertheless, were later adopted by the Christian church.

Christians were prohibited from observing Passover with the Jews by the Council of Antioch (241 A.D.) and observing the 7th Day Sabbath by the Council of Laodicea (363 A.D.)

Fast forward to the Protestant Reformation beginning with Martin Luther (1483-1546) posting his 95 theses to the Wittenburg Church door. The first public "back-to-the Bible" movement begins among various groups when they were able to God's word for the first time in their own language.

During the succeeding centuries, those who have chosen all or some of the Old Testament instructions (such as the 7th day Sabbath) in opposition to the prevailing Christian thought of Sunday keeping have suffered greatly from fellow believers in Christ.

About 1526-1530 the Anabaptists of Moravia, Germany begin to observe the Sabbath and adopt Jewish liturgy. About 1529/1530, Oswald Glaidt wrote the first book *Buchlenn vom Sabbath*, which was perhaps the first book in modern times to defend Sabbath observance.⁸⁰ Word of this reached Erasmus of Rotterdam in 1530 as well as secular rulers, such as Count von Liechtenstein, Duke Friedrich II, and King Ferdinand I. Erasmus called Sabbath observance a "superstition."⁸¹ In 1536 Martin Luther (1483-1546) pushed back when he condemned Sabbath observance in his treatise *Against the Sabbath Keepers*.⁸² Although there both Anabaptist Sabbath and Sunday observers (some later known as Mennonites), nevertheless, they were all relentlessly persecuted.⁸³ A price was later placed on their heads. It was a capital crime to be an Anabaptist and a crime to give them food and shelter.⁸⁴ Between 1535-1546 30,000 were killed/martyred D.Thomas Lancaster writes:

The Protestants were reading their own Bibles and concluding that authentic, biblical Christianity was indeed Jewish. They were returning to Jewish practices, returning to Torah, keeping Sabbaths and festivals. The result was even more bitter persecution by the reformers to try and stop the 'Judaization' of the Protestant movement.—D. Thomas Lancaster⁸⁵

The Basic Issue

The basic issue that began in the first century continues on today:

Christianity is a new religion which separated itself from the Jews and Torah.

Christianity forbade Christians from Torah observances and Judaism separated itself from the belief in the Yeshua the Messiah.

Messianic-Judaism continues this separation by precluding Gentiles from observing the Torah.

This issue will not be resolved until the Messiah returns once again. Torah pursuant

adherents need to accept the realization that many Christians, Jews and unbelievers are either blinded or partly blinded (Rom 11:25) so that God's plan may be fulfilled. That does *not* mean Christians and Jews are going to hell. Many practicing Christians today keep many of the OT laws—the Torah.

Hebrew Christian Alliance (HCA). Making the jump to modern times, documentation reveals that the Hebrew Christian Alliance was formed in Britain in 1860 to bring together Jewish Christians in fellowship.⁸⁶ In 1895, the 9th edition of *Our Hope* magazine, a publication of the Hope of Israel Mission in New York City, became the first to use the term "Messianic Judaism."⁸⁷

The corresponding Hebrew Christian Alliance of America came about later in 1925. Other groups having similar beliefs in Jesus Christ and in keeping both the Sabbath and the Holy Days began in 1916 with Messianic-Judaism. In 1975 the Hebrew Christian Alliance of America (HCAA) changed its name to the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA).⁸⁸

The Worldwide Church of God and Assemblies of Yahweh. Similar teachings on keeping the Sabbaths and the Biblical festivals were begun in the 1930s by Clarence Dodd and Herbert W. Armstrong.

The Sacred Name Movement (SCM) began about 1937 among the 7th day Sabbath keeping members of the Church of God who pondered the question of Proverbs 30:4.⁸⁹ Elder Clarence O. Dodd was a leader in the SCM and began to keep the feasts in 1928, began *The Faith* magazine in either 1937 or 1938 to teach feast keeping, began *The Faith Bible and Tract Society* in 1938 and teach the sacred names in 1939. *Faith* magazine is now published by the Assemblies of Yahweh which continue his teachings in small groups that are autonomous and non-denominational⁹⁰ Most people who adhere to the sacred name also keep the feasts.

Herbert Armstrong founded the Radio Church of God which was later renamed the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) in 1968. Until 1995 it was the WCG which has had the greatest impact⁹¹ in promulgating this teaching and the keeping of many (but not all) of the Old Testament laws (particularly the Sabbath and Festivals) nationally and internationally. I now find it interesting that in all my years in the WCG, there was no mention in any of its literature that any other church else kept the feasts.

Repentance from breaking these laws, acknowledgement as Christ as Savior, baptism and the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit were the steps to salvation.

The WCG's relatively immense educational outreach of free publications to all included an array of subjects including those of a tangential nature, such as health and the environment. Even among the church faithful, one could provide the water, but members had to come and take of it.

Armstrong and his wife kept the feast for several years by themselves without knowing what they were all about. They chose to keep them simply because God commanded them to be kept without understanding the meaning of the days. Their understanding of the feast days with their New Covenant representations came later in the 1930s. It is reported that Armstrong did use Yahweh's name in the 1940s for a short while in his Radio Church of God broadcast. He soon dropped the Sacred Name due to a lack of a good response.⁹²

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Christian teacher Dr. Stephen Jones writes that the study of the feast days with its New Covenant meanings were not otherwise studied by any other Christians until about 1950:

Prior to the publication of George Warnock's book *The Feast of Tabernacles* in 1952, most studies had been by Jews who viewed it through the lens of the Old Covenant. Few understood that the two sets of feast days (April-May and September-October) prophesied of the two works of Christ.—Stephen Jones, PhD⁹³

The WCG had a publishing, radio and TV media impact that far exceeded its small membership (about 135,000-170,000, c1988, including adults and children).⁹⁴ All of its religious material was given away free of charge including, at its zenith, 8 million monthly copies of its full-color flagship magazine *The Plain Truth*. Donations were *never* asked from the public. The three tithing membership paid and supported the church's programs. Hundreds of radio stations blanketed the nation with the church's flagship radio program *The World Tomorrow* which was conducted in a news format rather than religious with songs and prayers. The program could be heard most hours of the day and especially in the late night-time hours when 50,000 watt AM radio station signals could be heard long distances. Radio station numbers were reduced with the onset of its TV telecasts in the 1980s. By 1985, the year before Armstrong's death, Arbitron ranked *The World Tomorrow* as the number one religious program in the United States accessible to 98.8% of the American population.⁹⁵ Its TV telecasts were virtually tied with Robert's Schuller's "Hour of Power" for the number one rating at one time.⁹⁶

The WCG heavily promoted that the U.S. Great Britain, and other English speaking peoples and the nations of Western Europe were the descendents of the exiled Ten Tribes of Israel. No one including myself, could say that one was actually an Israelite, but one could be grafted-in. The church was exclusive, did not publicize its meeting locations, and considered itself to be the firstfruits of the 144,000 noted in the book of Revelation.

The telecasts ceased about 1995 when the church abandoned its core belief structure.⁹⁷ The church leadership that succeeded Armstrong disavowed his teachings in what I loosely term a palace coup. While the disavowal of past doctrines and their changes were welcomed by mainstream Christianity, the authoritarian command structure of the church has remained to enact the changes. One can only ask "why?"

Membership fell dramatically. From a reported 89,000 baptized adult members in 1986, membership of the Worldwide Church of God plummeted to 49,000 in 1996 (a 45% decrease).⁹⁸ A percentage decrease that was similar to its then teachings that 50% of the church would be like the five of the ten virgins.

According to David Pack of the Restored Church of God (a WCG splinter church):

Ultimately, roughly 75 percent of adults walked away from all that they had believed. Among those age 25 or younger, the figure is probably closer to 90 or 95 percent.

Many parents in the WCG, even during the years when the Church was on track doctrinally, had been lax in childrearing, with many viewing programs such as Youth Education Services (Y.E.S.) and Youth Opportunities United (Y.O.U.) as

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little more than babysitting services. Their children were now reaping what they had sown—or more accurately had failed to sow.—David Pack⁹⁹

The Worldwide Church of God is no more. It sold its three college campuses, changed its foundational doctrines and also its name to Grace Communion.

There over 250-350 split-off groups from the former WCG. The three major groups in alphabetical order are the Living Church of God (11,300 with about 5,000 international members¹⁰⁰), the Philadelphia Church of God (10,000 members¹⁰¹), United Church of God—*An International Association* (10,000 in 50 congregations worldwide¹⁰²). All have a television and magazine outreach (Note I Cor 1:12 and 3:3-4). The Continuing Church of God split off from the LCG in 2012 and has 4,500-5,000 members (the majority in Africa).¹⁰³

Claims of being legalistic have haunted the WCG and its later splinter groups as it has the Messianic Movement.

It is one thing to be labeled a cult for doctrine. It is another thing to act cultic. We sometimes give the impression that we are cultic or not Christian by our attitude and demeanor toward others.

Before I studied the splits [of the WCG], I would have said that the above view of the old WCG (and by extension the splits of today) was unjustified and totally false. In my studies however I have found a few grains of truth in these statements. We in the splits DO place a strong emphasis on certain doctrines. We CAN give the impression that we believe we are saved by works of the law (legalistic) **although we do not believe this**. As some say we seem to 'major in the minors' by focusing a great deal of our attention on certain subjects or behaviors more than others."—Alan Ruth, a former WCG member.¹⁰⁴ (My emphasis).

Numerous others have written about the many failings (and yes, they were serious and significant one¹⁰⁵) of Herbert Armstrong, the WCG ministry and its spin-off churches. My purpose is not to dwell on these failings, but instead, to highlight the WCG contribution and influence in pioneering the keeping of the Sabbaths, annual appointments and feast days in the 20th Century among Christians when there was relatively few others observing them. They were excellent teachings. And many still are today!

After the WCG implosion, I read many accounts of members blaming the ministry for its failings. Yet, the ministry taught its membership unity (Ps 133:1) and love. So why did the implosion and its scattering into many split-offs occur? Ego? Control? God's Plan? God's testing (like Job)? Sin? Lukewarmness? Is this also a relevant question for HR adherents today in light of the ongoing fracturing of the HR Movement? You decide.

On a Personal Note. There also good things to be said about the WCG. Its leadership taught "Don't believe me. Believe your own Bible." Being a Catholic I took them for their word and kept in the back of my mind that the leaders were human and subject to error when they made doctrinal and administrative decisions. I did not deify church government. I later learned that many in that church did not question the leadership. How true is that today in other denominations where people follow their "inspired" ministry and are taught to obey their leadership?

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{M}ost people are unaware that there is so much more to learn about God outside of their group. They have been taught that all truth worth knowing resides within the teachings of their particular denomination, and if their educated leaders do not know some new idea, then certainly it must not be true.—Stephen Jones, PhD., teacher

Unfortunately, it appears not all in the WCG followed that same path of thinking. I also thought (mistakenly) that the church's Ambassador College was a center of objective theological exploration investigation in an attitude of teamwork, unity and humility. Little and way later did I realize that it was not the case.¹⁰⁶

I later slowly and quietly departed from the WCG organization about 1988-89 before its formal implosion in 1995 for the very reason I came in: God called me and I "proved all things" (I Thes 5:21) as they instructed me and much later I examined the fruit. I did not depart from the core beliefs that I learned from the WCG; however, I did tweak them.

B. Prophetic Context

In the end times, Luke records and refers to the prophecy from Malachi Chapter 4 that a people have to be made ready for Christ's return.

Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to **make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**

Since ancient times the message has been one of repentance, obedience and trust/faith towards God as the proclamation of His coming Kingdom is preached. The rising and readying of a prepared people keeping God's Sabbath and festivals is seen in the various HRs, MJs and COGs notwithstanding the differences between these three groups, God's Sabbaths and festivals are increasingly being taught and observed. God is moving people through word of mouth, the internet, home fellowships and without a huge commercial media presence.

C. Sociological Context

There were a number of events in the mid-20th century that can be seen to influence religion. The abolition of prayer from public schools in 1962 went basically unopposed by the nation's churches. Perhaps this was a critical stepping stone in the ensuing events that decade.

In the mid 1960s the beatnik culture was superseded by the anti-Vietnam war sentiment spawned by the hippie phenomenon of the college generation. Many considered themselves anti-establishment and were skeptical towards authority with the results of the Warren Report, the no-win Vietnam War, political assassinations, racial inequality, feminism, and Watergate. They popularized statements such as "make love not war," "peace and love," "don't trust anyone over 30" (years old),¹⁰⁷ sought a higher quality of life, influenced the content of popular TV shows (e.g. *Laugh-In* and the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*) and supported anti-war politicians (e.g. 1968 Presidential candidate Gene McCarthy). It was this "love" sentimentality that spawned the late 1960s *Jesus Movement*—a spiritual revival disengaged from the Christian establishment and which popularized "a wimpy, all-loving, non-confrontational 'Jesus' who would rather hang out with the gang smoking pot than to teach ethical mores"¹⁰⁸ as well as eastern religion popularized by the Beatles.

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The term "generation gap" became popular as young adults (the baby boomers which comprised as much as 50% of the nation's population under the age of 25 in 1965)¹⁰⁹ became the first generation to be raised on television and became distanced from their elders in appearance, language (i.e. slang), politics, and religion.

The late 60s were a turbulent period in American History. The baby boomers were said to be a generation that did not experience much pain as their depression-era parents. Perhaps the boomers expected to live a life without much pain, as boomer parents made life easier for their children.

In the late 60s and early 70s several events coalesced to further the Messianic-Jewish movement. 1) the "Summer of Love" and the Six-Day War of 1967; 2) the student upheavals of 1968; 3) the Jesus movement, and 4) the charismatic movement which, according to Peter Hocken, "has contributed significantly to its dynamism."¹¹⁰ The 1967 "Summer of Love" saw many young Jews who gravitated to the hippie movement.¹¹¹ They were receptive to new ideas—including religious ideas, such as could Jesus really be the son of God? What about Isaiah 53 and Daniel Chapter 9? Yet these Jews decided to celebrate their Jewish heritage and identity instead of being assimilated into the Christian churches and adopting Gentile traditions. They named themselves Messianic Jews.

In 1973 the *Jews for Jesus* organization was born with the emphasis on the "Jewish Roots" of Jesus. A growing number of these young Jews who had converted to Christianity infused the Hebrew Christian Alliance of which many became the leaders in the forthcoming Messianic-Jewish Movement. They were committed to maintaining a culturally Jewish lifestyle. forming Messianic-Jewish congregations and synagogues (a key effort), and changing from Hebrew Christian terminology to that of Messianic-Judaism.¹¹² Their efforts resulted in the change in June 1975 of the name of the Hebrew Christian Alliance of America (HCAA) to the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA).¹¹³

Meanwhile in 1977 the entire nation was enthralled by Alex Haley's *Roots*—a critically and publicly acclaimed television mini-series based on his 1976 book of the same name. This resulted in a heightened interest by many to investigate their own family lineages and origins and Biblical Roots. Christians were no exception to this exploration. Since Christ was a Jew, they also became attracted to Messianic Judaism and began to observe the *Torah* with its Sabbath and festivals.

In 1979 a new organization was created—the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) with Daniel Juster as president. This came about when some in the MJAA wished to place a stronger emphasis on such challenging needs as worship and education.

The late 1960s and early 70s also saw a rise in televangelism with the ministries of Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim and Tammy Faye Baker (PTL Club), Paul and Jan Crouch (TBN), Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson's CBN and the 700 Club. The so-called prosperity gospel began to dominate televangelism programming. The prosperity teaching later figured prominently in the Word of Faith movement and 1980s televangelism. By 2006 17 percent of American Christians in America identified with the prosperity movement.¹¹⁴

In 1986 the MJAA formed the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) to address the similar needs of the UMJC plus evangelizing. The

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IAMCS is "essentially the pastoral arm of the MJAA." In 1994 the MJAA and the UMJC reconciled by agreeing to disagree in "theological and practical areas."¹¹⁵ These are the two largest Messianic Jewish organizations in the U.S.¹¹⁶

A general survey of the Hebraic Roots ministries and other web sites reveals that a number of them began teaching about keeping the Sabbath and festivals a number of years before these topics were taught by some in Protestant Christianity; for example, William Dankenbring (formerly of the WCG) in 1964, Joe Good in 1978, Dean Wheelock in 1981, Brad Scott in 1983, Bill Cloud in 1988, Batya and Angus Wootten in 1983 (who were involved since the early 1970s with the Messianic Jewish Movement) and Monte Judah in 1995. About 1994-96 the Hebraic Roots *Awakening* significantly increased in scope with the implosion of the WCG in 1995.¹¹⁷

Is it just a coincidence that the acceleration in the Hebrew Roots and Messianic Jewish movement began in the mid-nineties with the collapse of the Worldwide Church of God in 1995? I do not think so. Members in the former WCG (as myself) were taught that if they did not *do* what they were supposed to "do," that God would raise up another people to *do*. Whether this has turned out to be the case or whether God has let this happen to further His plan to grow His people spiritually (as He did Job) in various small churches or yet another reason (as discussed previously) remains to be revealed.

I have lived in ten different WCG church areas. One thing I do know is that too many people could not or were reluctant to initiate or discuss spiritual topics. We were taught Isaiah 58:13—i.e. to not speak our own words on the Sabbath day.

After moving to California in 1986, I made a new attorney friend who was relatively new in the church. He asked me why the WCG members do not discuss spiritual topics on the Sabbath day. I answered that it was similar in other church areas as well that I have lived in (five).¹¹⁸ The WCG publications taught Malachi 3:16 and Isaiah 58:13.

If one had their eyes open, one did not need gossip to discern the spiritual happenings that began to take place towards the end of 1986. The actions could be read between the lines of the church newspaper, church sermons and what was *not* being said. I know. I thought I was off base and perhaps being influenced by the dark side in discerning these things. I was not. I did not discuss my discernment with others.

In April/May 1998 Dean and Susan Wheelock, former members of a WCG split-off church, published their first edition of Hebrew Roots® magazine after they had trademarked the phrase "Hebrew Roots®" in 1994.¹¹⁹

Seeing "Gentile" Christians begin to significantly outnumber the converted Christ believing Jews in the Messianic Jewish (MJ) congregations, Batya Wootten was led into further study as to "why." In 1988 she first wrote a book about the two houses of Israel later followed by her 1998 book entitled *Who is Israel?*¹²⁰ In it she writes what others describe to be a post-Armstrong/WCG form of British-Israelism along with a "One Law" teaching. The original book probably created controversy within the MJ community and, apparently, also was an impetus for the ensuing HR movement and the "Two-House controversy or movement as it sometimes referred to.

The Woottens and Moshe Koniuchowsky later founded the Messianic Israel Alliance (MIA). Koniuchowsky later began his own ministry in 2000 and coined the term "Two house."¹²¹ The MIA¹²² and MJAA organizations are on opposite poles in their beliefs on who should keep the *Torah* (i.e. two laws: one for the Jew and one for the Gentile. See Distinctive Core Difference #4), the definition and name of Israel and Two House

Theology (See Appendix B). For HR ministries listed later in this book, Two-House is a non-issue because Gentiles are grafted into the tree and keep the Sabbath, festivals and the applicable parts of the Torah.

The HR ministries are not associated with the Church of God (COG), nor do they adhere to COG teachings. In the vast majority of instances I have found that HR adherents are not familiar with the Armstrong name. While attending a 2007 Sukkot camp-out of about 25 people in Safford, AZ, I learned that the several leaders of that group had left their Christian churches after learning about the backgrounds of Christmas and some other traditional Christian beliefs. None of them up until that time had heard of the name Armstrong or Church of God which had been the mainstays of festival observers among believers in Christ.

D. Today

Hebrew Roots is not a denomination. It is a "grass-roots" outgrowth from Messianic-Jewish organizations, the Churches of God, other churches and even from unchurched individuals. They are simply reading their Bibles for spiritual guidance and wishing to obey what they read. And they are they are discovering the simple answers that conflict with the paradigms of traditional denomination teachings—such as obeying all the Ten Commandments. It's not rocket science. It takes courage to step outside the crowd.

Many are also home schooling their children as I personally witnessed at the Season of Our Joy Sukkot in 2013. As the Teen Program Director, I personally asked Brad Scott to speak to the teens. One of Brad's passions is for the next generation of believers. Brad's father, a school principal, came to hear Brad speak for the first time. He attended was taken back (impressed) at the quality of the questions the teens were asking of his son Brad after his presentation. The father asked for a show of hands of the 50 teens of those who attended public schools. Only five raised their hands. We all learned that the remaining teens were all home schooled. Combine this example with my report about the lack of spiritual discussions among church members at church services and a pattern may be seen.

HR is not following any single leader or organization, therefore, for this reason it does not meet the Christian definitions of a cult.¹²³ (Note that there may be exceptions in HR as there are in every belief system). It is not connected with any of the churches of God to my knowledge.

The term Hebrew/Hebraic Roots apparently has been adopted to differentiate itself and avoid confusion with the term "Messianic Jewish." The creation of the "Hebraic Roots Network" on the internet in 2011 underscores this change in branding. Nevertheless it is common for many in HR to call themselves "Messianic" and for MJs and COGs to state that they are returning to their "Hebrew roots." This can be confusing to others, as myself, when I began learning about the Messianic Jewish Theology and the Hebrew Roots Movement.

Conflicts within the HRM. After experiencing significant growth since the mid-1990s, separations over calendars, the pronunciation of God's name, personal offenses, etc., are occurring in the HR movement.

In October 2018 Hebrew Roots teacher Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry visited an Arizona fellowship and stated that the Hebrew Roots Movement is waning. Instead of forming their own fellowship groups, HR adherents are seeking and attending churches

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where they can find community. Perhaps this is due to the ongoing divisiveness. Although these divisions and issues have been addressed by the primary HR ministries in their teachings (See Chapter VII: Criticisms & Current Issues), the success of their teachings has yet to be gauged. In summary:

1) Yes, there is apparently a Heinz 57® assortment of beliefs among the hyper-independent, ethical, and moral people investigating the Bible and trying to live by what they know and believe in obedience to His Word in the written Torah.

Because many are reading and studying the Bible on their own (perhaps for the first time) and possibly coming to inaccurate Scriptural interpretations based upon limited knowledge. The HR movement has been referred to as "the wild West" by one noted Hebrew Roots® teacher. HR people are zealous. They can damage family and church relationships in their enthusiasm when they introduce information too fast too soon to others who are *not* interested in beliefs that conflict with their own. On the other hand, another teacher has stated that "It was the wild West 2,000 years ago when Judaism could not handle the new believers in Jesus."

2) They are fracturing over various doctrinal and personal issues; which can be caused by a false righteousness of accusing others. As Daniel Botkin explains:

The cause of the problems is [HR} people who are immature, unstable, proud, arrogant and contentious.¹²⁴

Dean Wheelock elaborates in his Sept-Dec 2019 edition of Hebrew Roots Magazine:

Wars and fights among the Brethren must cease – for they are strangling the Messianic Movement – sucking out its life blood. Too many are the Brethren who have put aside pagan holidays, and the idea that the Law (*Torah*) has been nailed to the cross (and no longer needs to be observed) – only to witness the strife that exists in the Messianic Movement and gone off into Orthodox Judaism, slipped back into the [Christian] church, or just given up altogether...

"Today we appeal to all of our Messianic Brethren to stop the bickering and infighting and replaced it with real love for one another. None of us will know all of the true doctrine until we are changed into spirit and residing in the Kingdom of heaven. We should not condone sin, but we can certainly refrain from condemning others whose sincere beliefs, in certain areas, are not the same as ours. The real key is to live one another despite differences in opinion. Only then will we be true disciples of Y'shua.—Dean Wheelock¹²⁵

D. Thomas Lancaster writes in his 2005 book *Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus*:

Such a person has an unhealthy love for overturning the theological tables of other believers. He gets a perverse charge out of labeling other people's sacred institutions as false or pagan, and feels smugly self-righteous when he does. He lives on radical teachings and leaps upon every opportunity to fracture harmony within his congregation and even within his own family.(p. ix).

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Tim Kelley of Ami Yisrael writes about spiritual maturity:

What does the scripture say in regards to what a person must believe before he is accepted as one of God's people? Are we to be so concerned about what a person believes, or is it more important that a person act on what he does believe? Are we to draw lines in the sand in places God never drew them? At what point should we consider a person to be part of the "people of God." What is the litmus test to determine if this group or that group is worthy of your fellowship. The answer varies with group and denomination...

Many churches, groups, and individuals have drawn lines in the sand that will prohibit the integration of, and impede the growth of many God is calling into the community of Israel. Are we going to accommodate those God has called - that remnant of Israel - if they show up at our door, or are we going to offend them and drive them away because they don't see things the way we do?—Tim Kelley ¹²⁶

HR has apparently become a reflection of Christianity with its many divisions over the centuries. The bad fruits of divisions have been with believers in denominational fractions going back to the first century in Christ's time and beyond that with the Jewish people. Division is not new, but when it occurs among a relatively small movement in local areas of small fellowships it can be especially emotionally disconcerting. (This topic is later discussed in Current Issues)

It is the responsibility of Hebrew Roots adherents to set an example of love. Thus *may* be lacking in too many instances perhaps because of the lack of teaching on proper relationships.

It is a result of the ensuing divisions and the "bad fruits" within HR fellowships and families that Firstfruits of Zion (FFOZ), a Messianic organization, modified its foundational structure in its educational outreach program about 2009. It no longer teaches that the Torah observance is required for both Gentiles and Jews. Instead, it now teaches a variation on keeping the Torah that is termed "Divine Invitation." ¹²⁷

The bottom line for us is this. Jewish believers are under an obligation to keep the whole Torah—not for salvation, but as a matter of covenantal loyalty. Gentile believers, though saved by grace, are under an obligation to the full moral authority of the Torah, and they have an invitation to participate along with Israel in the aspects of Torah life which are specific to the Jewish people. We encourage them to do so. —Boaz Michael and D. Thomas Lancaster. ¹²⁸

It appears to emphasize the blessings that one may receive from keeping the Torah rather than the curses from disobedience. Yeshua/Jesus ^A stated that one would be known by their fruits (Matt 7:20)? Of course He did. He also stated that we would be known by the love that we have for one another (John 13:35).

Divine Invitation created an additional schism in the Hebrew Roots Movement and also within FFOZ when not all accepted this change. The change was welcomed in Messianic Jewish circles, though, as an indication of the errors in HR theology.

In FFOZ's *HaYesod* DVD course teachings, Gentiles are *invited* to keep the Torah to receive the blessings by keeping the Torah. I heartily recommend *HaYesod*. It is an

^A Yeshua (also written as Y'shua) is the Hebrew name for the Greek name "Jesus"

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excellent foundational course in the Torah and Old Testament notwithstanding its few points that I disagree with (including “Divine Invitation”). Some look for the perfect church not recognizing that as soon as “some” imperfect people walk through the doors, (like you or me) that church is no longer perfect. *All of us* need to come to the realization that *no* teacher/pastor has perfect understanding. No one is going to agree with anyone 100% of the time. It is our personal responsibility to work out our own salvation (Phip 2:12) and grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

FFOZ continued to evolve in their teaching on Torah applicability in 2009 when its leader Boaz Michael wrote:

At no point will you find that we have ever said Torah is not applicable to Gentiles. Instead, what we are saying, very deliberately, clearly, and carefully, is that Gentiles are not obligated to the certain ceremonial aspects of the Torah in the same manner as Jewish people: namely the circumcision, the Sabbath, the festivals, and the Levitical dietary laws. Even these few things, we encourage, teach, and equip Gentile believers to keep to the very best of their ability as a matter of identification with Y’shua, the scriptures, and the greater people of Israel into whom the Gentile believers have been engrafted.—Boaz Michael ¹²⁹

Boaz Michael is *correct* in that the Jews do keep these above points (and others in the Torah) differently as prescribed through their Rabbinic Talmudic teachings (the Oral Law) and customs for Sabbath observances, defining kosher, wearing of Jewish garments (tallit, kippa, tzitzit/tassels, etc).

And yet Boaz Michael writes in his book *The Tent of David* that it is improper for 99%+ of Messianic Gentiles to label themselves as “Torah Observant (or pursuant)” if they do not observe the Torah in the Jewish tradition. ¹³⁰

Not even the majority of Jewish people can or wish to keep the Torah according to the Rabbinic teachings. When visiting Israel one will discover that only the city of Jerusalem keeps the Sabbath day. ¹³¹

“For the State of Israel, Rabbinic Judaism is the reason why there is a secular state and not a true Torah state. Vast numbers of Israelis have concluded that the Torah is impossible to keep, because they have been told that the only way to keep Torah is through the Rabbinic halacha.”—Avi ben Mordechai ¹³²

This includes the Sabbath with its traditional Jewish Talmudic observances (a day without electric lights, cooking implements, driving, phones, computers, and other modern conveniences). which add to Scripture—something which Scripture warns against. The implication is that observance is to be done the Jewish way following Rabbinic authority or not at all. ¹³³

Perhaps things have changed in the years since the above two sources were quoted. A future update will address this conundrum if needed. (See the discussion under One Law Theology in Distinctive Core Difference #4: The Torah is for Everyone).

3) The HR message is a Scriptural one...neither political nor Constitutional. Some may embrace certain political views about the government which, although they may be true, I do not partake of mixing the faith with some extremist political views of activism.

God is still in charge and control of His Creation. The King is coming...but He is not yet *here*.

4) The criticisms of HR adherents adopting Jewish customs are one-sided when Messianic Gentiles/Christians do the same in Messianic Jewish congregations who are likewise criticized by Jews for wearing their religious apparel. Avram Yehoshua confirms the use of Jewish “cultural window decoration(s)” to evangelize the unsaved Jews a “Law-less Christ.”¹³⁴

Levels of Growth. Believers are all at different levels or stages of spiritual growth. All of us may still be captured by false religious or other paradigms. One cannot force other to grow up to our level within the time parameter we think they should. God works with each person individually and is long-suffering. So we must treat each other as well with the fruit of the Spirit.

E. An "Awakening"

An “awakening” is a religious term that refers to a religious revival led by Protestant ministries which can lead to the formation of new denominations and movements. America has experience three or four such “Great Awakenings” in its history between the early 18th century and the late 20th century.¹³⁵

In his May 5, 2013 presentation in Peoria, Arizona, Bill Cloud, a Hebraic Roots teacher, stated his dislike of the word “movement,” and that he would rather use the word *Awakening*. Scott Diffenderfer, another Hebraic Roots teacher, was heard to use the phrase about 2009 at a MIA Conference when he stated (paraphrased): “Hey—it’s not a movement; it’s an AWAKENING!” Several Hebrew Roots®/Messianic leaders nationally also prefer the word “Awakening” rather than “movement” according to a recent survey conducted as part of my research into the history of Hebraic Roots. Some fellowship leaders in Our Father’s Festival Sukkot in 2008 also expressed their concerns about using the word “movement.”

“Movements come and go, but when you wake up, you’re aware of what’s happening around you!” stated Tim Kelley of Season of Our Joy. An awakening may occur when a person realizes he is wrong and asks himself “Why” or tells himself “oh no” or “DUH” and then changes. Consider Josiah when the Torah scroll was discovered in the Temple (II Kings 22:8-13).

One must do something more when they awake. As Dean Wheelock of Hebrew Roots®(R) Magazine explains ..“there has to be an ‘awakening’... first. However, many seem to be ‘awakened’ but do nothing with it. Kind of like seeds sown on stony ground. Only when they start ‘moving’ does real change take place.”¹³⁶

Scripture does not use the word “awakening,” however, it does use the word “awake” in the context of sleep and death (John 11:11, Rom 13:11, I Cor 15:34).

Eph 5:14 Wherefore he says Awake you// that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

A parallel can be seen when Christ called out to Lazarus in John 11:43-44. Lazarus did not lay there when he was awakened. He had to get up and begin walking.¹³⁷

I think all believers have more than one awakening in their life—because we are human. How many times have we forgotten something and have to be reminded, or we are in ignorance and learn something new?

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For unbelievers an awakening is one to the awareness of the knowledge of their sinful lives and the need and the need for salvation in Jesus/Yeshua. One could say it is a “come to Jesus” moment. Yet it is more. After one is awakened one must repent, be converted and receive the Holy Spirit to continue growth in grace, knowledge and overcoming, the renewal of the mind and the fruit of the Spirit. I will address more about awakening under Repentance in Core Difference #1.

III. CONGREGATIONS

Numbers. There is no formal estimate available as to the number of adherents to the Hebraic Roots theology or the number of fellowships / congregations. Hundreds of thousands has been one guesstimate given¹³⁸ but at least tens of thousands worldwide.¹³⁹ One investigative writer reports 200,000 to 300,000.¹⁴⁰ Batya Wootten mentioned 250,000 in the MJ faith in 2004,¹⁴¹ and another web site reports "millions of devotees across the globe"—no doubt in hyperbole regarding the rapid rise of the Awakening and its impact on traditional Christian theology. It is most probably closer to the former than to the latter.

The HRM is international in scope with Hebraic Roots Ministries scheduling meetings at overseas locations on six continents.

There are considerably more people attending Messianic-Jewish (MJ) synagogues of which the vast majority are "Gentile" rather than converted Jews. Perhaps the disparity in numbers is due to the counting of both Torah and non-Torah keeping "Gentile" believers attending MJ synagogues and other Torah pursuant believers.

I have discovered various and conflicting numbers for the MJ population. Congregations in Israel also have differences within themselves as to the applicability of the Torah to non-Jews.¹⁴²

MESSIANIC JEWISH POPULATION ¹⁴³ From only several in the 1970s....		
	Congregations	Adherents
Israel	300 (150-430?)	15,000* - 30,000
United States	350 (200?)	175,000-250,000
Worldwide	?	350,000
Total	c750	

*60% speak Russian as their first language
 About 40%-60% of an individual congregational membership worldwide may be composed of gentiles;¹⁴⁴ however, this percentage can increase dramatically upwards: 90%+ in one Arizona congregation and 95% overall according to one Messianic Jewish writer.¹⁴⁵
 Rabbi Tovi Singer indicates that about 5% of an MJ congregation (with exceptions) may be former Jews.¹⁴⁶
 Congregations in Israel average about 100 attendees. Persecution of MJ occurs within Israel. Some do not wish to attend congregations for fear and instead hold house meetings¹⁴⁷

American Messianics are noted as being conservative Evangelicals who financially support Israel. Over 1,000 Hebrew-Christian missionary groups spend \$300+ million yearly to convert Jewish people.¹⁴⁸

There is an unspoken category of members in MJ congregations: 1) the highest or primary status of those who are born Jewish and 2) those Messianic Gentile Christian

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members and those who "Roots Seekers" seeking or claiming Jewish heritage by their genealogical efforts have a secondary status.¹⁴⁹ Boaz Michael of First Fruits of Zion confirms this secondary status because Gentile Christians attend MJ congregations to support the evangelization of the Jewish people—not because they wish to keep the Torah.¹⁵⁰ (Yet Torah keepers do attend such congregations, perhaps clandestinely, when there is no other Torah keeping congregation in their area.)

Daniel Juster has explained that it was not even the intention of Messianic Jews or the Gentiles to walk in Torah. The MJ mission is to evangelize the Jewish people.¹⁵¹

They teach that Gentile Christians are to obey the Noahide Laws—not the Torah.

On the other hand, the MJAA states that there is no basis in fact for this second class.¹⁵² Which is it? I only ask the question. Especially when the MJAA congregation in my area promotes the Firstfruits of Zion teachings.

Converting. What if a second-class 'separate but equal' Gentile wishes to convert to a first class Messianic-Judaism and to Judaism? There is no easy answer. One would have to say it's complicated. Such a conversion is not recognized by Judaism and is even opposed by some MJ Rabbis.¹⁵³

People are not just converting from Judaism to Messianic Judaism or Hebrew Roots. Within the last 20 years tens of thousands of "gentiles" have converted to Judaism with as many Jews converting to Christianity.¹⁵⁴ Rabbi Tovi Singer states that most all converts to Judaism have had some relationship with Messianic or Hebrew Roots.¹⁵⁵ Whereas Messianics are focused on evangelizing Jews, Hebrew Roots are focused on Gentiles. According to Jews for Judaism, Hebrew Roots adherents do not stay in that movement very long. HR adherents are contacting Jewish rabbis and inundating them for help.¹⁵⁶ They eventually reject Christianity while learning Torah and proceed to Noahidism or convert to Judaism.¹⁵⁷

We are all excited about this," Michaelson says regarding the surge of Hebrew Roots followers embracing some form of Jewish tradition. "We are seeing a groundswell.—Ian Michaelson, Jews for Jesus¹⁵⁸

These conversions of Christians to Jews can raise a question on who or what is really "dangerous."¹⁵⁹ to Christianity—Hebrew Roots adherents or Messianic Jews.

Congregations. Being a grass-roots *awakening*, most believers gather to fellowship and worship in local homes which may go unpromoted in their communities. Others may prefer to rent meeting rooms or other local church buildings if available. House churches appear to be also happening in Christianity as well.

The average size of a fellowship is about 25 people.¹⁶⁰ Holy Days and Feast typically see higher attendance with more than one congregation and/or fellowship coming together from different localities.¹⁶¹ According to a definition by Monte Judah, a congregation has a leader; while a fellowship does not have a designated leader; however, the hospitality of the hosting homeowner is respected with him/her in authority to insure order and respect is adhered to for the benefit of everyone. A fellowship also rotates leadership.¹⁶²

III. CONGREGATIONS

Research among [Christian house] church adherents has shown that, for these people, participation in an organic setting is not merely about playing church by different rules, it is more about leading a radical lifestyle in which faith is not separate from the rest of one's daily experience: it is woven into all dimensions of life.—George Barna¹⁶³

Others, as myself, may attend an MJ congregation because it may be the only, or the only acceptable Sabbath keeping congregation in town, and I really do not care what others label me. I do not need to announce any differences in my personal theology so as to create yet even more divisions in the Body of Christ. When asked however, I will answer for the hope that is within me (I Pet 3:15). Although Scripture teaches that Christ allows divisions, the Apostle Paul does state, nevertheless, that we should live peaceably with others (Luke 12:49-53; Rom 12:18).

HR Ministries. Menachem Kaiser echoes my prior finding and analysis of the HRM: "It's a loose identity...There isn't a church, there isn't a leader. It gets very fragmented."¹⁶⁴

The HR movement has coalesced into a core of noted HR teacher with their own ministries who are essentially teaching the same sound foundational belief structure (See the Appendices). Many Christian believers can be on a journey from one "church" to another as we seek "truth" and discard beliefs we personally dislike (for the better or worse) and/or found to be in error. New believers need to first study with noted teachers (See Appendix) rather than searching the internet on their own and collecting information from a variety people who have a fancy web site and who may not have been in the faith long enough to get a solid foundation themselves.

Ministers may come from a variety of Christian and MJ backgrounds. There is no HR college or educational system that administers formal ministerial ordinations or credentials, no ecclesiastical superstructure and no one overall doctrinal belief system. The ministries use the internet for its primary communication tool and also hold conferences which are arranged by local fellowships or individuals.

There is a least one MJ religious school of which I am aware to ordain MJ rabbis: Kings University. The present MJ rabbis come from those who have accepted Christ. "Very few MJ rabbis are ordained by mainstream Jewish religious schools."¹⁶⁵ The King's University Messianic Jewish Studies (MJS) program is an approved school of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) for training rabbis and teachers in the Messianic community.¹⁶⁶

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

The Hebraic Roots ministries have filtered out of their prior denominational backgrounds to embrace a theology that includes the following seven distinctive core differences with Catholicism, Protestantism (including the Seventh-Day Adventist Church), Rabbinic Judaism, Messianic Judaism, and in several points, the numerous Sabbath keeping Churches of God.

Please NOTE: The explanations I offer under each core difference are offered as *summaries* and are *not* intended as an exhaustive doctrinal explanation. The End Notes provide sources where one may explore a topic in detail.

1. Obey the *Entire Bible*

Both the Old and New Testaments teach that believers are to follow and obey the entire *Bible* including the Torah.¹⁶⁷ There is no blank page between the Old and New Testaments.

Many new believers are instructed to begin reading the Bible with the new Testament or more specifically with the book of John. Some small hand-out Bibles only contain the New Testament and Psalms. One should instead begin with the very first book of the Torah: Genesis.

The word Torah can have different meanings depending on how it used.

Technical. In its technical and proper meaning it is the first five books of the OT. It is commonly called "the Law" but is also translated as *instruction* in Hebrew as is noted as its primary meaning.¹⁶⁸

General. The word Torah can also carry the general meaning of the entire OT. For example, Paul's writes "**In the law, it is written.**" (I Cor 14:21) where he quotes from the prophet Isaiah (38:11-12). Christ makes a similar use of the word "law" in John 10:34 when He refers to Psalm 82:6 and John 15:25 to Psalm 35:19.

Jewish. In its broadest sense in the Jewish context, the Torah may refer to both the written OT (the "Written Torah" *and* the Talmud (the "Oral Torah"). The OT is also termed the *Tanakh*--an acronym containing portions of the Hebrew words for the "law," the prophets, and the psalms

We are to live by every word of God (Luke 4:4, Matt 4:4). Every word includes both Old and New Testaments. Until the Apostles Paul and John began to gather the New Testament gospel accounts, history (Acts), letters, and prophecy (Revelation), only the Hebrew Old Testament was available for Timothy for his instruction. The New

Testament was not yet written when Paul instructs Timothy to study and rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

Unfortunately Messianic Jewish leaders do not hold this viewpoint of living by every word of God:

The committed disciple, however, should be instructed mostly by the epistles, not Torah and not primarily even the teaching of Yeshua, which is an application of Torah.— Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik.¹⁶⁹

Repentance and Sin. To reconcile and to return to God one must repent of sin (i.e. begin to obey God) and accept Christ as their savior. This has been a message that has been taught through out Scripture in the Old Testament, the gospel account of Matthew, the Apostles (Pentecost in Acts *before* the NT was written and canonized), Paul and Hebrews. Repentance is a "principle of the doctrine of Christ" (Heb 6:1).

Repent in Greek is to "think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider," in other words change your mind. In Hebrew repent means to "return." One returns to the Father by changing their minds. True repentance comes from God (Rom 2:4) and results in a sustaining Godly sorrow over sins—not a worldly temporary sorrow (II Cor 7:10). It is an awesome awakening moment in one's life.

If one took a 90-degree turn of following his own mind from a Grand Canyon look-out point, instead of a 180-degree return from where he came, he would fall over a cliff into a side canyon. Perhaps that is what is happening in our nation because the majority of people have become *lawless*? They are seeking to "return" to their *own* way of thinking and actions which are *not* acceptable to the Creator.

Have you experienced a born-again Christian approach and ask whether you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior? They may state that one needs to repent of their sins. Ask the person what the Scriptural definition of sin is (I John 3:4, Rom 3:20).¹⁷⁰ Their minds—including the local minister in the program (as I learned in one experience)—may probably go blank as they attempt to give you an otherwise assortment of general, but non-Scriptural answers, as they are unaware of the Scriptural definition.

QUESTION

Christians are not taught what the Bible definition of sin is.
Why not?

Putting 1+1s Together

1 John 3:4 **Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**¹⁷¹

Rom 3:20 .. for by **the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Matt 3:8 **Bring forth therefore fruits** meet for repentance.

First show in one's life the physical changes one is willing to make (e.g. stop lying, killing, etc.)

Acts 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

The Hebrew word for sin is *chata* (H2398) pronounced khaw-taw and is translated 400x as such in the OT. It is used in Judges 20:16 where it means to sin or miss. The literal meaning is to "miss the mark"" as in an archer who misses the target or to "fail to reach a goal."

The Heart. We need to refer to Scripture when it comes to the meaning of sin. We cannot rely upon our hearts to tell us. Why not? Remember what Jeremiah, Christ and Paul stated regarding the issues of the heart:

Prov 28:26 He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered.

Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings

Matt 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

I found Romans 6-9 instrumental in understanding the need for God's help through his Holy Spirit in changing my heart from the carnal to the spiritual. We cannot change our flesh driven hearts by human effort and will power. It cannot be done!

Grace. Once we repent, accept Christ and are baptized and receive His Holy Spirit we are not under the law. We are now under grace. Grace is a simple term. It simply means favor. God now looks upon us with favor in His eyes. We are no longer His enemies.

Rom_8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Enmity is define by Merriam-Webster as the "positive, active, and typically mutual hatred or ill will."¹⁷² Wow. One is the enemy of God unless one seeks peace with Him. The terms are unconditional surrender. That is the hard part—for everyone. And it is a life-long journey with Him along with s new community of spiritual brothers and sisters in the same faith to encourage and edify us as we walk as He walked!

Does that mean the law is "done away with"? Let Paul answer that question:

Rom 3:31 Do then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

From these above Scriptures we see that it is grace/favor that is given to us, yet we now obey God and are at peace with Him. Obeying "what" has become the issue between Christians and Jews and is the topic which most of this book attempts to answer in a *summary* fashion.

Penalties for Broken Laws. Christ paid the penalty of suffering and the curse of death for all sinning/law breaking humanity past and present.

Today, our nation is experiencing the curses of breaking just the basic Ten Commandments (nine according to many). One cannot allow their responsible children to play at a playground or walk home unsupervised by a parent without fearing that Child Protective Services will be notified and arrest the parent—not for breaking any laws, but for raising their child to be independent and responsible.¹⁷³ The Christian walk in now under attack globally not only by democratic governments, but educational and private institutions, the mass media and the general public.

According to Adrian Rogers, televangelist (1931-2005) and whose TV programs are still rerun on satellite TV) stated:

...if just 10% of Christians were educated and on fire...this nation would experience a religious revival.—Adrian Rodgers, 2011(?)¹⁷⁴

The States of Belief. Joyce Meyer's states "that there are probably thousands of people sitting in churches every week who won't go to heaven."¹⁷⁵ Billy Grahams states that only 10%-15% of people attending church, today, are considered "saved."¹⁷⁶

The 2010 census reports that we are a nation of 308.7 million. In 2007 the percentage of Americans claiming to be Christian was 78.4% which would equal 242 million. Ten percent of 242 million equals 24.2 million are "saved."

Millions of so-called Evangelicals do not even understand the gospel.

Shouldn't someone be disturbed?

Shouldn't someone be broken?

Shouldn't someone standup and say this is wrong? – Paul Washer, Baptist Pastor¹⁷⁷

Only 40%–63% of Christians vote.¹⁷⁸ A Pew research finds that 88% of Congress in 2018¹⁷⁹ and 70.6% of Americans claim to be Christian in 2014.¹⁸⁰ This is a drop of nearly 8% in only seven years from 78.4 % in 2007.

Just 30 years ago 67 percent of Americans attended church weekly. As of 2013 this percentage declined to 37% according to Pew and 39% in a Gallop Poll. The northern states experienced greater decline than southern states. Another Pew Report reveals 38% of Americans are *active* churchgoers, 43% are *unchurched* (avoided any church functions six months and 34% are *dechurched*.¹⁸¹ As mentioned previously only 19% of churchgoers read their Bible everyday.¹⁸²

28% of born again Christians believe that Jesus committed sins like other people. Unfortunately, the term "born again" has been pirated, emptied of its meaning, dragged through the gutter, and given back to us, minus its power. Today when people tell us they are 'born again,' we're not even sure what they mean.— Greg Laurie, TV Evangelist.¹⁸³

Is it because that many in HR are reading their Bible and are "educated and on fire" that the HR Awakening influence is being felt today? The churches are relatively quiet as legal and social attacks escalate on Biblical virtues and beliefs.¹⁸⁴ Do many believers prefer to disengage themselves from involvement in the affairs of their communities, nation and faith? If a nation can give up their God and virtue, they can also give up its Constitution as well. Is this indicative of a Laodicean age where people have lost their fire and are neither hot or cold?¹⁸⁵

In a "shocking message" posted in an internet You Tube® Video, Baptist Pastor Paul Washer spoke about the ineffective casual acceptance of Jesus Christ at an altar call at a 2002 youth conference on evangelism before an audience of 5000.¹⁸⁶ How many adults, today, can think back to a moment in time when they thought they were saved? Were they really...without any real repentance?

Escaping the Great Tribulation. There are at least three theories on how believers will escape the great tribulation: 1) rapture (note that not all Catholics believe in this Protestant belief), 2) being protected wherever they may be as the Israelites were

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protected in Goshen during the 7 plagues), and 3} fleeing to physical protection in the wilderness per Daniel 11:41.

Do many think that merely accepting Christ and attending church one hour a week will punch their ticket to heaven for a rapture to escape the tribulation? Read what Corrie Ten Boom, author of *The Hiding Place*, has to say about Western Christianity:

There are some among us teaching there will be no tribulation that the Christians will be able to escape all this. These are the false teachers that Jesus was warning us to expect in the latter days. Most of them have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world. I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution... In China, the Christians were told, "Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be translated-raptured." Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death. Later, I heard a Bishop from China say, sadly, We have failed.

We should have made the people strong for persecution, rather than telling them Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes, to stand and not faint.—Corrie Ten Boom¹⁸⁷

In 2019 Dave Daubenmire wrote:

I call it The Rapture Hammock...one of the most selfish doctrines ever to come down the highway to hell...the idea that your salvation is secure and that soon you will be one of the select few to leave this earth while all of your unsaved family and friends are left alone to fight the forces of hell. What kind of Christian could be so selfish as to think that way? Is it possible to even be a Christian and not fight for a righteous standard for others?¹⁸⁸

I am reminded of Paul's writing:

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I can only wonder if these same people will remain faithful should all hell break out in Western Society. When many churches have already ignore or abrogate basic Scripture commands and cannot take a stand against the evil that is now occurring in their own nations...will their members be able to make a moral stand as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did? What do you think?

[T]he Hebrews did not view salvation as deliverance from this world. Their commitment was not to escape this life, but to know God's power and presence, which could transform both their lives and their society.—Marvin Wilson¹⁸⁹

Many coming into Hebrew Roots® bring their prior religious traditions with them. That is natural. We need to go beyond just the hearing and study of His Words because we gain a better understanding of them when we live by *doing* His commandments in our daily lives (Psalm 111:10; Rom 2:13).

I know and also have heard reports of Hebrew Roots® adherents *working* on the Sabbath Day. (Please note: Do *not* immediately quit one's job without counseling with

another mature believer in the faith. I do believe that our Father does exhibit forbearance and patience.) Do some think that there is no need to step out in faith to trust God to rest on the Sabbath? Some will not trust God to supply their economic needs, yet sustain a trust that God will whisk them away in the future from tribulation and persecution. What if the rapture does not happen? Will they abandon the faith to another new one yet to arise (Dan 11:36-37)? It is natural for people to look for an easy way out. The only way out, however, is through a living faith as a fruit of His Holy Spirit, today. This goes beyond just doing the physical observances of *Torah* (Isa 1:16-17). The story of ancient Israel in the wilderness is written for our example, today (1 Cor 10:11). The examples of other believers, today, who have chosen to wait on the Father to supply their needs should also be considered..

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

The "who's your daddy" issue starts at the very beginning:

Genesis 3:11: "Who told thee that you were naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou should not eat?"

As adults, **who is it telling us** what should we eat (and drink)—and what "the law" is? Is it God though His Word or religious men who teach according to their traditions, political power agendas, egos, definitions of success, and sad to say, even lies which are justified to further their agendas—not God's? Who told you that an all knowing and all powerful Creator later changed and trashed a holy, just, good, righteous law (Ps 119:172, Rom 7:12) constructed in truth and uprightness? God does not change (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8). Could not God foresee the heart of man that He created with a mind to think and reason when Adam was told not to eat from that tree? Sure He could.

The controversial issue today for many to think about is *which law* do we repent from breaking? Is it the 613 Old Testament "Laws"¹⁹⁰ (many of which are not applicable to everyone), the 1050 New Testament "Laws"¹⁹¹ (which are applicable to mostly everyone), the Ten Commandments, the Nine Commandments, or some other combination?

A SIMPLE ANSWER

When we repent it is an acknowledgment that we are to begin obeying God. This means obeying His words, His instructions =Torah = laws as the word Torah is commonly understood.

Mat 5:17-19 Think not [i.e. stop thinking about it!] that I am come to destroy the law [the Torah], or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass [heaven and earth are still here...the last time I woke up...right?], **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.** (The word fulfilled is explored in the Core Difference #2) 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall **be called the least in the kingdom of heaven** [they will still be in the kingdom though] : but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven

Try explaining to a police officer and the judge that your physical father kept and fulfilled the speed limit and you are no longer obligated to keep it physically—but only in the "spirit." Good luck! What does one repent of when Christ did away with the law?

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

An answer to the 41,000 Christian denominations, the 700+ Messianic-Jewish congregations of which each have varying beliefs and observances which are not always in agreement with others and the HR divisions is Scripturally straightforward: Christ did not come to fulfill the law so others may discard it or use it as a club to police others.

2. Christ did not "do away" with "the Law"

Jesus Christ did not come to do away/destroy the Law (i.e. Torah)¹⁹² Salvation comes through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, not by the works of the law; however, believers are rewarded according to their fruits and works.¹⁹³

The believers walk is a walk of faith.

Rom 4:2-3 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, **but that which is through the faith of Christ**, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith** without the deeds of the law.

2 Cor 5:7 For **we walk by faith**, not by sight.

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just shall live by his faith.**

The believer's walk does *not* condone lawlessness.

Christian objections to the Law can revolve around a few key questions

especially when asked in a derogatory fashion; such as:

1. Do you sacrifice animals? No. There is no temple in Jerusalem to sacrifice. Plus the Holy Spirit within us make us the living temple. Furthermore, Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for us.
2. Do you believe in stoning your children? No. Even in ancient Israel there was a judicial system which prohibited vigilante justice. We no longer live in a theocracy, however, we all live under governmental authority.

These answers do not invalidate the entire Torah. They reveal that some parts of the Torah are just not applicable today to a people *not* under a theocracy, in exile, without a priesthood, a temple, and subject to the laws of a nation in which they live.

The Bible is always easy to understand when one is looking for salvation. It is not always easy to clearly understand when we wish to justify our actions and take on the hard to understand verses when we do not wish to obey even the simple verses. Then the Bible can be a minefield. Not all topics (marriage, prophecy, commandments, etc) are arranged in one tidy Bible chapter that describes everything one needs to know. Perhaps that is one reason why web sites can be devoted to many Bible contradictions of which many can be easily explained when people do not even take the time to study.

Controversial Scriptures and Issues Summarily Answered

Now that these two questions are answered, additional *summary* answers are provided to explain why HR adherents do *not* believe that the law is "done away" and/or cannot be kept today. Reference sources to ministries which provide more exhaustive answers are referenced in the end notes. For easier reference, I have chosen to list Scriptures and issues in alphabetical format.

Acts 11. This vision instructs Peter to accept Gentiles into the faith. **Verses 28** reveals that this vision is *not* an instruction that it is now permissible to eat unclean foods. If one claims being gay is an abomination, one must be reminded that there are 20+ other abominations listed in Scripture.¹⁹⁴ Some excuse the eating of the pork and shrimp and the other abominations yet are quick to condemn gay relationships. God does not change.

I Corinthians 9:19-23 I was informed at a denominational Bible study that Paul only performed the sacrifices in Acts 21:21 to avoid offending the Jews and be all things to all people. Here is a common viewpoint:

Thus the apostle varied his manner of labor, shaping his message to the circumstances under which he was placed. After patient labor he was successful to a large degree; yet there were many who would not be convinced. Some there are today who will not be convinced by any method of presenting the truth;—
Ellen G. White¹⁹⁵

I would have to be one of the ones who are not convinced. At this Bible study I replied that this was unethical for a person to conduct himself in such a manner that was not consistent with his/her beliefs. Paul is considered a Jew (from Judea) and technically is also a Benjamite. The key words are “under the law.” He does not say under grace. Notice carefully that though we are under grace believers are still obligated to be lawful.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid.**

I elaborate on this elsewhere.

II Corinthians 3:13 Other translations add clarity over the King James Version which states “to the end of that which is abolished.”

2 Cor 3:13b what was being brought to an end. (ESV)
2 Cor 3:13b at the end of what was fading away. (ISV)
2 Cor 3:14b it is passing away. (TLV)

Acts 15 and 21. See Core Difference #3.

Blessings and Curses. Obeying God brings blessings (Deut 28:1-2, 6:1-3). Yeshua stated that if we love Him we are to keep his commandments (John 14:15, etc.). These commandments are given for our own good, i.e. blessings.

Dan 9:11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; **therefore the curse is poured upon us,**

There are physical laws like the law of gravity. We do not go jumping off of a tall cliff and expect to be “blessed” upon landing below. I would think that the Creator does not wish his sons and daughters to go about disrupting his beautiful created universe because we think it should be modified our way—conflict with his already established laws on quantum physics or begin manipulating DNA genes to create genetically modified organisms. Chaos would eventually result.

We can deduce some of these physical laws by observation and experience. That is not always the case with spiritual laws which need to be divinely revealed.

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We need keep in mind that not all blessings may be given in this life. Abraham did not see his inheritance fulfilled in his lifetime. Obeying God is not always comfortable. He can chastise His begotten sons (Heb 12:7-8). Yeshua is a pruner (John 15:1-2) That can hurt along with trials, persecutions, etc.

We need to endure (Matt 13:13) and trust in Him. We need to examine ourselves from time to time especially at Passover (II Cor 13:5). Believers experience death among believing family members, serious diseases, job losses, losses of homes, etc. Financial success may take years of effort in preparing one's career. God is not a rabbit's foot or a genie in a lamp beckoned to respond to any wish.

C.S.Lewis said something interesting in this regard. He said that when a man calls on God, it is usually just to clear up a few issues, to relive this pain, that ache, solve this weakness. But when we call upon God, he moves into the house with ladders, saws, hammers, and starts knocking down walls and rebuilding the whole house. And that process is very painful.—Ronald L. Dart.¹⁹⁶

The question arises as to how is one rewarded by being blessed?

Deut 6:24 And YHVH (the LORD) commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that **He might preserve us alive** (H2421 *chayah*: to live—not die prematurely!)

What is the opposite of prolonged? A life cut-short by any one of today's maladies and misfortunes. Nevertheless, believers still face premature death by any one of many circumstances. Should we lose faith? No.

Disobedience brings curses—the opposite of being blessed. That is easy to understand. How many curses have been visiting the USA composed of 70% who claim to be Christian and follow the 10 commandments?

HR believes that blessings comes through keeping the *Torah*. Not through abstaining from or following man-made rules and traditions (e.g. dancing, card playing, paying tithes to churches, shunning modern conveniences, etc). On the other hand (and sad to say) many in HR (especially new believers) are into preaching the Gospel of the Torah (for lack of a better term). That is *not* the gospel message.

Prosperity Gospel. Blessings are not be misconstrued with a "name it and claim it" prosperity gospel.¹⁹⁷ Of course God wishes us to prosper (Deut 29:9, John 10:10, III John 1:2). As numerous other Scriptures attest, the above Scriptures do not mean that all will become "rich" in this age. Tribulation and trials (Acts 14:22; I Peter 1:7), whether a result of our own actions, others or given by God, enable us to overcome, grow spiritually, mentally and emotionally and to be a light and as salt to the world. *Life is tough for all of us.* We are in His hands once we have given ourselves to Him. Dennis Prager has this to say about life and our relationship with the Creator:

It is almost impossible to overstate the importance of the meaning of the word "Israel." It means "struggle (*yisra*) with God (*eI*)." That God would bestow this name on His People could only mean God assumes—even expects—those who believe in Him to struggle with Him.—Dennis Prager¹⁹⁸

He allows us to struggle with Him as the wrestling match indicates in Genesis 32:28. Is it OK to become angry and frustrated with God? Really? Check out the Psalms which reveal such, such as Psalm 44:

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Psa 44:23-25 Awake, why sleep thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.
24 Wherefore hide thou thy face, and forget our affliction and our oppression? 25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaved unto the earth.

God does expect us to reason with him. This is why he gave us the ability to think and challenge. Otherwise, why would He not think we would use these abilities with Him?

Isa 1:18a Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:

Among the Torah instructions is tithing. Many speak about "the principle" of tithing in order to be blessed financially, or sowing a "seed." Let us not forget the Scriptural definition of the seed in Luke 8:11

Luke 8:11 ...The seed is the word of God.

Tithing is an OT law and it is defined as being a product of the land. That is simple to understand. Not all people were anciently directly engaged in agriculture, mining, or fishing. People also had occupations as carpenters, stonecutters, makers of jewelry clothing, etc) which were not products directly derived from the land, but instead from their own hands. Salaries are not included in tithing—only the agricultural produce (Lev 27:30-32, Deut 4:2). Although tithing is mentioned in the NT, it is based upon the Levitical Priesthood of Israel receiving the tithe—not today's Christian ministers (See [Hebrews](#) below).¹⁹⁹ The Jewish people also recognize that tithing is not required today because there is no temple. Yet the Jews have been noted to be very generous in their giving.

Tithing is a *Torah* instruction which is cherry-picked by churches for their benefit. Will one be blessed by giving to others? Yes...in one way or another. It is a sin, though, to *add* to the *Torah* (Deut 4:2; 12:32) and claim it is to be paid to someone else (*diminish*) other than the Levites and from something more than the fruit of the ground.

Only Christ is after the order of Melchizedek. One cannot pay tithes to heaven. Otherwise, perhaps every believing disciple should be a priest. Perhaps every believing disciple is (1 Peter 2:9)? (Do church leaders even use the word priest outside of the Catholic church?)

We do need to give (Acts 20:35) cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7) to those in need and not forget those who spiritually labor as teachers and shepherds. Many others have taught on the aspect of giving of which I do not need to reiterate.

Ceremonial Law. (see Law of Moses and Malachi 4:4).

Colossians 2:8-12. God's commandments and written Torah are *never* referred to as either "rudiments of the world" and "philosophy." Nor do these words refer to the Oral Torah. These words refer to pagan beliefs and worldly philosophy. Thayer gives a better definition that Strong on the Greek word *stoicheion* (G4747) used for rudiments. Particularly note 1b and 1c below:

1) any first thing, from which the others belonging to some series or composite whole take their rise, an element, first principal...

1b) the elements from which all things have come, the material causes of the universe

1c) the heavenly bodies, either as parts of the heavens or (as others think) because in them the elements of man, life and destiny were supposed to reside

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1d) the elements, rudiments, primary and fundamental principles of any art, science, or discipline...”

Paul goes on to explain in [verses 11](#) and [12](#) that these pagan practices were forgiven and washed away in baptism when a person accepted Christ.

Colossians 2:13-22. There are various interpretations on these controversial Scriptures. Christians believe they refer to the 613 Old Testament Commandments (the *Torah*). Seventh Day Adventists and Sabbath keeping Churches of God correctly believe it was the handwritten book of the law with its blessings and curses that was placed outside of the ark of the covenant (Deut 31:26)—and not in the ark with the Ten Commandments. But carefully note that both were placed within the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Wouldn't the book also contain the words of the Ten Commandments? I just ask the question.

Perhaps God wished to distinguish His directly spoken words to the people from those words He gave to Moses. The book of the law could then serve as a reminder that the people "stood afar off" in fear when they heard God, and then requested that Moses do the listening for them (Ex. 20:18-20; Deut 5:5, 25-28).

Eddie Chumney addresses Colossians [v13-15](#) to teach it was not the traditional common teaching that the law was nailed to the cross, nor was keeping the law a curse which could not be kept that was nailed to the cross. Instead the curse was the penalty for sin when we break the Torah. A curse is brought upon us when we sin (Deut 28:15-67) and break the Torah while keeping the Torah brought blessings (Deut 28:1-14).²⁰⁰ Recall Matthew 5:17-19 with its "blessing" and "curse.”

v.14 History. The history of the times reveals more about Paul's statement of "nailing it to the cross." It is related to Roman crucifixions. We discover that the phrase was a "writing" (KJV), a "written code" (NIV), or record (or certificate) of debt that was owed and nailed to the top of the cross as a legal document that read 'Jesus the Nazarene: King of the Jews' (John 19:19).²⁰¹

The Greek expression translated "handwriting of ordinances" is *cheirographon tois dogmasin*. *Cheirographon* refers to "a hand-written document, specif. a certificate of indebtedness" and can be translated as "account, record of debts" (BDAG Lexicon). So Colossians 2:14 means that the sacrificial death of Christ "cancelled the record of our debts"—the death penalty of our sins (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domains). —United Church of God²⁰²

Cheirographon is a compound word: *Cheir* meaning “hand” and *grapha* meaning “write.”

In other words, Jesus was being crucified for claiming to be the king of the Jews (John 19:15).

Why did the Pharisees want Christ to rebuke His disciples? They were calling Him King! (Luke 19:38-39). There is yet more to say about [verse 14](#):

In our modern justice systems, a parallel to the "handwriting of ordinances" (King James Version) would be a formal written order of a death sentence issued after the evidence against the accused criminal—in this case, us—had been

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examined. This verse “speaks of a death warrant rightfully issued because we have all sinned by transgressing God's spiritual law (1 John:3:4, Rom 3:20).²⁰³

Furthermore, the Greek word *cheirographon* appears only once in Scripture including the Septuagint. The word does appear in extra-Biblical ^B Greek documents as a legal term referring to “written evidence of a person’s guilt in a courtroom.”²⁰⁴ From the middle (*tou mesou*) of the courtroom the accuser would present the evidence. These same Greek words comprise another legal term and are translated as “out of the way” in verse 14.²⁰⁵

We have all earned the death sentence since "the wages of sin is death" (Romans:6:23), but it is forgiven with repentance and faith in Y'shua.

"It is finished." Jesus cried out “It is finished” (John 19:30) from the Cross. This expression (“It is finished”) is the Greek term *tetelestai*, which literally meant “paid in full.” NT scholar Edwin Blum writes about the secular meaning for the phrase:

Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word *tetelestai* written across them, meaning ‘paid in full.’ This word on Jesus’ lips was significant. When He said, ‘It is finished’ (not ‘I am finished’), He meant His redemptive work was completed.²⁰⁶

When a Roman citizen was convicted of a crime, he was thrown into prison.

A "Certificate of Debt" listing all his crimes was nailed to his cell door so that anyone passing by could know what he had been accused of and the penalty assessed.

When the prisoner had served his sentence and was released from bondage, the indictment was taken down from the door and the judge who had put him in prison would sign the indictment and write across it the word TETELESTAI.

The freed prisoner was then given this document and if questioned as to why he was out of jail, he could point to the indictment across which the judge had written TETELESTAI —Bill Rieser, Pastor.²⁰⁷

The prisoner’s debt to society had been paid. Dr Chuck Missler, Christian theologian, provides additional information about the Roman “Certificate of Debt”:

"Prison guards were responsible for the sentences of their prisoners, if one escaped, they would have to pay the debt. When prisoners were done with their time, the court would sign their Certificate of Debt as “Paid in Full” (*Tetelestai*). Thus, this jailer was going to kill himself as he thought all the prisoners were gone, and thus, he himself would have to fulfill all their sentences!" —Chuck Missler²⁰⁸

When the angel of the Lord rescued Peter and Peter, Herod went even further and put the keepers of the jail to death (Acts 12:6-19).

So we see when Christ had accomplished “all things” in fulfilling the 300 Messianic prophecies of His coming and was crucified, the Certificate of Debt was paid in full:

^B Books which exist outside of the Bible

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Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, **that all things must be fulfilled**, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, **concerning me.**

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that **all things were now accomplished** (*tetelestai*, G055), that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.**

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (see also Acts 13:29) G5055 *tetelestai* (*Greek interlinear*) to *end*, that is, *complete, execute, conclude, discharge* (a debt):

Hebraic Roots Teacher Eddie Chumney writes about how the phrase relates to the temple high priest placing a knife to the throat of the Passover lamb (Ex 12:6) and saying the words "It is finished" for a peace offering (John 19:30, Matt.27:45-46,50).²⁰⁹

On the other hand, D. Thomas Lancaster of the Firstfruits of Zion writes that the high priest stating "It is finished" is a myth and *cannot* be substantiated in any Jewish writings.²¹⁰

v.14 Mistranslation. Koine Greek Koine means "common." It later became the common language of the ancient Mediterranean Sea area after the conquests of Alexander the Great. Greek is a precise language with words that convey specific meanings.

This form of Greek is among the most descriptive and precise language ever spoken. God used Koine Greek as the original language of the New Testament. It is very difficult to not understand the meaning of Koine Greek Grammar because of the many exact rules of this great language.—Rev. Ronald D. Lesley²¹¹

Greek is just the opposite [of Hebrew], is incredibly precise. It has the largest vocabulary of any language on the planet earth. Every verb has to go through five specific type requirements (constraints). It's a highly rigid but therefore highly precise language. It has nuances of meaning that off take several sentence to get the equivalent of in English.—Dr Chuck Missler²¹²

Greek, now, is a **very complex**, very specific, and analytical.—Dr. D.A. Waite²¹³ (His emphasis)

Greek is a very precise language because it has so many connectives. They connect thoughts (clauses, sentences, and paragraphs). They are so common that their absence (asyndeton) is often exegetically significant. As a matter of fact, these conjunctions and connectors show the direction of the author's thought. They often are crucial in determining what exactly he is trying to communicate.—Bible Lessons International²¹⁴

Hebrew: In contrast, the meanings of Hebrews words can depend on the context in which they are used according to linguist Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministries. Rob Skiva describes the language as being very complex with each Hebrew letter having 7 meanings and each Hebrew word having as many as 70 meanings.²¹⁵ The ancient

paleo-Hebrew lends itself to further defining the meanings of Hebrew words as Dr Frank Seekins describes in his book *Hebrew Word Pictures*. Chuck Missler explains:

Hebrew is very emotional, very descriptive in a deep sense, but it lends itself to word games deliberately so. —Dr Chuck Missler ²¹⁶

Now let us continue with verse 14.

The Greek word for "ordinances" is *dogma* (G1378) which is only used 5 times in the NT and is translated as ordinances (2x) and decrees (3). The word is primarily associated with its use as the "decree" and "degree's" of Caesar (Luke 2:1; Acts 17:7) and a "decree" of the Apostles (Acts 16:4).²¹⁷ The English word decree should also have been used in v14. Should "decree" also be used instead of the word ordinances in Colossians verse 20? As we will discover in the commentary on Ephesians 2:15 below, the word *dogma* is indicative of man-made commands and decrees in Colossians. It is *not* "commandments" or "law."

v16 "Let no man condemn you." (note some translations state "anyone judge you"). Many teach that "the clear and main meaning of the text is that no one is to judge them as to whether or not they observe these days." No one knows of whom the Colossian believers were judging. Perhaps they were the Torah Police judging other Torah believers on how to keep these days. With the mention of food and drink we can only wonder if this is a pointed reference to judging whether believers were observing the Pharisaical added oral traditions of men, i.e. the Oral Torah/Talmud. We just do not know.

This verse does not say do not keep the feasts, Sabbath, or new moons as is commonly taught. It says no one should judge them. This is a classic example of *eisegesis*—of reading one's interpretation into a verse without exploring its context. Paul wrote different letters to different congregations with different issues. Keep the following point in mind from F.F. Bruce:

The injunctions in such occasional documents as Paul's letters were never intended to be applied as canon law to personal or communal life at all times and all places.—F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*. 1988.

Some Sabbath observers teach that the Sabbath mentioned in this verse is one of the annual Sabbaths, but not the 7th day Sabbath. But...does it really say that? The word is the same wherever the word Sabbath appears in the NT.

The context reveals that Paul repeats the word "man" ("any man," "no man) in verses 4, 8, 16 18, 22). Continuing on [follow the train of thought here] **..".but the body of Christ."** (not a "man" or an individual doing as he wishes). The body is the ecclesia (Matt 18:17)—not a select part (i.e. the ministry) of it. If it is a body of Christ making the doctrinal decision, which one is it out of 41,000 denominations so that one would not be criticized by the remaining 40,999 as not following Christ?

There are many Christians, including Messianic Jews, such as Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik, who beg to differ:

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In an Oscar-winning performance, some One Law teachers twist this text into an exhortation to the Colossians to keep these practices so well that no one would be able to judge them!— Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik ²¹⁸

Paul's Writings. Some of Paul's writings were meant for all at all times, and some only to whom he was writing at that time. They were not meant to be theological treatises

1) As with many of Paul's writings, we do *not* know what questions or issues he was addressing in his letters. Issues which may well have arise as a result of his prior oral teachings. Like the television game show *Jeopardy...* we need to ask questions:

2) **2 Pet 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

If even Peter states the above, does it mean that it would be easier for the average Christian today? Theologians have struggled over Paul's theology on the law with no consensus even with the normal tools of exegesis. The rejection of God's law as way of salvation is the common understanding among many Christians. ²¹⁹

3) Paul speaks to them who knows the law who would be familiar with the Torah:

Rom 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, **(for I speak to them that know the law,)** how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he lives?

Believers are often instructed to begin reading the New Testament. Many churches are geared to teaching the NT. How many Christians are actually familiar with the Torah and the OT? Yet Christians who admit they are mainly ignorant of the OT, will claims to understand Paul and his theology about the law. Hmm. I recall learning the below verse from my first years in the faith.

Psa_111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: **a good understanding have all they that do his commandments:** his praise endures for ever.

Does each believer follow their own conscience and do what they wish to do? If that is the case, then why does it matter if what one drinks, eats or observes? We would be a law unto ourselves.

4) Who is Paul really defending: the *Torah* keeping believers or the non-*Torah* and heathen believers? Follow the context back to verse 4 (being beguiled by men) and verse to gain the perspective into verse 16. ²²⁰

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you **through philosophy** and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men** (this could also include Jewish traditions), **after the rudiments of the world,** and not after Christ.

Paul defended himself in Acts when others claimed he no longer followed Torah:

Acts 24:12-14 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: **13** Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. **14** But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

Paul kept and taught the Torah and had many positive statements about the law.. His false accusers offered no proof contrary to the fact.

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Acts 25:8 While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at anything at all.^c

5) Paul's writings represent only 5% of the Bible. The entire Biblical context must be considered.

6) Mathew 5:17, 19:7

7) Paul is criticizing the misuse of the law.

18 The Hebraic Holy Days are a typology—a foreshadowing of things to come. They foreshadow the reality. If you do not know what the reality is, the shadows are a guide. We need to ask ourselves some questions.

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

If these days are all fulfilled (as many claim)—are we now living in the millennium—as Sukkot pictures?

Has Christ already come the second time—which is what Trumpet pictures? If so, Why the millennium at all?

What about Atonement and the Eighth Day?

Why would these Holy Days be "done away" in order to observe pagan holidays and customs of which there is no future fulfillment—and to which God objects (Deut 12:29-31)?

If the *Torah* Holy days are fulfilled by Christ (as taught by many), have not Easter Christmas and the 4th of July been fulfilled as well?

Prophecy is *dual* in application in many instances. 20 God's commandments are *never* referred to as "rudiments of the world." (See [Colossians 2:8-10](#) above.) They are given many positive statements throughout the Scriptures. Note also the question being asked. 21 Note Paul's own answer to his own question in verse 22. 22 Paul writes about the "*commandments and doctrines of men*," probably either gnosticism²²¹ or vegetarianism (see v16 "meat," also I Tim 4:3-5, Rom 14:1-7+)—not clean and unclean foods. Gnostics regarded things involving physical and sensory pleasures, such as eating food (which is what feast days entail) as evil. Though we do not know, Paul could have even been referring to Jewish traditions and commandments as both he and Christ also mention elsewhere:

Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Nehemia Gordon explains his answer to [verses 21 and 22](#) as to primarily referring to wine since Paul is speaking to Jews. Paul must be referring to a Jewish context and not pagan myths. Nehemia tells the story of a gentile friend being invited to a Jewish Passover (Seder) dinner. After the friend passed an open bottle of wine the host family had to discard the wine because he had touched the bottle and made it unkosher. After he was duly informed of this, he later told the family that he helped set the table and handled all the bottles of wine. The family then discarded all of the wine!²²²

^c Also see I Tim 2:15 Acts 24:12-14; 28:17

The Babylonian Talmud Abodah Zarah 70a and 72b addresses whether wine may be used or whether it should be disposed of if the thieves may have been gentiles (which would make the wine unclean and unfit for use by Jews)

One thing to again remember about Paul's letters: we only know his responses to issues. We do not know the questions he was addressing.

Ephesians 2:8-10 The fourth-century church though various church Councils added a number of "truths" that one must believe in order to be saved.²²³ Did they change the Scripture to state, in essence, "by grace are you saved through faith *in the established set of creeds.*" ?

Only grace can save, not our works, but we are created to do good works. There are two types of works: good and bad.. As Paul explains:

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shall not covet.

1 Titus 6:18 That they do good, that they be **rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

In the context of Romans 7, Paul goes on to explain that we have two natures battling between us with law serving as our reference to convict us of bad works.

Rom 7:10-12 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. 12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Read the remaining verses of this chapter to see the battle of these two natures.

James explains the connection between works and faith:

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

Paul establishes that the law is "not done away." We need faith in Christ that through His Spirit can help us keep the *spiritual* intent of the law:

Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Ephesians 2:14-15. One reason Paul is difficult to understand is that he refers to the Jewish culture and oral traditions (Talmud) of the day. **14..".brake down the middle wall of partition."** In the Jerusalem Temple, there was a small wall; which separated the inner courts from the Court of the Gentiles described by Josephus. The Mishnah also refers to the middle wall of partition which divided the original courtyard from an expansion by Herod.

These two courts were separated by a low wall, as Josephus states, some 4-1/2 feet high...a stone was discovered by M. Ganneau in 1871, built into the wall, bearing the following inscription... "No stranger is to enter within the partition wall and enclosure around the sanctuary. *Whoever* is caught will be responsible to himself for his death, which will ensue.—*Easton's Bible Dictionary.*

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The stone was a 22" x 33" engraved block of limestone discovered near the Lion's Gate and described in Middot 2.1.²²⁴ Josephus also described the wall of partition:

When you go through these [first] cloisters, to the second [court of the] temple, there was a partition made of stone all around, whose height was three cubits: its construction was very elegant; upon it stood pillars, at equal distances from one another, declaring the law of purity, some in Greek, and some in Roman letters, that "no foreigner should go within that sanctuary;" for that second [court of the] temple was called "the Sanctuary.—Josephus, *The Jewish War* 5:193–194.



It is important to note that this "middle wall" is *absent* from diagrams of the first temple. A partition exists even today between men and women praying at the western wall in Jerusalem.²²⁶

The stranger was the Gentile. This reveals the class degree of separation and discrimination between the two peoples. [See Gal 2:11-14 and especially Acts 10:28 where the word "unlawful" refers to the "Oral Law" (Talmud)—not the Torah]. There is *nothing* in the Torah regarding the separation of Israelites and *believing* Gentiles. Instead of bringing all mankind and nations to worship God in unity, the Jew's jealousy wanted to keep them at arm's length from God as second class citizens/believers. This can promote inequality and disunity.

15 "having abolished in the flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances (G1378=*dogma*); that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace;" This verse refers to man-made law(s) (i.e. Talmud, the religious systems *dogma* commandments not the *Torah*=instruction) **including** that which was also posted on the temple middle wall.²²⁷ Refer to the Greek word *dogma* in Colossian 2:14 that is used again here for the word ordinances.

Next examine the context in verse 14—which was what? Answer: The middle wall of partition which was a *dogma* of the Jewish rabbis. The *dogma* was also an enmity! This had nothing to do with the Old Testament "ritual" observances which are claimed to be abolished in this verse by many believers

Noahide Laws. Ever consider why many cultures have flood stories, but none of these cultures know about the Noahide laws? Why not? Because the Noahide Laws (Gen 9:1-3) come from Rabbinic Judaism.

The Jewish idea of “Noahide laws”²²⁸ that apply to Gentiles/non-Jews is a further reflection of this dividing wall. Their idea that the *Torah* only applied to the Jewish people is contrary to the *Torah*. The Noahide laws represent a cast system that teaches non-Jews are not capable of worshipping God as Jews do and are incapable of attaining a relationship with God as Jew does.

Isn't there something wrong when the Jews are the only ones to receive the blessings in keeping the commandments, and other (Gentiles) do not need to be blessed?

According to the Noahide Laws one would be guilty of idolatry if one believes in Jesus Christ.

One would also be worthy of death should they study the Torah and/or keep the Sabbath:

Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, since the Noahide laws do not mention homosexuality and the inhabitants were not Israelites?

R. Johanan said: A heathen who studies the Torah deserves death, for it is written, Moses commanded us a law for an inheritance; 2 it is our inheritance, not theirs.”—Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Sanhedrin Folio 59a²²⁹

Resh Lakish also said: A heathen who keeps a day of rest [i.e. the Sabbath day], deserves death, for it is written, And a day and a night they shall not rest,³⁶ and a master has said: Their prohibition is their death sentence.³⁷ Rabina said: Even if he rested on a Monday. Now why is this not included in the seven Noachian laws? — Only negative injunctions are enumerated, not positive ones.— Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Sanhedrin Folio 58b²³⁰

The Noahide laws replace the Ten Commandments for non-Jews. Doesn't this appear to be just another reiteration of rejecting Sabbath keeping? Consider that nothing in the Noahide laws mention homosexual behavior. How could God then hold Sodom and Gomorrah liable for this sin? This fact alone reveals the man-devised nature of the Noahide laws and the applicability of the Torah to non-Jews. Only God can change the heart. As with any sin that is a result of the carnal heart, it is necessary for a homosexual to refrain from such acts and appeal to God through His Holy Spirit to change one's heart.

The Noahide laws serve as a middle dividing wall which is contrary to His instructions in Leviticus 19:33-34:

Lev 19:33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not do him wrong. 34 The stranger that sojourns with you shall be unto you as the home-born among you, and thou shall love him as thyself; for ye were sojourners in the land of Egypt: I am Jehovah your God.

These verses bring into remembrance Israel's sojourn in Egypt where they did not like being oppressed as foreigners. For more on this dividing wall and its impact upon the Ten Commandments, please read Distinctive Core Difference #7.

Many think the U.S. was founded on the Ten Commandments and the Hebrew Bible, however, here is what Congress stated in 1991:

The U.S. Congress officially recognized the Noahide Laws in legislation that was passed by both houses. Congress and the President of the U. S., George Bush, indicated in Public Law 102-14, 102nd Congress, that the United States of America was founded upon the Seven Universal Laws of Noah, and that these Laws have been the bedrock of society from the dawn of civilization. They also acknowledged that the Seven Laws of Noah are the foundation upon which civilization stands and that recent weakening of these principles threaten the fabric of civilized society, and that justified preoccupation in educating the Citizens of the U.S. of America and future generations is needed. For this purpose, this Public Law designated March 26, 1991 as Education Day.²³¹

Exodus 21:2, 7 Native Africans were literally stolen to be slaves. Remember the story of Kunte Kinte in the famous 1976 TV series “Roots”? The slavery pictured today is *not* the slavery taught in Scripture. Stealing men was punishable by death.

Exo 21:16 And he that steal a man, and sells him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.

Most probably to show his concern for the lowly, God addressed servitude in Exodus 21 immediately after the 10 commandments were given in Exodus 20.

The Hebrew word *ebed* (H5650) may be translated as slave or servant as in referring to Moses as the servant of God (II Chron 1:3). The term slave can also be better understood as the term “indentured servant.” One could compare this to a contract worker today. Did you know that about 50%-67% of the colonists arriving in America from the time of the Puritans to the American Revolution were indentured. They wished to escape poverty or seek a new life and were too poor to pay their own way to America. So they sold themselves to others for a period of time to repay this debt.²³²

Unfortunate financial circumstance can hit any one of us. When this happens, the Torah addresses the act of “selling oneself” (as in Israelite in the temporary servitude as a type of “hired hand” to another to pay one’s debts. This is not slavery. The debtee is required to provide for this man or woman almost as one provides for their family.

Verse 7 addresses the aspect of a man and wife in poverty selling his daughter as a servant or wife in another household to pay such a debt. Remember, it was not until the last few if not several hundred years that Western Civilization has let a person chose their own mate rather than having it predetermined by the parents or others. It protects the woman by allowing her the right of redemption (as a man is also accorded by the Torah every 7 years and at the Jubilee). It also protects her dignity and rights by denying her resale and use as a sexual slave. I refer you to the commentary by Dennis Prager in his book *Exodus: The Rational Bible* for an excellent description of this practice.²³³

This provision only pertains to Israelites. It does not pertain to foreigners who may be acquired as slaves for life. Current national laws in many nations today prohibit any form of slavery.²³⁴ Nehemia Gordon states:

I know some people listening to this are saying, “That’s so backward, so primitive. The Torah forced people who stole into slavery. What do we do in America? We send them to prison.” And what I’m going to say now is really controversial, but it’s true. Look it up.

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In the U.S. Constitution [the 13th amendment²³⁵], slavery has not been abolished. There are 3 million slaves today in the United States. That's a fact. Look it up. In the Constitution, it says, when it comes to abolished slavery, it says something to the effect of, "except as a punishment." If you go to prisons where people are forced to work, and certainly are denied their freedom to leave, it's a form of slavery, and it's acknowledged as such in the U.S. Constitution.—Nehemia Gordon²³⁶

Yet many Americans are unaware that over 50 noted American corporations engage in a billion dollar industry by using prison slavery laborers at 50 cents-per-hour and less to reduce costs! Prisoners run call centers, grow produce and other food, make restaurant uniforms and more, plus are subject to overcrowding, lack adequate medical condition and pay high fees for some prison services out of the pittance they receive from working for corporate interests.²³⁷ Today we have a larger percentage of our nation's population in prisons than any other nation in the entire world—including Russia and China. Many are in inhumane solitary confinement. Dr. Stephen Jones tells his story on actively attempting to change the nation's laws on criminals to a more Scripturally based system:

In March of 1981, I teamed up with Ty Hardin (the actor) to walk the halls of the Senate in Washington D.C. and essentially to lobby for God's law. I recall we went to Senator Kennedy's office and asked him to look more closely at restitution programs, rather than prison sentences, in our judicial system. Kennedy was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate at the time. His response was this: "I would love to do this, but every time I suggest it, I get hate mail from the Christians.

That was an eye opener to me. Up to that time, I thought the "liberals" were the problem. I discovered that it was the good ol' Christian conservatives that were the main opposition to the Kingdom of God. Why? Because Christians generally do not know the law, or if they do study it, they misunderstand it. Those who do study it often do so by going to a Jewish rabbi, who gives them an Old Testament perspective, rather than understanding it as Jesus taught it.— Dr. Stephen Jones.²³⁸

Faith and Works. Works of obeying law cannot save. Only by the faith of Christ can one be saved. I underline this to emphasize this point so it is not overlooked by critics. The works, enduring temptation, and overcoming will bring blessings, today (such as a longer physical life), not curses, and will also determine one's reward in the next life. The mere acceptance of Christ, upon repentance, will save, but it will not always excuse oneself from the penalties of a sinful lifestyle (e.g. King David's deaths of his sons) or guarantee rewards in His kingdom of which include being His bride. Nor will it make one equal to one who has been grown in grace and knowledge, the fruit of the Spirit, obedience, and overcoming sins much more in his lifetime. Overcoming sin (evil) and doing good involves works of faith, otherwise how could James have written James 2:14-18 and Hebrews 11 describing the works of faith of others?

James 2:14 What use is it, my brothers, for a man to say that he has faith, if he does nothing? will such a faith give him salvation? 15 If a brother or a sister is without clothing and in need of the day's food, 16 And one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warm and full of food; but you do not give them the things of which their bodies have need, what profit is there in this? 17 Even so faith without works is dead. 18 But a man may say, You have faith and I have works;

let me see your faith without your works, and I will make my faith clear to you by my works.

Hebrews 11:1+ Read the **works** of faith of others.

Being judged *by our works* is mentioned over 50 times in Scripture.

Can a part of the misunderstanding of faith and works be attributed to Martin Luther when He inserted the word "alone" after "faith" in Rom 3:28 "For we hold that a man is justified by faith [alone] apart from works of law."²³⁹ This would, of course, contradict James 2:24 "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." Perhaps *Sola Fide* (faith alone) could be used by some just as well as *Sola Scriptura*?

When we accept Christ as our Savior we have repented of our sins. That does not excuse us to continue in sin as Paul writes in Romans 6:1-2.

To refrain from sinning we received the Holy Spirit to purify our hearts to willingly obey God through His instructions (Torah). The obedience does not save us. Our faith in Christ saves us. Through our obedience we produce the good works of faith (Hebrews 11:1, James 2:24). Faith and good works go hand in hand:

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Neither do the Jews teach that salvation is obtaining by obedience to the Torah.

The rabbinate has never considered the Torah as a way of salvation to God...[we Jews] regard salvation as God's exclusive prerogative, so we Jews are the advocates of pure grace." "Only through God's gracious love" is salvation achieved.— Pinchas Lapide, Jewish scholar of NT studies.²⁴⁰

Faith, Salvation, and the Holy Spirit. Ancient Israel's failure to believe and have faith in their God to deliver them from their trials is recorded for us in Exodus, other OT books and in the NT. Ancient Israel had Y'shua following and leading them, but did not believe and have faith in the signs (Num 14:11) that they were given. Their example (1 Cor 10:6) is a reminder to us not to follow in their footsteps.

Num 14:11 And YHVH (the LORD) said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have showed among them?

1 Cor 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Christianity commonly teaches that the Kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit was not made available until after the crucifixion of Y'shua. Pentecost is then taught as the beginning of the NT church of believers when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles. Christianity also teaches that only obedience to the *Torah* was required of the Israelites and that faith is a NT concept. Chapter 11 of Hebrews reveals that this is not accurate on all counts.²⁴¹

Contrary to Christian teaching, the Gospel was preached to the ancient Israelites. but most failed to have faith in the message (Heb 4:2). How can one have faith without the Holy Spirit when faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)? Job (whose book is probably the oldest in Scripture) had this faith in a future resurrection:

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Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

The "Faith Chapter" reveals many OT personages who had faith, even though the congregation of Israel, as a whole, lacked it; thus the expression "hardness of heart." Many other OT passages describe the admonition to the Israelite nation to have faith in their God. Only a relatively few in the OT were chosen, heeded the word, received His Spirit, and had His law in their hearts as David (Ps 40:8). Many first century Judeans also actively resisted the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51-53; Isa 63:9-10).

OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS	
CHARACTERISTICS	REFERENCES
Believed / Had Faith	Heb 11, Gal 3:2b
Possessed Holy Spirit	Num 11:17; 27:18-19, Deut 34:9, 1 Chron5:20; 2 Kings 18:1-6, Psalm 22:4-5; 25:1-2; 37:3-6;51:9-11
Gospel Preached to them	Gal 3:8, 3:14b, Heb 4:2
Looked Forward to Christ	John 8:56, Job 19:25
Obedied and were considered righteous	Gen 26:5, Matt 13:17. Luke 1:5-6, James 2:20

QUESTION
Is It about Faith...or Not?

Do we BELIEVE IT...or not...when it states:

“I can do *all things* through Christ which strengthens me.” Philip 4:13
Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me....
2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind
Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
2 Tim 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Please refer to the [Old Testament/Torah 613 Laws](#), below, for more on this topic.

QUESTION

Why could not ancient believers look forward into the future to believe in the sacrifice of Y’shua when we can look backward into the past to accept His sacrifice 2,000 years ago?

They could!

Salvation through Jesus Christ / Yeshua Hamaschiach was offered 6,000 years ago and has been available *since the beginning* and is recorded in Gen 3:15.

Gen 15:6 And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness.

The ancient patriarchs, prophets, and priests were able to believe in a future Savior **before** He came in the flesh (e.g. John 8:56, Job 19:25), even as we look back 2000 years to **after** He came in the flesh. They were able to keep His laws (Torah) and commandments (Gen 26:5); were given God's grace ^Dwere considered righteous ^E and blameless (Luke 1:6) before God; had the Holy Spirit ^F spoke through them (2 Sam 23:2) and exercised their faith (Heb 11)—which can only come by the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:22). *In other words they were recipients of the New Covenant even before Mt. Sinai!*

Jewish Rabbis also recognize that the Holy Spirit was available in ancient times:

With the passing of the last three prophets) Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi) the holy spirit departed from Israel.—Tosefta 13:2, Sanhedrin 11a ²⁴²

The Holy Spirit dwells only among a worthy generation, and the frequency of its manifestations is proportionate to the worthiness.—Encyclopedia Judaica

In contrast, theologians generally teach that the Holy Spirit did not dwell *in* but only came *upon* the OT prophets. The church, however, was not born at Pentecost as traditionally taught today. The church (Greek=*ecclesia*; Hebrew=*qahal*) existed in the Old Testament:

Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church (G1577=*ecclesia*) in the wilderness with the angel which spoke to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

It was not until the day of Pentecost, after Christ was resurrected though, that the Holy Spirit was made available to everyone—meaning the Gentiles and not just the Israelites

ANOTHER QUESTION

How can one live by faith in the Old Testament—if faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit?
(Gal. 5:22-23)

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Forgiveness. TV personality and comedian Bill Maher asked the question why Jesus needed to make some corrections to the Old Testament laws—such as stoning of adulterous women to death.²⁴³ Ralph Reed's response was that Christians are under the "New Covenant" and that the stoning law is not mentioned in the NT (which probably would be a similar response of most Christians to similar OT questions). Why then do so many Christians wish to invoke capital punishment which was required in the OT, but not mentioned in the NT either? Is this why some consider God as capricious?

There are two answers to the stoning question. The simple fact is that grafted-in believers of the olive tree along with the lost tribes of Israel, are "in exile" from the land of Israel and its theocratic government. We are all under man's political governance—not God's. We answer to and obey God, first, yet submit ourselves to a secular government's law should there be a conflict. This is why the Pharisees and Sadducees had to take Christ to Pilate for judgment and could not stone Him themselves under the Torah. Furthermore Paul and Christ taught us to render under Caesar and the higher powers. (See Criticisms later in this book.)

Some of these *Torah* instructions, such as stoning, simply cannot be applied to those *not* under a theocratic government. (See also Torah Ignorance in Chapter 6.)

^D Noah, Gen 6:8; Lot, Gen 19:19; Moses, Ex 33:12,17; Gideon, Judge 6:17; All, Ps 84:11);

^E Ps 119:172; Ezk 14:14, 20; 3:20+; Matt 9:13; 2 Peter 2:7; 1 Pet 4:18; 1 John 3:12, etc.

^F Gen 41:38; Num 27:18; Ps 51:11

The second answer is that, forgiveness, like grace, is also found in the *Torah*.

"Thou shall not hate thy brother in your heart: thou shall in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shall not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself: I am YHVH."—Lev 19-17-18.

In the *Torah*, it was the judge's responsibilities to make a ruling on the penalty when a *Torah* law was broken. The law could not forgive sin, it could only enact a penalty. The victim, however, could exact the penalty (the debt, the compensation due) of the Judge's decision from the *Torah* or the victim had the right to forgive the person and excuse the debt—unlike today's judicial system. Only Yeshua can pay that portion of the debt that is owed to God, but the debtor was still required to make a sacrifice for his offence towards God.

For many New Covenant believers, can this serve as an indictment for their unwillingness to forgive—which was the heart of Christ's message to the adulteress, Pharisees, a reflection of the *Torah*, and the cause of a statement in the famous Our Father's Prayer? Do we forgive those who have paid their price once they are released from the prison system, today? Where was the man who was also caught in adultery? Why was only the woman brought before Christ?

Christ's message was the message He gave ancient Israel since He was the God of the OT as Paul teaches (I Cor 10:4, etc). Forgive and love one another from the heart! The message of the Royal Law that James 2:8 writes and to which Y'shua states *all* the law hangs (Matt 22:40)—and the same law He also inspired Moses to write:

Deut 6:5 And thou shall love YHVH (the LORD) thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deut 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear YHVH (the LORD) thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Lev. 19:18 Thou shall not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself: I am YHVH (the LORD).

The noted Rabbis Hillel and Shammai were asked by a Gentile to teach and convert him to all of Judaism while he stood on one foot. Rabbai Shammi pushed him aside with a measuring stick he was holding. Hillel offered his curt reply:

What is hateful to yourself do not do to your fellow man. That is the whole Torah. All the rest is commentary. Now go and study.--Rabbi Hillel, 110BC-10 AD (Babylonia Talmud, Shabbat 31a).

God has always wanted the instructions/law written on one's hearts as they were on David's heart.^G *Remember*: there was *no* NT when James wrote his letter for people to determine the 1050 NT "laws" to obey.

Galatians Overview. One writer has stated:

If you have been influenced by the Hebrew Roots Movement, I urge you to carefully read through the book of Galatians.²⁴⁴

^G Ex 24:12, Matt 4:4, John 17:17) Prov 3:1,3 Psalm 40:8

Previously I have cited statistics pointing out how many people—and believers—are ignorant of the Bible. The above writer is directing others to the hard to understand (II Pet 3:16) writings of Paul. The basics of the Bible and salvation are easy to grasp and understand. We all need to make sure that our religious paradigms do not encourage us to easily interpret difficult scriptures correctly. See the section Paul's Writings in [Colossians 2:13-22](#).

Galatians 2:16 The Galatians were being taught a false gospel (Gal 1:6-7) of justification and had forgotten on how they were justified.²⁴⁵ Circumcision would have one such "work."

Galatians 3:9-25 v9-10 Is one cursed if they honor their parents? If they do *not* commit adultery? Of course not. They are blessed.

v11 Only faith in Christ can save us, *not* the works of the law. Recall that 42% of Evangelicals believe that salvation is only available through grace, not works.²⁴⁶

12 Compare "live in them" with Lev 18:5 "live in them."

13 What is this thing about cursing? Who is really cursed? The answers is provided in Deut 27:26:

Deut 27:26 Cursed be he that confirms not all the words of this law to do them.

And all the people shall say, Amen. See also Deut 28:15-68 & Lev 26:14-39

The curse is **not** the Law itself. The curse is the result of disobedience to the law, inasmuch as blessings are a result of obedience to the law. (See Deut 11:26-28). Is that not what many pastors teach—obedience to the Word? Christ redeemed us from sin and the law's curse—which would require death of the law breaker.

To repeat: The "law" is **not** the "curse." The curse is the penalty for breaking the law. Believers do not have a license to sin (Rom 3:31) which is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4, Rom 3:20).

15-17 Teaches that a later covenant does not annul an earlier covenant. God keeps all of His covenants. It was the heretic Marcion who coined the terms "Old Testament" and "New Testament." Marcion also edited the NT to include only portions of the Book of Luke and edited portions of Paul's epistles to remove "Jewish corruptions" (his words).²⁴⁷ here is no blank page between the two testaments as found in many Bibles.

16 The promises were not made to Gentiles! Yet believers are grafted in as explained in [v26-29](#) and Eph 2:11-13 as partakers of the covenants. We do not become Jewish. But we are subject to the same covenantal responsibilities.

17 Promises were made. The seed is Messiah.

18 A promise is not needed if one is able to perfectly keep the law, but no one spiritual keep them (i.e. in the mind) perfectly.

19. When is the seed first mentioned (Gen 3:15)? Does the book of Genesis tell about the five sacrifices, unclean foods, sins of others, the ten commandments, and a reference to Passover? Yes. This was all before the law of Moses which was "confirmed" (i.e. accepted by Israel at Mt Sinai with additional provisions made to accommodate an entire nation). These additions, beyond the inferences given in the book of Genesis do *not* nullify the promise given to Abraham. God does not break or annul His Covenants, yet He can add to them ([v15-17](#)).²⁴⁸ Can sin exist when there is no law? No, according to Paul in Rom 5:13.

Some think that the law “added” was the sacrificial laws. It would provide an easy answer to v19 when Jeremiah 7:22-24 states:

Jer 7:22-23 For I spoke not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. 23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Note also Exodus 20:24 and 24:5 where sacrifices are mentioned at Mt Sinai plus the following events which occurred prior to Mt Sinai:

Exo 16:28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and **my laws**?

Exo 18:15-16 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: 16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the **statutes of God, and his laws**.

I do have a number of questions but no clear answers for this verse...yet!

Most assume that the intermediary was Moses. What if it was not? The question arises because of verse 20.

Gal 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

Author Michael Heiser posits that the intermediary could have been YHVH in human form.²⁴⁹

Did these laws include sacrifices? Voluntary or involuntary?

The agreement by Israel (Exodus 19:5 to 24:8) with God at Mt. Sinai is called the Book of the Covenant.

Exo 24:7 And he took the **book of the covenant**, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

The people of Israel would have been the Melchizedic Priesthood if they had lived up to the covenant. (Kingdom = King = *Melech* in Hebrew; Priest = Righteous = *Tzadik* in Hebrew: Melech + Tzadik=Melchizedek). Moses was not a Levitical priest even though he was a Levite. A disaster occurred with the sin of the golden calf and the priesthood was consequently given to the Levites in which Aaron was the first high priest.

Was “my [God’s] sacrifice” in Exodus 23:18 the only sacrifice that was required?

Did this refer to offering sacrifices only 24 on the annual days and weekly Sabbaths?

If so what are the offerings and sacrifices offered in Exodus 24:5-6? It appears they were voluntary.

Were Exodus Chapters 21-32 written in chronological order?

I find that the five major sacrifices are mentioned in the Genesis (along with the Ten Commandments and other *Torah* instructions) and begin with Able and Cain. There was no command to offer sacrifices in Genesis.

Many Christians think Gal 3:19 refers to the *Torah* given at Mt Sinai. If so, one is then left with the following question:

QUESTION

What specific charge, commandments, statutes, and laws (Hebrew=*torah*) did Abraham obey (Gen 26:5)?

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The *Torah* gives the answer to this hard question when Gen 26:5 reveals that the word law in Hebrew is *torah*. See [Hebrews 7:12-13](#) for the rest of this explanation.

24 A school master in Greek culture was a man, hired by the parents, to guard a child on the way to his destination—a school in this case. A Levite could have been such a "school master" but he was not a "teacher." He was a type of bodyguard who was responsible for the safety to and from the school.

The English word "pedagogue" (which means tutor) is derived from *paidagogos*, but the terms are not synonymous. The word *paidagogos* is actually a compound consisting of two Greek words. It could literally be translated as "child-conductor" or "someone responsible for the conduct of a child."²⁵⁰

When we examine the other Greek words used in these verses, we discover that the Greek word *phroureo* can be translated in a positive sense as "protected," "kept safe" or "guarded." The Greek word *sugkleio* can be translated as "kept in" or "enclosed," not in a negative sense, but positively. The Torah then served as a moral boundary marker until faith was revealed to all through Christ. God's plan of salvation was and has not revealed to all throughout the centuries.

...That explains why we have asked you to retranslate Galatians 3:23-24 [in the NASB version] as follows:

"But before faith came, were ~~kept in custody~~ PROTECTED under the Torah, being ~~shut up to~~ KEPT INSIDE FOR the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Torah has become our ~~tutor~~ CARETAKER to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.—FirstFruits of Zion²⁵¹

Yet even if the word meant teacher, a teacher's responsibility is to teach the student. Once that student has learned the information, does he still need the teacher to instruct him yet again the same information? A student is expected to remember that information which he has been taught when he is passed into the next grade or graduates. He should not have to be taught again. The information is now within our hearts and minds. So it is with the Torah/law/instructions. It is meant to be learned. We no longer need the past teacher to teach us the same information.

25 When faith is come, it goes beyond the literal interpretations of the law and expands the law into heart and mindful actions (through which we need the Holy Spirit) *not just* physical actions. It reveals that it is through faith in Christ and repentance not through law keeping that we have salvation.

Galatians 3:27-29. Dr. Eliyahu (Eli) Lizorkin-Eyzenberg in Israel instructs that tribal, occupational and gender differences do not disappear when we become "one in Christ": Baptism / mikvah was a Jewish ritual, not something originating with Christianity. A baptized Gentile became a child of Abraham an co-heir with the Jews as God's spiritual people, but the distinction between physical Jews and Gentiles remained as is the distinction between men and women today. It was not abolished.²⁵²

This difference is evident 1) in the New Jerusalem where the twelve tribes each have their own identity and gate; 2), in the Kingdom where all nations (plural word, not just one nation Israel, (Rev 21:24, 26; 22:2) will walk in the Light, and 3) in the Millennium

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where nations such as Egypt and Assyria are called out by name (Isa 11:16, etc). John adds further clarification when he writes:

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Galatians 4:8-10. Nowhere in Scripture does God call his Holy Days *beggarly elements* which brings one into bondage! Psalms, especially Psalm 119, brings out the positive attributes of the *Torah* and its commandments. Would God call His law positive words and then call them beggarly elements reveals He has changed (which he has not) and giving to whim. Israel did **not** come out of the bondage of Egypt only to be placed immediately into another bondage of commandment keeping at Mt. Sinai.

Paul in Romans 7:12 refers to the law and commandments as being holy, just and good. So the days, months, times and years cannot be God's appointed times. What then is Paul referring to in these two verses? The context in verse 8 reveals Paul is referring to the former idol worshippers. He is referring to heathen myths and customs and days (Easter? Flora? Saturnalia? Day of the Sun?) and months of which the *Torah* specifically teaches that we are **not** to follow such myths and customs in worshipping the true God. The observance of times is specifically prohibited in Lev. 19:26 and Deut. 18:9-12 (KJV only as other versions translate it differently.)

When we look at an ancient political map of the Roman Empire, we discover that Galatia was a Roman province located in a portion of the modern day nation of Turkey. The Galatians were not circumcised so they were not Jewish (Gal 5:2; 6:12-13). Lystra was a city in Galatia²⁵³ and is mentioned six times in the NT. It was there that Paul and Barnabas were thought to be pagan gods (Acts 14:8-18) by these "Galatians."²⁵⁴

Another Viewpoint. Jim Rector of Cornerstone Publications offered a different viewpoint on these verses. He describes the meanings of two underlying Greek words in these verses. He also explains that Paul lumps both Jews and Gentiles together.

The Greek word translated *elements* in verse 3 is *stoicheion*, and means *a first principle, any first things from which others in a series or a composite whole take their rise.* With regard to Paul's subject in Galatians, this would be a reference to the *rudimentary* things of religion, whether Jewish or Gentile. In the case of the Gentile Galatians, this would have been a reference to their pagan origins, which at that time were the controlling factor in their lives, putting them into a form of bondage. For the Jews, such as Paul himself, the phrase would pertain to the first covenant background, wherein the people were required to do service unto the law as the controlling agent, and thus placing them in a form of bondage as well.

You will note in verse 3 that Paul utilizes the plural *we*, saying:

Even so WE, when we were children, were in BONDAGE under the elements of the world.²⁵⁵ (His emphasis)

He later notes the meaning of the Greek word *observe* in verse 10 (which only appears this one time in the NT):

To note insidiously, to observe, especially with SINISTER INTENT...This verb also means to watch closely, observe narrowly, used in Gal. 4:10, where the

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middle voice suggests that their (Galatian) religious observance of days, etc. was NOT from disinterested motives, but with a view to their OWN ADVANTAGE. (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*). (His emphasis)

Rector also clarifies that keeping the Torah Appointments/Holy Days (which should be observed today) does *not* bring salvation.

Clearly, the reference in Galatians 4 to *days, months, times, and years*, is not intended to denigrate the Torah-instituted holydays, but is speaking to the motives of the people in their observance of these special religious occasions. They were doing it, under sway of the false Jewish intruders, from a wrong heart, viewing their worship as a means to gain some kind of personal advantage. What *advantage* could this possibly have been? From the context of the whole letter, it seems apparent that the advantage they were seeking in converting over to the wishes of the Judaizers was *salvation, eternal life*. They had become persuaded that by assiduously adhering to the various religious holydays, they would ensure their salvation—a concept that is totally opposed to eternal life being a free gift of God's grace through faith in His Son.

Galatians 4:24-26. v24 Paul chose an allegory as a means of comparison. Did God bring Israel out of Egyptian house of bondage (Ex 20:2) for the intent of bringing them into bondage, yet again at Mt. Sinai? I answer no. But did Israel go into bondage later in its history as Avi ben Mordechai explains in his book *Galatians*? Yes! ²⁵⁶

How can this be? Is this a contradiction? No. Israel was given a choice to obey the law of liberty and receive the blessings, or disobey and receive the curses which would result in bondage. Scripture reveals this is just what happened when Israel went into captive bondage as a result of her sins during the time of the Judges and Kings, as later did the Kingdom of Israel into Assyria, as did the Kingdom of Judah in the Diaspora as a result of its continual rebellion against Rome and its rejection of Christ. **v25** Jerusalem and her people at the time of Paul were also in bondage to the Talmudic traditions of the scribes of which Christ spoke and acted against. ²⁵⁷ The penalty of death was the result of disobedience to the myriad commands of the Oral traditions of the elders (called *takanot*— tack-AN-oat) of the Pharisees and Sadducees (see Talmud). **v26** The allegory of the Pharisees (representing Hagar and Ishmael) with their obedience to the Oral Teachings of the *Talmud* are taunting the *Torah* pursuant believers of the Messiah believing Jews (representing Sarah and Isaac) because of their obedience to the *Torah* of liberty and freedom.

Galatians 5:1 This verse establishes the context where Paul speaks of a yoke of bondage. This phrase is mentioned just once in the New Testament and has been described/interpreted as either one of three things:

1) Many Christians think the yoke is the written Torah. If it is, then can we agree that the commandments were beyond the ability of ancient Israel and the heart of man to keep? Some may say yes, because:

Deut 5:29. O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

But then Scripture also state that it is possible and that David even did keep the Torah:

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Deut 30:11-14 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that thou should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it.

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Otherwise John could not state: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome—YLT)." (1 John 5:3). Along with many other Scriptures by Paul and the *Torah* extolling the "law," the above first interpretation (1) would contradict his Word.

2) The *Talmud's* collection of rabbinic regulations. This is in references to Acts 15:5 where it refers to circumcision as a formal Rabbinic conversion to Judaism and its oral traditions. As Tim Hegg explains:

The use of the term "yoke" in the Rabbinic literature is well attested. The Midrashim speak of the "yoke of Torah" as well as the "yoke of God" and "yoke of the kingdom of heaven" while Sifra and the Mishnah include "yoke of the commandments." For the Sages, the metaphor of the "yoke" was one of the willful submission to the Torah and thus ultimately to the rule of God.

But when the rulings of men became so intertwined with the written Torah that for all practical purposes the two were one, to neglect the traditions of the Sages was viewed as a neglect of the Torah.—Tim Hegg²⁵⁸

Living by every Word of God (Matt 4:4) is not a burden of men. Consider Christ's statement that He Himself made. How does this stack up against those who state that "the Law" is a burden and a heavy yoke to follow and obey

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 **Take my yoke upon you**, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

3) Bondage as a form of slavery to sin and its curses.

If "bondage" represents the *Torah* (OT laws), did God deliberately bring Israel **out** of Egyptian bondage to bring them to **another** form of bondage at Mt Sinai? Do you remember the *Ten Commandments* movie with Charlton Heston and your childhood *Bible* stories? Israel came out of bondage.

Exo 20:2 I am the YHVH thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Think about that. The ancient Israelites had to express their faith in the sacrifice of the Passover lamb (a symbol or pattern of the Messiah) to be saved from death by "the destroyer" (Ex 12:23) and to go into the wilderness to the mountain. **Then** they received the law.

Indeed, we are at liberty by being out of the *man's* laws of bondage and yokes [e.g. Israel as slaves in Egypt, the *Talmud*, Christianity's man-made prohibition laws (alcohol, cards, dancing, movies, etc.)].

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James 1:25 But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Psa 119:44-45 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty

We have our freedoms and *liberty* (remember the *Liberty Bell* and *Liberty Tree* and the *Sons of Liberty*) in our nation, today, because of the law of the Constitution—which is not considered a yoke of bondage. Is it? ²⁵⁹ ²⁶⁰

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

If the yoke is such a burden of bondage, think about this: Honoring parents is a burden of bondage. Honesty is a burden. Integrity is a burden. Moral virtue is a burden (think do not commit adultery/fornication). Respecting people's property is a burden (think do not steal). Honoring life is a burden (think do not murder). Etc

Also see the prior explanation for Galatians 4:24-26 in v24.

Galatians 5:3

Acts 15 specifically declares that nothing should be required of the Gentiles but four laws, three of them related to blood. Galatians 5 warns Gentiles not to receive circumcision or they will be required to keep the whole Torah. The clear implication here is that without circumcision, Gentiles are not required to keep the whole Torah.— Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik.²⁶¹

One of the basic rules of hermeneutics is that Scripture should not be established on just one verse. Admittedly this is a difficult verse for me to address and is beyond my pay grade. Paul admits that Titus was not compelled to be circumcised. Can one ask that was it not Titus' decision of which God had to lead him, not Paul or the Jews?

Gal 2:3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

With my understanding that God does not change and is the same today yesterday and tomorrow, I refer you to Ezekiel 44:9 in the context of the Millennial Temple. If it is required in the future for strangers, why not today?

Eze 44:9 Thus saith the Lord GOD; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, **nor uncircumcised in flesh**, shall enter into my sanctuary, of **any stranger** that is among the children of Israel.

Two kinds of circumcision are mentioned in the Torah: that of the flesh (Gen. 17:10) and that of the heart (Deut. 30:6).

Galatians 5:4 The loss of one's salvation by living by the law has been interpreted to come from Galatians 5:4 and was taught as early as the first century:

Be not deceived with strange doctrines, nor with old fables, which are unprofitable. For if we still live according to the law, we acknowledged we have not received grace. For the divinest prophets lived according to Christ Jesus (not the law). On this account also they were persecuted..Let us learn to live according to the rules of Christianity, for whosoever is called by another other name besides this he is not of God.—Ignatius, 50-108 A.D., Second Bishop of Antioch, Turkey in his 1st century Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians.

As Paul explains, believers are not justified by the law: but by grace and faith through His blood:

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace...

Eph 2:8 for by grace have ye been **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not of works, that no man should glory. 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law (i.e. thinking that just keeping the oral *or* written law will save you); ye are fallen from grace.

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could **not be justified by the law of Moses**.

Rom 3:20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified** in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith** without the deeds of the law.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law**, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and **not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified**.

Gal 3:11-12 But that **no man is justified by the law** in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

However, Paul further explains that grace and faith do not do away with "the law" and good works:

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin**.

Rom 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified).

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them

Putting all these summary verses together, one is still obligated to be a doer of the law. The law does *not* save, nor are we capable of fulfilling it spiritually without help from the Holy Spirit! One cannot accuse abortionists of murder if there is no law against murder!.

Galatians 6:2 See Law of Christ

Galatians 6:12-13 Religious politics and hypocrisy is evident in verse 13:

Eph 2:12 As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

v13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

This similar hypocrisy is repeated by James:

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keep the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

Grace. One could say that Grace is also an Old Testament concept and where the New Covenant was initially presented. Why? Noah found grace and walked with God (Gen 6:8-9). Walking normally occurs along a path of which God walks.

Psa 23:3 He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths (H4570) of righteousness for his name's sake.

As Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry explains:

The word *paths* [in the above verse] is actually taken from the Hebrew root 'agol (אגל), which means to be round or a cycle. Actually, David is using a familiar phrase to the Hebrew people. He is saying YHVH leads us or guides us in the *cycles of righteousness*. The cycles of righteousness refers to the yearly return of the feasts of YHVH. This is why the closely related word *chag* (חג) or festival, is referred to as "making a cycle." The *chaggim* are the cyclical holy days, in which the righteousness of the God of Israel is taught. It is these cycles that David is referring to...²⁶²

Scripture also describes the definition of righteousness:

Psa 119:172b ... for all thy commandments are righteousness.

So Noah found God's grace since He walked righteously by keeping God's commandments; but it was not only Noah who found God's grace in the OT. Lot (Gen 19:19), Moses (Ex 33:12), Gideon (Judges 6:17), and all who walk uprightly (Ps 84:11) obtained grace in the OT. Does that mean grace is *not* a NT concept? Correct. We are saved by His grace through faith (Eph 2:8)—not by "law" keeping.

What is grace? I remember having to look this word up in a dictionary years before the internet. We do not need to spiritualize the word into a lengthy definition. Grace simply means *favor*.

Justification is a term that means declaring a person to be just or righteous before the Father because of their belief (Acts 13:39, Rom 5:1) in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, Christ's righteousness is accredited to the believer (II Cor 5:21), and by His grace (i.e. favor) bestowed upon the believer (Titus 3:7). Believers in Jesus Christ are justified from their sins, are to be set apart by purifying (James 4:8) their deceitful, wicked hearts (Jer 17:9, Matt 15:19) and are zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

Paul explains in Roman 6:15, we are "not under the law but under grace," He further explains that this does not mean this is a license to sin (Romans 6:1-2), but it releases us from the debt of death from our sins. Hence the law is satisfied and requires no further payment on past debt as long as we continue in our walk of faith. Paul further explains that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1). Many may become "legalistic" by overly striving because of their guilty minds to keep God's Word because they do not understand that God has forgiven their debt of sin. Paul also explains sin dwells with us and there is a war in our minds and bodies in Romans Chapters 7 and 8. We have to grow in grace and knowledge and call on God for His Spirit to help us overcome sin. Yet, when we do sin, Christ is there to forgive us. We need to be patient with ourselves in our spiritual journey.

Hebrews 7:12-13, 8:13 This is speaking of the law of the Levitical priesthood that was changed to allow Christ, not of the tribe of Judah, to become the spiritual High Priests in heaven, but not on earth where the physical Levites are charged with the priesthood.²⁶³

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This law was first stated in Exodus, changed by God In Numbers, and then again changed when Christ ascended to the Melchisedek priesthood.

Exo 34:19-20 All that opens the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male. 20 But the firstling of an ass thou shall redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shall thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shall redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

Num 8:14-16 Thus shall you separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. 15 And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:...16 For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedek.

Hebrews 8:13 The old is in the process of passing away. It will not completely pass away until a point yet in the future (Matt 5:17-18).

Hebrews is not as simple to understand as some may think. It is entitled Hebrews because Paul is writing to Hebrew people who *knew* and kept the law. As mentioned before, many Christians do not even know the New Testament, little alone the Old Testament, nor do they wish to keep "the law." If it was as simple to turn to Hebrews, one should be turning likewise to James, Peter and John to learn what they write about the law and sin (e.g. I John 3:4, Rom 3:20); however, many do not. The *Torah* Sabbath Days and Feast Days reveal a prophetic foreshadowing of the future.

Hosea 2:11 Note the difference between the English words *my* and *her*. They are exclusive. God does not call these days "My" Sabbaths, feast days, etc as He does in Leviticus. Ancient Israel changed His days to their days, in as much as Jeroboam did in I Kings 12:32, and as Christians have done in observing the 8th day (Sunday) and substituting their man-made commandments (dancing, card playing, shunning modern conveniences, etc.).

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Carefully notice that this covenant is made with Israel (See also Heb 8:8). Taken literally, YHVH made NO covenant with the Gentiles; therefore, He cannot make a "new" covenant with them if none existed previously. Logical is this not? Nevertheless Gentile believers became part of the Covenant with Israel when they agreed to become converted Israelites by keeping the Torah. Today, this is made possible by accepting Christ as Savior and His Torah. The New Covenant is written in hearts, of which Paul also writes about it in Hebrews 9:15:

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance

Under the Old Covenant, the people were not given the Holy Spirit to spiritually obey, nor did they bend their hearts to just physically obey of which they could have. Only selected people,

King David and the prophets for example, were given His Spirit to obey:

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

The promises under the Old Covenant were physical and pointed to a land inheritance with temporal rewards. The promise of the better New Covenant is of eternal inheritance with eternal rewards.

In order to circumvent the literal fulfillment of this New Covenant with Israel the doctrine of Replacement Theology has to be invented. This doctrine reconstructs the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile that Christ had brought down.

Notice that Ezekiel 36 26-28 expands on Jeremiah 31 by including the statutes and ordinances/judgments from the Torah that *also* will be written in one's heart:

Eze 36:26-28 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my **statutes**, and ye shall keep my **judgments**, and do them. 28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, ~~but~~ **and** grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Law and lawlessness are opposites, not law and grace. The Greek word for "but" can also mean "and" (the most common use in the NT) in addition to "also" and "even" according to Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg.²⁶⁴ Once again we see the impact that traditional religious thinking has on Bible translations.

John 8:17; 10:14. "your law." One could say, "see this simple statement, Christ is referring to the done away Jewish law which is no longer in effect." Well...let us look at this a bit closer, shall we? In **Luke 4:16-30** we find that Christ is in the synagogue and alluding to who He is. What was the result. **v29**. They wanted to toss him to His death from the brow of a hill. Why would they do that? The *Torah* prescribed death for those who blasphemed (Lev 24:14-16, 23). Tradition prescribed that a sinner, like the Atonement goat, be thrown over a cliff. Christ knew better than to say it "*His Law*." He would have been scheduled for death before His allotted time. When was his allotted time? Read **Mark 14:53-65** to see the blasphemy of which they accused Him.

Law (Definition). *Words Mean Things.* We see that the meaning of some words, such as *gay*, *cool*, *mouse* (*rodent or computer accessory*) and *hard drive* (not a difficult automobile road trip). Even the name Christian has changed over the years to a generic word unrelated to its original meaning. The first Christians were Jews. The changes include some of the meanings of the words used in the 1611 Kings James Bible; for example, *conversation* now means *conduct*. As George Orwell wrote in his famous novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, change the meaning of words and one can change society. Our Constitution is another example whereby changes have been and are being proposed to be made in the meanings of some words.

In the first amendment, "speech" (which included the written word) may be now defined as "expression." One is allowed to burn the nation's flag as a freedom of "speech." Much discussion occurs today regarding the meaning of the Second Amendment.

The Bible is consistent from Genesis to Revelation regarding the commandments. Who in the last 2,000 years has changed the meanings of the word "law"? Not God.

Gen 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Psa 111:7-8 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. (This includes the Sabbath which will continue to be observed in the millennium (Isa 66:23).

Matt 19:17 And he said unto him, Why call thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

1+1 DEFINITIONS

Let's put some 1+1s together to see the original meaning of the word *law* as defined *Scripturally*—not by man's interpretations:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

WORD=GOD

John 1:3 All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.

Col 1:16 For by Him (CHRIST) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS

John 8:12 Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world:

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT

Psa 119:105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=WORD (again)

Pro 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH

Isa 8:16, 20 **Bind up the testimony; seal the law among my disciples...**20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak **not** according to this word (i.e. **LAW/TORAH**) it is because there is **no** light (i.e. **LAW/TORAH**) in them.

Psa 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=TRUTH

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Mal 2:6 The law (*Torah*) of truth was in his (Levi's) mouth, and unrighteousness was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many away from iniquity

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=TRUTH=WORD (yet again)

1 Cor 10:4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=TRUTH=WORD=ROCK

Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the *law of Christ*.

WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=TRUTH=WORD=ROCK=LAW OF CHRIST

Psa 119:44-45 So shall I keep *thy law* continually forever and ever. 45 And I will *walk at liberty*: for I seek thy precepts.

Jas 1:25 But whoso looks into the perfect **law of liberty**,
WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=LAW OF LIBERTY=TRUTH=WORD=ROCK= LAW OF CHRIST=LAW OF LIBERTY
Psa 89:31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;
WORD=GOD=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=LAW OF LIBERTY=TRUTH=WORD=ROCK=LAW OF CHRIST=LAW OF LIBERTY=MY COMMANDMENTS
1John 4:8 He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.
WORD=GOD=LOVE=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH=LAW OF LIBERTY=TRUTH=WORD= ROCK=LAW OF CHRIST=LAW OF LIBERTY=LOVE=MY COMMANDMENTS
1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are **not** grievous.
WORD=GOD=LOVE=KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS=Y'SHUA/JESUS=LIGHT=LAW/TORAH= LAW OF LIBERTY=TRUTH=WORD=ROCK=LAW OF CHRIST=LOVE=MY COMMANDMENTS

Also take note of these following supportive Scriptural statements:

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Psa 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law (TORAH): and nothing shall offend them.

Rom 8:7-9 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law (TORAH) of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

1 John 4:8 He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Matt 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, **we establish the law**

It is heard many times in Christian circles that God's Law and the New Covenant is written on believers' hearts. This is nothing new. God wished it from the beginning. The problem evolves when a believer believes his heart is always correctly telling oneself the right decision to make.

The Law was Always Meant to Be in One's Heart.

Both the born again Christian and the Hebrew Roots Adherent states the law is written on one's heart.

Deut 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in your **heart**:

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my **heart**.

Deut 5:29 O that there were such a **heart** in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my

commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!

Deut 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your **heart**, and be no more stiff necked.

Deut 11:18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your **heart** and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deut 30:11-14 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that thou should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it

We need to remember what Jeremiah, Christ and Paul stated regarding the issues of the heart, notwithstanding our belief in Yeshua/Jesus:

Prov 28:26 He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered.

Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings

Matt 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Once one understands the applicability of the Torah both anciently and today, Scripture state that it is possible to keep in the literal sense and that David even did keep the Torah.

Paul's writings are greatly misinterpreted by many. One needs to understand both the Old Testament and New Testament. Most Christians are grounded only in the NT. When Paul writes to the Romans, he is writing to those who know the law. How many Christians know the Torah?

Rom 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, **(for I speak to them that know the law,)**...

Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Rom 7:12 Wherefore **the law is holy**, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

When one is spiritually minded, one does makes peace with God by obedience to the law as Paul further explains.

Rom 8:7 Because the **carnal mind is enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Enmity is defined as the positive, active, and typically mutual hatred or ill will.

Rom 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Law and Grace. Once a person repents of sin, that person is pardoned and justified by His acceptance of Christ and his blood to pay for our sinning ways. That person now receives God's grace and salvation. Grace is defined as "favor." That person is blessed

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to be the recipient of the favor of the salvation of God in his life. It is a gift that cannot be earned by any human works or effort.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Once a person receives forgiveness (i.e. a judge's pardon, because our Judge is Yeshua-II Tim 4:1)) for his wrong doing/sins, he is not to go about sinning wantonly again. Here is what Paul states about it:

Rom 6:14-15 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Believers are under grace and are expected to live within the confines of God's law. They are now being judged for their works (good and bad) and their growth in grace and knowledge in their physical lives.

1 Pet 4:17 For the time is come that **judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Even Duane Christensen, MIT and Harvard graduate and editor of the *World Bible Commentary* volume on Deuteronomy writes:

The popular view that identifies Law with the OT and gospel with the NT will certainly not stand up against a careful reading of the book of Deuteronomy as G. Braulik has shown. To understand Deuteronomy, one must recognize God's PRIOR grace to sinners; that is, the PRIORITY OF GOSPEL (grace) OVER LAW IN THE OT as well as in the NT. Though Deuteronomy stresses that obedience to God's Torah is essential, it even MORE strongly emphasizes that such obedience is dependent on the grace of God...—Duane Christensen ²⁶⁵

In other words law is predicated upon grace. They fo together as one complete package. It is not law "or" grace. It is law and grace . Grace abounds in the Old Testament. The rejection of the Old Testament by the majoiry of Christians has made this unfortunate distinction in order to avoid being labeled as a Jews.

Law of Christ (From Galatians 6:2). Christ is the Creator of all things—including the Ten Commandments and the "Law of Moses":

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, **which I** [God/Jesus!] **commanded unto him** in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Also see 1+1s.

Should one still wish to claim that the Father's law has been done away with one has to bear in mind the Christ stated that we need to submit to the Father's will:

Matt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the **will of my Father** which is in heaven.

Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done** in earth, as it is in heaven.

The Law of Christ can amplify the Torah as explained in the Appendix.

Law of Moses (*aka Mosaic Law, Ceremonial Law*). Moses was the messenger of "the law." Not the author. A fact that people apparently do not grasp. See Malachi 4:4

Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, **which I** [God/Jesus!] **commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.**

The phrase "law of Moses" is found throughout Scripture and is even stated by Christ (e.g. John 7:23).

The phrase "ceremonial law" and "moral law" and "civil law" are *not* stated in Scripture.²⁶⁶ The next time someone informs you that law of clean and unclean meats is a ceremonial law, ask him two things: what is the ceremony that it is associated with (along with any other "ceremonial law" you may think of), and where is the word "ceremony" stated in Scripture? Some incorrectly believe that the term "ceremonial law" is generally translated into the English word "ordinances." These "ceremonial" laws are said to be temporary and include the Feast days but not the weekly Sabbath day.²⁶⁷

Neither is the Torah divided into "universal laws" and "specific laws." They are labels devised by men. Some wish to distinguish the 10 Commandments from the "book of the law" as given by Moses—as *if* Moses was the author, *not* the transcriber, of the "book of the law." Brad Scott explains "It seems "that our Creator is a bit confused about the differences between His laws and the laws of Moshe."²⁶⁸ Whose law is it? The law of YHVH. The law of God. God is not confused. It is *us*.

1 Chr 16:40 To offer burnt offerings unto YHVH (the LORD) upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in **the law of YHVH** (the LORD), which he commanded Israel;

2 Chr 31:3 He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in **the law of YHVH** (the LORD).

Neh 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spoke unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of **the law of Moses**, which YHVH (the LORD) had commanded to Israel.

Neh 8:8 So they read **in the book** in the **law of God** distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Neh 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Neh 9:13-14 Thou came down also upon mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: **14 And made known unto them** thy holy sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes, and laws, **by the hand of Moses** thy servant:

Neh 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read **in the book of the law of God**. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

God spoke both laws: The Ten Commandments and the Book of the Law. The Ten were spoken to all the people. The book was authored and spoken by God to Moses only to Moses. Moses was the messenger to give it to the people. In Exodus 20:18-22, the people of Israel expressed their fear of God after He had spoken the Ten Commandments from Mt Sinai. The people subsequently instructed Moses to henceforth have God speak to him *only*. This was not wrong as God later explains (Deut 5:28). As we are to honor our physical parents, we also fear them when we do wrong, but we still love our parents. So it is with God.

What does one not being obeyed (the "Ceremonial Law"), today, have to do with the other being obeyed (the Ten Commandments) today? Nothing—unless one does not wish to obey these laws—and wish to have the authority to formulate their own.

Words Mean Things

The man-made divisions of the Bible into chapters and verses were created by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Stephen Langton) in the 13th century. These created an artificial separation between the God's directly spoken 10 Words and God using Moses to write down His ensuing 603 teachings.

This artificially constructed Chapter separation leads today's Christian churches to teach on the one hand that the Torah and the Law is done away yet illogically teach that the Ten Commandments are not. As Tom Bradford explains, the Ten Commandments can be likened to the Preamble of our Constitution. The Preamble is not a separate document but is part of the Constitution.

The word for commandments in Hebrew is *dabar* (H1697, Ex 34:28, Deut 4:13; 10:4). After the Ten Words were spoken and written in Chapter 20, the first word of chapter 21 should *not* be translated into English as "now." The Hebrew word is *ve-elleh*, which literally means "and these are." Rabbi Ishmael in the Mekhilta (a midrash or commentary on Exodus) states that this Hebrew word is a connecting term which indicates "that what is about to be said is but a continuation of what has just been said."²⁶⁹

Exo 21:1 Now these are the judgments (H4941 *mishpat*) which you shall set before them.

Exo 21:1 And these are the judgments which you shall set before them.

Many erroneously believe that the Ten Commandments and the Law of Moses are two different laws and that it was the Law of Moses that was nailed to the cross—i.e. the "handwriting of ordinances"—not the law of the Ten Commandments.²⁷⁰

The ensuing issue is that if the Law of Moses was nailed to the cross, why do so many denominations now cherry-pick from the *Torah* what "Laws of Moses" to keep?

Which ones do they teach to obey that are not repeated in the New Testament; such as bestiality, bribery, blood eating, capital punishment, fortunetellers, incest, marriage restrictions, sanitary disposal, special ministerial attire, tattoos, tithing²⁷¹, offerings, usury, war, and wearing clothing of the opposite sex? Did I leave any out? There are yet others; such as, unclean meats (even though they were stated in the book of Genesis, how can one not say they were *not* ceremonial even at that time?) and slavery. Remember the Civil War and the southern preachers and plantation owners who supported it? Did they wish to follow the commandment of "Thou shall not steal" in the

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trafficking of kidnapped humans beings from Africa plus the other laws regarding bondservants and kidnapping.

We have health waste disposal and financial usury regulations in our nation today similar to the teachings of the OT Torah. Are they also ceremonial? Is anything thinking or are people just mimicking what others term "ceremonial laws"?

Scientists have discovered that the Vitamin K level, needed to clot blood of newborn babies, is not sufficient until the eighth day of life when circumcision is commanded.²⁷² Was God just a bit ahead of human-kind scientifically, socially, financially, biologically, culturally, and creatively? Does God know best? Does He know what He is doing? Is He really smarter than man? Not according to many—if they think there is a God at all. So, does He let us devise our own man-made laws and label them as being "inspired"?

It needs to be acknowledged that Christianity is a *new* religion as Mormonism, with new beliefs. Yeshua did *not* start the new religion of Christianity. Yeshua was a Jew and walked as a Jew in observance of the Torah.

With the thousands of Christian denominations claiming inspiration for contradictory belief systems/doctrines and rules of men...has God changed? No.

God is not capricious nor does He change (Mal 3:6).

He is the same forever and ever (Heb 13:8).

Nor does He contradict Himself (John 10:35).

QUESTION	
WHICH TORAH "CEREMONIAL LAWS" TO KEEP?	
Torah 613* "Ceremonial Laws"	1050 New Covenant Commands +
Agricultural Harvesting Bestiality Bondservant Bribery Cities of Refuge Clothing of Opposite Sex Fortune Tellers** Kidnapping Marriage Restrictions/Incest Tattoos Tithing Unclean Meats Usury War Restrictions Waste Disposal Wildlife Protection	All of the preceding column's <i>Torah</i> instructions are not permitted since they are not specifically mentioned among the 1051 commands in the New Covenant. ²⁷³ Why not? Choose 41,000 Combinations of the world's Christian Denominations (including 1500 U.S. Denominations) whose Torah cherry picking one best finds compatible with their individual beliefs + man's new prohibitions against: Alcohol Cards Dancing Movies Prohibition of Musical Instruments TV Modern Conveniences
*The Ten Commandments are included. ** Some may say this comes under the first commandment.	

The misunderstanding and ignorance of the law runs throughout Christianity. As one web site writer stated:

My understanding regarding the Sabbath in the OT is that its meaning shifted from law based reality to concept/principle-based reality. Love trumped Law when Jesus healed on the Sabbath, for example. The New Testament is full of

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principle-related and Holy Spirit led instruction instead of specific 'do this—don't do that' instruction.²⁷⁴

Why would the Holy Spirit contradict Yeshua?

This quote is illustrative of the ignorance of the Oral Law. Nowhere, *nowhere* in the *Torah* is there a prohibition against healing and doing good on the Sabbath Day.

Matt 12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

The criticisms levied by the Pharisees and Sadducees were from their man devised customs, traditions (much later termed the Oral Law), their jealousies of retaining their positions of power and envy (John 11:48, Mark 15:10, Matt 23:6). Christ did not need to needlessly repeat the OT verses which He inspired or directly gave in the NT. He walked the walk of obedience in which He set and performed examples of implementing the spiritual intentions of the written *Torah*.

The same writer (above) expresses the thought of having to work on the Sabbath to keep one's job, yet expresses no faith (a fruit of the Holy Spirit) that God will provide for those who step out and obey Him. Yet many believe in a rapture to whisk them all away from danger. Nevertheless, the writer is correct in stating it is having a relationship with Him:

People are not going to be so drawn to God through us because we follow the Torah faithfully . . . they're going to be drawn to God because we love Him and find ways to love them faithfully and in ways relevant to THEM! It's not the observance of the Torah, it's the demonstration of the redeeming power and love of Jesus Christ through the Fruits of the Spirit that will bring the lost into relationship with Him.²⁷⁵

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

UNconditional Love

One must have a relationship before one establishes rules. Without a relationship, rules become meaningless. Rules are "conditions." Repentance is a condition. The term "unconditional love" is not found in Scripture and is meaning. With the exception of babies and people who are in critical need, love is always conditional. Even God's love is conditional. Scripture itself states this:

John 7:39 (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The term "unconditional love" was not used by the church fathers nor any other Christians before the 20th century. In a touch of irony, Erich Fromm, a German social psychologist and atheist, coined the popular term in his book *The Art of Loving* in 1934. He criticized merited love and rejected all forms of authoritarian government. He believed The God of the OT was a self-seeking authoritarian..Other psychologists, such as Alfred Adler and Abraham Maslow also teach unconditional love as essential to a person's sense of well-being. There should be no conditions of performance. James Dobson, note Christian teacher also promotes unconditional love. Others including

Dennis Prager, noted radio commentator and R.C. Sproul, noted Christian theologian and pastor, agree that it is not Biblical,^{276 277}

To receive the Holy Spirit one must believe on Him—and that is a condition.

Neither does it mean a love without further conditions. It is a matter of grace *and* law—not one or the other to achieve a salvation filled with rewards.

1 John 2:4 He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:6 He that says he abides in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are **not** grievous.

People in the millennium will seek out the King, the Jew, Jerusalem and the *Torah* because of Him and His blessings.

Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD (YHVH) , and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law (*Torah*) shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (See also Isa 2:3)

Matt 5:18-19 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

LEGALISM. The problem today is not *legalism*. It is lawlessness.

The word “legalism” is not found in the Bible. Far too many do not understand the term “legalism,” yet the term can be brandied about flippantly (in my opinion). People repeat what they have been taught along with other erroneous definitions of sin, repentance, law, bondage and to some degree the “law of Christ.” See the Appendix I on the “Law of Christ.”

QUESTION

What is legalism?

Legalism Definitions:

Dictionary Definition: The definition of legal is “of or relating to law” and “conforming to authority permitted by law or established by law.” (Merriam-Webster). By this definition all Christianity is legalistic since all require obedience to the Divine authority. Ever hear of the word “Pray and Obey?”

David Stern, Messianic Jewish author offers this definition:

Legalism, I define as the false principle the God grants acceptances to people, considers them righteous and worthy of being in his presence on the ground of their obedience to a set of rules, apart from putting their trust in God, relying on him, loving him, and accepting his love for them.—David Stern²⁷⁸

In other words, legalism is one who believes they can earn salvation by going to heaven in doing good things, not doing bad things, by keeping God's commandments and loving their neighbor will forgive their bad sins. In summary, their own human efforts will “save”

them in order to gain eternal life. A Barna Survey revealed that 55% of the American population agrees “that if a person is generally good, or does good enough things for others during their life, they will earn a place in heaven.”²⁷⁹ No, this is not Scripturally true. A HR critic correctly stated:

If salvation is by God’s grace received through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, as the Bible clearly states (Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8–9), then it cannot be based on works of the law, or else it would no longer be by grace.²⁸⁰

□ *Batya Wootten*, Messianic/Hebrew Roots teacher, indicates legalism is often associated with man-made laws and traditions

We briefly define "legalism" as a belief that adherence to the Law, or Torah, is a requirement for obtaining and maintaining one's justification before God—and as focusing on the letter of the Law as opposed to the spirit of the Law. We find that legalism is often associated with man-made laws and traditions...Salvation cannot be earned, but is a gift of unmerited grace, received by faith, in the person and work of Y’shua the Messiah. we follow Him and his ways because we want to.—Batya Wootten²⁸¹

□ *Dr. Charles Swindoll*, noted TV evangelist, explains legalism is a way to control others:

Legalism is a desire to control others. Some people are not happy until they are in control—and even then when they are, they’re still not happy because there are always more people to control...If I am trying to force my personal list of no-no’s on you and make you feel guilty if you don’t join me, then I’m out of line and I need to be told that.—Dr.Charles Swindol²⁸²

He also defines Pharisaism:

Pharisaism. In other words, stop showing off! Stop looking down your nose at others who don’t fill your preconceived mold. Stop displaying your own goodness. Stop calling attention to your righteousness.—Dr.Charles Swindol²⁸³

□ *Merriam-Webster further defines legalism* as a "strict, literal or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code."

Author Andrew Farley explains his experiences in his book *the naked Gospel*:

I was intense, and everyone around me know it...My intensity hit is pinnacle when I could no longer sleep at night unless I shared Christ with someone that day. When my head hit the pillow, I'd recall my lack of service. So I'd get up, go to the nearest twenty-four-hour grocery store, and find someone to preach at. Once I said my lines, I could go home and sleep.— Andrew Farley²⁸⁴

Farley’s intensity and guilt finally led him to depression and feeling "worse than ever" when he "couldn't break free from my obsession with performing for God." "Excessive"

does *not* mean doing away with the basic underlying law, though. Regarding this definition, Christ taught the proper balance where Matthew writes:

Matt 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

God is always there to forgive our missteps and failings. Christ, who spoke to Moses His laws, stated His yoke is easy and light (Matt 11:29-30).

Anyone—of any religion—can become minutia oriented and over controlling in fear of breaking God’s laws so that one cannot see the proverbial forest for the tree against his nose. Sadly this has been a lesson of history among all religions. How else can one explain 41,000 Christian denominations? We need to relax and exercise faith in knowing one is doing his/her best in obeying God. It can take time—perhaps years to overcome a sin. We need to remove the beam from our eyes first (Matt 7:5) and not expect others to be at the spiritual level as we are.

☐ Legalism is also defined, today, as following laws rather than having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and letting the Holy Spirit guide one in their hearts. As Joyce Meyer, a leading TV evangelist explained: “. . .we cannot be led by the Holy Spirit and live simultaneously under the law.”²⁸⁵ Is it because of statements like this, many Christians believe that any law, including the ten commandments, do not need to be obeyed In other words Christians do not even have to keep the 10 (or is it 9 or 8?) commandments/

Is that why our nation lacks integrity and is experiencing a moral and ethical breakdown of traditional values? Does this evangelist's statement and others negate Christ's statement in **John 14:15** "If ye love me, keep my commandments."?

The Controversy. Obeying "what" is the controversy in “legalism.” (see **Law Definition**). When Hebrew Roots pray and obey God, it is called legalism. When Christians are taught to pray and obey is it called salvation through Christ and His grace?

God has specific commands He wants us to obey, and many of them are contrary to what we would naturally choose. Jesus told us that in order to follow Him we must “deny ourselves and take up our crosses” (Luke 9:23). Those are actions. Among other things, we are told to “be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), “flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18), “love one another” (1 Peter 1:22), and “pursue holiness” (Hebrews 12:14). Those commands all require active obedience. First Thessalonians 5:12–22 is a list of commands from Paul to the church. It is not an exhaustive list, but it demonstrates that **the Christian life requires performing certain actions.**—— GotQuestions.org (My emphasis.)

Matt 19:16-17 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why call thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but **if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.**

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus** (See also Rev 12:17).

Christianity teaches that all OT laws were fulfilled by Christ and not applicable, today, unless, they are stated in the NT. How many churches do you know cherry-pick OT laws and even the NT? Christians are then taught to obey 1050 NT commandments, along with submission to and obeying the hundreds of thousands of the nation's laws. On the other hand it is taught that it is not possible to obey the 613 OT Commandments. What sense does this make?

Doug Batchelor, a Seventh Day Adventist pastor, told the following story on his Amazing Facts TV program: As a result of an outreach campaign in a community by the SDA church, a local protestant church member questioned the placement of the Ten Commandments plaques in his church (not a public building). He spoke with his minister. The result of which was the removal of the plaques from the church because the commandments included the keeping of the Sabbath.²⁸⁶

Christ's who created **all** things (Col 1:15-19), inspires John to write:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

He also inspired Solomon to write:

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments (H4687 mitsvâh, mits-vaw'): for this is the whole duty of man (H120 'âdâm, aw-dawm').

Note the word for man is the Hebrew adam and mean man in general and consequently mankind as a whole including gentiles. It does not say Israel or Jew.

According to another noted national televangelist, Believers "are not accountable to the Ten Commandments."²⁸⁷ Others indicate similarly.²⁸⁸ Is obeying the Ten Commandments also legalism? As Dr. Swindoll points out one does not do away with the standards which means believers must obey clear-cut Scriptural statements.²⁸⁹ One does not jettison "613 laws" to then embrace "1050 laws." Is this NT "law" keeping legalism?²⁹⁰ If not...what does one call it? Let Scripture answer the question:

Matt 7:21-23 Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me, ye that work iniquity** (Gr #458 *anomia* meaning lawlessness).

Are people thinking this through or are they just repeating the ignorant teachings of others handed down through hundreds of years of Christian traditions?

Not keeping laws brings curses both individually and nationally:

Deut 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deut 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Matt 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law (i.e. *Torah*)? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (See also Deut 6:5; 10:12). 38 This is the first

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and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself (Stated also in Lev 19:18). 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Note: it does not say that the remainder of the law has been done away).

The loss of one's salvation by living by the law has been interpreted to come from Galatians 5:4 and was taught as early as the first century by Ignatius, the second bishop of Antioch.

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you **are justified by the law**; ye are fallen from grace.

Here is today's conundrum: It is not uncommon that Christians will sin against Christians. If I were to steal from a brother in the faith and was later caught, would the agrived brother in the faith immediately forgive me or want restitution? If the response is restitution, would the aggrieved borther fall from grace for appealing to the law for justice? Hmmm.

In other words, if one lives like Christ and walked as He walked (I John 2:6), one denies Him. This does not make sense. Neither does it make sense for a person to state that God lays it upon one's heart to follow Him. Although this is absolutely true, it is not to neglect the Word when it says They word is truth (John 17:17), study the scriptures (I Tim 2:15) and to prove all things (I Thes 5:21) to search the Scriptures to determine whether one's teachings or belief are grounded in Scripture (Acts 17:11) rather than one's wicked heart (Jer 17:9; Mark 7:21).

What does make sense is that a person *can* live a life that proclaims Him, the Holy Spirit *and* pursuing the keeping of the *Torah*.

Assurance of Salvation. Salvation according to Webster is defined as "1. The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin....2. Preservation from destruction, failure or other evil." The spiritual consequence of sin is the death penalty.

Christianity generally believes in the "eternity security" of Calvinism which is also termed "an assurance of salvation." HR adherents, from what I can gather, generally believe in the Arminian viewpoint of "conditional security" centered on the Biblical verse (among numerous others) "that he shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt 24:13). The Christian web site Got Questions.Org has this to say about "conditional security":

Given the weight of the biblical evidence, it would seem that the view of conditional security is unassailable. How could anyone argue with the notion that the believer must remain faithful until the end to secure his salvation? Yet, there is another side to this debate. This is the age-old theological debate between Arminians (those who hold to conditional security) and Calvinists (those who hold to what it called "eternal" security or Perseverance of the Saints)...

On the other hand, Arminianism gives man a reason to boast in the end. If by my cooperation with the Spirit of God I remain faithful to the end, I can boast (a little) about how I was able to stay the course and finish the race. However, there will be no boasting in heaven except to boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:31). The doctrine of conditional security is not biblical; the Bible is quite clear that we persevere because God preserves us.—Got Questions.org²⁹¹

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For the Arminian, salvation is possible for all but certain for none. In the Calvinist position, salvation is sure for God's elect.—R.C. Sproul

It seems both sides of this issue have substantial arguments and Scriptures going in their favor. Doesn't it? What if *both* may be right?

When one considers the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25, verses 20 and 22 reveal that both faithful servants both stated "behold, I have gained (either five or two) other talents beside them." One cannot consider that boasting. It was a matter of fact. If a believer has it all now, why should the person heed the Scriptural instructions of being an overcomer, repentance from sin, being fruitful and growing in grace and knowledge?

Please consider the context of I Cor 1:31 that is noted above. The context is of those who are called and those who are *not* called to salvation at this time and in this age. This difference in the Calvin and Arminian theologies may come from other factors including the discard of the Torah, an ignorance of the meanings of the festivals, and the difference between a believer and a disciple. There is a difference between being a believer and a disciple as Christ explains in Luke 14:25-33. Do many believers in Christ know the difference?

Salvation can be Scripturally viewed technically as a three step process: Past Present and Future.

Past: Justification (Romans 3:24-25). [Titus 3:5,7 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ...7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.](#)

[Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:](#)

Present: Sanctification (II Thes 2:13, I Peter 1:2). [2 Cor 2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.](#) (ESV which provides a clearer meaning to the verse.)

Future: Glorification (Rom 8:17). [Mark 16:16, John 15:11, Acts 2:21, 15:11](#), etc are among the 24 verses in both the OT and NT that state that one "shall be saved."

My forthcoming free E-Book in PDF format—*The Future and Hope: Revealing the Concealed Messages of God's Festivals*—will offer a further discussion on salvation.

QUESTION

Since Jesus Christ was able to do both—keep the law and be led by the Holy Spirit—why cannot believers today walk in His steps today (I Peter 2:21, I John 2:6)?

ANSWER

Scripture leads us to believe that this is possible.

"The just shall live by faith." (Hab 2:4, Gal 3:11, Rom 1:17)

We can learn to purify our hearts (our thinking process) with the assistance of the Holy Spirit and be considered righteous as those men and prophets of old (Luke 1:6).

I prefer the word trust to faith. It is a living faith that we *can be* overcomers of sin, as Christ overcame sin through the power of the Holy Spirit (Note II Tim 3:5).

Recall the Biblical men who were accounted as being righteous and who walked blamelessly before God in keeping the commandments. If they could do so, yet fall into sin at times, yet rise up to repent and continue to follow God, why cannot we? Here are some examples:

Luke 1:6 And they [Zacharias and Elizabeth] were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances (G1345) of the Lord blameless.

Gen 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

2 Kings 20:3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

1 Kings 9:4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

Prov 24:16 For a just man falls seven times, and rises up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

QUESTION

What Do You Mean—A Personal Relationship With God?

Having a personal relationship with God begins the moment we realize our need for Him, admit we are sinners, and in faith receive Jesus Christ as Savior...

Having a personal relationship with God means we should include God in our daily lives. We should pray to Him, read His word, and meditate on verses in an effort to get to know Him better.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us as our Counselor. "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the **Spirit of truth**."—Got Questions ²⁹² (My emphasis)

For 3.5 years, the disciples were in the company of Jesus who counseled them through teachings, guidance, rebuke and encouragement. Now that He was about to depart the earthly realm, he calmed any fears they may have by stating He would send "another" Counselor. Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's writing of this Counselor (Isa 9:6, 11:2).

* * *

It is more than just the above. It is more than going to church one hour a week. It is more than handing out tracts and beginning to evangelize others soon after we received Christ as our Savior. It is more than just following a church or church leader who we may think has all the truth. It is more than wishing to physically prepare for doomsday. Martin Luther's emphasis on a personal relationship did not go far enough ²⁹³ because it is "me" centered.

Man-made Doctrines, Rules and Traditions. Church doctrines which are *not* in Scripture are man-manufactured religious commands. These include (as listed previously), but are not limited to, prohibitions against card playing, dancing, drinking alcohol,²⁹⁴ gambling, movies/TV, shunning modern conveniences, Sunday and holiday worship myths, etc. *and/or* various picking and choosing of which OT "laws" to obey.

Luke 8:10 The mysteries of the Kingdom of God is not the rabbinic literature of the "unique Oral Torah."²⁹⁵

Luke 16:16 (Also Matt 11:13). Many take this verse to state that the OT was not talking about Y'shua's ministry and also that the OT only prophesied until John the Baptist—because the OT only lasted until the same time. Neither does this verse state the law is done away or fulfilled with the arrival of John, *otherwise* the prophecies of the prophets *must be fulfilled as well!*

Luke is simply stating that the Law and the prophets until John was all the Scripture there was at that time...Furthermore, the Book of Luke could not possibly mean that the Law of God was outdated, because it was used constantly by the church after John the Baptizer a minimum of 185 times in the New Testament writings.— Dr. Ron Moseley ²⁹⁶

The "Kingdom of Heaven" and the "Kingdom of God" are first reported to be preached beginning with John the Baptist.

Matt 3:1-2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Remember: the *context* also needs to be examined. The very next verse after Luke 16:16 *plainly* explains that heaven and earth have *not* yet passed away (the stars are still in the heavens); therefore, the law is still in effect.

Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Matt 19:17 And he said unto him, Why call thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Next look at Luke 16:18:

Luke 16:18 Whosoever puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery: and whosoever marries her that is put away from her husband commits adultery.

If the law only lasted until John, why did Christ comment on adultery which is one of the Ten Commandments? Just before verse 16, Christ is reprimanding the Pharisees for coveting. and In Luke 16:31 (context, context, context) Christ even refers to the law of Moses...and the other OT prophets! ²⁹⁷

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The Shem-Tov translation reads as follows:

Matt 11:13 For all the prophets and the Torah spoke concerning John. (Shem-Tov)

For a description of Shem-Tov's Hebrew translation of the Gospel of Matthew and how it affects the interpretation and translation of 16:16, please refer to the End Notes. ²⁹⁸

Mark 7:15 Christ is physically referring to the regulations given in Leviticus regarding bodily discharges. On a deeper spiritual level, he is referring to the condition of the human heart which out of it comes evil into the world:

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

When Christ then declared all foods clean (v19), he is not abolishing the Levitical instructions against eating unclean foods. Given the context of bodily emissions, Christ

is making the point that eating food cannot make a person unclean, it is the human heart condition.

Matthew 5:17-19.

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

If all has been fulfilled, including jots and tittles, why have not heaven and earth passed away?

"How do the concepts of "complete" or "fulfill" equate to "abolished or done away with?"

"And how in the world did intelligent people ever allow themselves to be talked into the arrogant, impudent and rebellious idea that God's law could **ever** be "a curse"? Or than to "believe in Christ" while we're ignoring His commanded "forever Feasts and instead celebrating **man-made** "holy days" and traditions completely steeped in paganism." ²⁹⁹

A jot (*iota* - smallest letter in Greek) is the smallest letter in the Hebrew Alphabet: a *yod*. A jot can also refer to the enlarged and reduced Hebrew letters and other special signs. A tittle (thorn in Hebrew) is the smallest pen stroke which can differentiate the Hebrew letters from one another: a *dalet* from a *resh*; a *beit* from *kaf*. A tittle has also been referred to as the dotting of "i" and the stroke crossing a "t."

Some Hebrew words have dots place above them. This has led to speculation as o their meaning ³⁰⁰

v17. **Think not** [i.e. don't even think about it!] **that I am come to destroy** (G2647=*kataluo*) **the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill** (G4137=*pleroo*).

According to traditional Christian interpretation, Christ fulfilled the law based upon this verse. That means that Christians are no longer obligated to keep the law (i.e. Torah). The why are Christians baptised since Christ also fulfilled the ritual of baptism (which was a Jewish ritual as well). Notice the same Greek word *pleroo* (G4137) is used in both Matthew 3:15 and consequently in Matthew 5:17?

Matt 3:13-15 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. **14** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? **15** And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to **fulfil** (G4137, *pleroo*) **all righteousness. Then he suffered him.**

Alan Lee of Lightenup Ministries explains the use of the Greek word *pleroo* regarding and baptism and the influence of Marcion, a second century heretic Marcion (see Core Difference #6) in today's Christian interpretation of Matthew 5:17 :

Marcion read this verse as follows: "Don't think I came to erase the Law and the Prophets; I did not come to erase but to finish." Marcion believed that Y'shua completed the Law making it no longer necessary or essential for followers of Messiah." ...

Let's say that we don't have access to other manuscripts that bring clarity to the matter, 'what do we do'? We can compare Scriptures and see how this word is used. A non-prophetic use of *pleroo* is found a few chapters earlier in Matthew 3:15 where Y'shua tells John the Immerser to baptize Him in order to *pleroo* righteousness. If we hold to Marcion's definition, then baptism would be finished. No one would ever have to be baptized ever again because righteousness has been *pleroo* by Y'shua. See how that flies in your assembly! "Pastor, I don't think we should be baptizing anyone ever again. Y'shua did it for us and He finished righteousness in that act, so we don't have to do it." I think with that comment

you'd be quietly escorted to the door and asked not to come back.—Alan Lee³⁰¹

Interestingly, a few denominations, including the Quakers and the Salvation Army do not believe that water baptism is required today.³⁰² Quakers believe that baptism is an inward, not an outward, act.³⁰³

The Greek word for **fulfill** means to give its fullest expression—to fill something full—as Christ taught regarding our thoughts—not just our actions. In Jewish thought also can mean “to correctly interpret the law.”³⁰⁴ Because He fulfilled the “law” does not mean it is OK for one to commit adultery, murder, etc.—does it? (Or maybe it does, since we are a nation of 76% Christians and lead the world in pornography, pornography, incarcerated prisoners, drugs, violent video games, etc.)

What does one repent of when there is no law to break because it is done away? Some common sense is in order. Luke further clarifies:

Luke 16:16-17 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man **presses** into it. 16:17 **And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**

The eight blessings of the Beatitudes on the Sermon on the Mount provide the context immediately preceding verse 17. In this context Christ explains how the law was magnified to even include an individual's thinking processes—not only one's physical actions. Especially notice verse 8: “**Blessed are the pure in heart.**” Christ came to magnify the law and make it honorable:

Isa 42:21 YHVH (the LORD—KJV) is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; **he will magnify the law, and make it honorable** (H142). Strong's: A primitive root; to expand, that is, be great or (figuratively) magnificent:

Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

John records Y'shua's definition of a disciple, and as Isaiah points out, the Torah is sealed among God's disciples:

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Isa 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law (Torah) among my disciples.

Matthew 5:33-37 The key verse is 34:

Mat 5:34 But I say unto you, **Swear not at all**; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

This conflicts with the command in Deuteronomy:

Deut 6:13 Thou shall fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shall **swear by his name**. See Deut 10:20 for repeat of this command.

Some may say that Christ changed the law. This is not the case. Why? Because we have just learned that in **Matt 5:17-19** above *which is in the context of this verse*. Let's look further into the *Torah*:

Lev 19:12 And ye shall **not swear by my name falsely**, neither shall thou profane the name of thy God: I am YHVH (the LORD).

Christ is saying in verse 34 is do not swear by His name *falsely*. Did the Pharisees circumvent Deut 6:13 by meaning it was permitted to swear falsely as long as one does not use His name? Yes, according to Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jew (who only believe in the Torah, not the Talmud), he confirms this interpretation from his research into the Shem-Tov Gospel of Matthew where it reads:

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Matt 5:34 But I say to you, that you must not swear by anything **falsely**. (Shem-Tov)³⁰⁵
A vow is not to be taken lightly. In times of trial men may make a vow to God so that He would deliver them. It would be wise to remember that vow and fulfill it.

Ecc 5:4 When thou vow a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou has vowed.

Matthew 23:2-4. "Moses seat" was also an actual physical stone chair in the 1st Century synagogues from where Torah was read to the congregation.

Could the Savior really be telling men to obey the "scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men" (Matt 23:13) with their traditions? Is this a contradiction? Apparently yes, but let's dig deeper...

Mat 23:2-3 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: **3** All therefore whatsoever **they bid** you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for **they say**, and do not.

As Nehemia Gordon explains,³⁰⁶ the Shem-Tov version of the Hebrew version of the Gospel of Matthew casts a new light on the meaning of this verse. He describes the difference between the Hebrew word of "he says" (*yomar*) and "they say" (*yomru*) as one letter—the letter *vav* (one of the smallest letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This possible scribal error changes and transforms the meaning from obeying the Pharisees and scribes to obeying Moses.

The words in Greek are far different.

Matt 23:2-3 The Pharisees and sages sit upon the seat of Moses. **3** Therefore, all that **he** (Moses) says to you, diligently do, but according to their (Pharisees and sages) reforms (*Hebrew=takanot*) and **their** precedents (*ma'asim*) do not do, because they talk but they do not do.

The word "tradition" in Matt 15:3 is translated *takanot* in the Shem-Tov version. Let's see that verse and how it relates to Matt 23:2-3 and how it is quoted from Isaiah 29:13:

Matt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your **tradition** (*takanot*)?

Isa 29:13 And the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw nigh unto me, and with their mouth and with their lips to honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment of men which hath been taught them; (ASV)

Matt 15:6 ... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your **tradition**.

As Paul states:

Gal 6:13A For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law;

And the Messiah Himself:

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

A different perspective: Note Scripture does *not* state that God put them in Moses's seat.

Matt 23:2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; (NASB)

John 5:1 See Feast of the Jews in the next chapter.

New Testament Law: 1050 Laws? The NT letter writings comprise **1050** laws (including the Ten Commandments) of which denominations *may* require the obedience to all of them.³⁰⁷

These doctrines established by Christian ministers are not Scripturally commanded—much like the Jewish *Talmud (the Oral Law)* established and written by Jewish Rabbis and of which Christ either broke and/or otherwise referenced in the New Testament. On the other hand, it has been discovered that Christ did adhere to some Rabbinic Oral commands,³⁰⁸ perhaps out of courtesy and because they were common sense, but *not* as a *requirement*—and provided they were not a yoke of bondage.

Does this mean He was subject to Rabbinic Law? No. He created the *Torah*.

By sheer simple numbers alone, one can determine that 613 is way less than 1050. Actually 1051 when the Paul and Peter instruct believers to greet each other with a "holy kiss." To exclude this NT commandment is to cherry-pick what one wishes to believe. As a clarification, I place a "kiss" as a cultural tradition of the day among people. Think Russian and French diplomacy where a peck on both cheeks may be customary. It is not customary in American culture. However, that being said, to exclude this custom as a commandment is an interpretation as begs the question why people say they believe every Word of God.

I would therefore have to beg to differ with a leading TV evangelist's statement of "we cannot be led by the Holy Spirit and live simultaneously under the law." Can we live the law perfectly? No. But does that mean we are not able to keep any of the commandments at any time. If not, why are so many concerned about the murders, stealing, and adultery occurring in our nation if we are not able to live by any laws?

One would think that more people reading their Bibles independently, being obedient to ethical and moral Scriptural laws, the nation's laws, changing their lives for the better and loving their neighbor as themselves would cause joy in the nation's churches—rather than being labeled "dangerous." Go figure. Perhaps it is "dangerous" to the nation's churches and its thousands of Christian denominations to see a grass-roots movement without the "churches" oversight and control? Especially when tithing is no longer applicable *today* and that money train is not available.

Old Testament/Torah 613 Laws. The Jewish *Talmud* counts 613 Torah laws which can be grouped into 248 "positive" (the traditional number of bones in the human body) and 365 (the days in a year) "negative" *mitzvot* (i.e. do's and don'ts).³⁰⁹ Christianity teaches that these *Torah* laws have been done away and also that it is not possible today to keep these 613 laws. The 613 is a Rabbinic tradition, rather than an exact count, which began in the sermon by Rabbi Simlai in the 3rd Century.³¹⁰ I know of two stories on the derivation of the number 613.

- 1) The rabbis obtain the number 613 from Genesis 32:4 where the Hebrew word for "I have sojourned" in Hebrew totals 613 in gematria.³¹¹
The Hebrew word is *garti*=is *gimel resh tav yud*.³¹²

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- 2) The gematria value of the word "Torah" is 611. This represents the number of commandments given through Moses plus the first two of the Ten Commandments. Jewish tradition holds the first two were the only ones heard from God's mouth.³¹³

No two sources of 613 listing are the same. The actual number exceeds 613 and is dependent on how one counts a command; for example, is the Sabbath command one command or more than one?

Ancient Israel had Yeshua following and leading them, but they did not believe and have faith in the signs that they were given.

Num 14:11 And YHVH (the LORD) said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have showed among them?

1 Cor 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Prior to 1948 Christianity taught that Jesus must accept Christ before they could return to the land. The establishment of the State of Israel changed their thinking. But then a prophetic countdown of seven years began in 1948. When 1955 came and went, church thinking had to go another change.

A good number of the 613 *Torah* instructions are **not** applicable today, because of the lack of a Temple, the exile (Diaspora) of Israel about and later Judah (because of their sins), the resulting lack of the theocratic government, the return of Jesus (called Y'shua, Y'shua, etc. in Hebrew³¹⁴), the precedence of local, state, and/or national laws, and/or the applicability to only specific groups of people: (e.g. kings, priests, men, women, widows, children, etc.). When one subtracts the Temple/Tabernacle and Levitical priesthood laws from the 613, there are only 271 remaining for people living outside Israel to keep and 297 for people living in Israel.³¹⁵ Joe Good, a Temple expert, indicates that 217 of the 613 relate apply to the Temple.³¹⁶

$613 - 297 = 316$ remaining commandments.

Does this mean that we should observe those commands that apply to others or to a non-existent temple? No. Israel has been sent in exile and has not returned to the land according to Orthodox Judaism and those holding to Two house Theology. Furthermore, Israel is a secular nation today comprised of 70% atheists or agnostics,³¹⁷ does not observe the *Torah* nor believes in Christ, and find the *Talmud* too difficult to follow.

One notable web site doubts that Torah-observant groups would actually build parapets around their roofs (Deut 22:8) when they functioned as a living space, and that much more would be required, instead, today.³¹⁸ Torah-observant individuals do not need to require parapets. Local building codes do! Today's homes have pitched roofs which are not suitable for outdoor living. Ground floor decks elevated just a few feet even have protective "parapets." Many times the Torah stakes a principle which common sense should and can modify as needed.

A person can**not** obey **all** 613 Torah commandments. Some are for women, men, kings, priests, children, judges, etc. Plus most importantly, until Yeshua's return we are in exile and under man's laws--not under a theocratic government. Vigilantism is not condoned.

Do the following statements ring a bell?

Act 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Matt 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Should we stone guilty people today, some might honestly or sarcastically ask? No. Even the priests in Jerusalem could not put Christ to death because they were under Roman law. Pilate had to make a ruling. Grafted-in believers who become a part of spiritual Israel are in exile and are subject to the laws of the nation that they are living.³¹⁹ This is what is meant that some *Torah* instructions (commonly termed "laws") are not applicable today. That is not hard to understand, is it?

No Double Standards. Granted there are some interpretative issues for a number of the instructions, such as when it comes some laws such as today's observance of the Biblical festivals. One thing remains clear, however, God is *not* capricious nor does he have a double standard for Jews (i.e. Israelites) and Gentiles. There is no Sunday worship, eating unclean foods, and Gentile gates in the New Jerusalem.

A house divided cannot stand. A capricious God did not send ancient Israel into captivity for *breaking* His laws (Jer 16:10-11) that could not be kept (as some church leaders teach)> Nor did God whimsically change His mind so today's believers in Christ do *not* need to obey them. Will the ancient Israelites at the second resurrection think it was fair to them? I think not.

God shows that OT and NT men were considered righteous for believing in Him and obeying Him by walking the Torah:

Gen 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Luke 1:5-6 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6 **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**

Romans 3:23-28. There are two types of righteousness: 1) one's personal obedience to the law, and 2) God's righteousness by the faith of Christ (Rom 3:22).³²⁰ God considered Job the most blameless and upright person on planet earth at his time (Job 1:1, 8). This was Job's "works" and is no different than anyone else keeping the commandments through their own best and sincere human efforts today. When Job has his personal interview with God's 74 rapid fire questions covering four chapters, he learned that his works did not compare at all with His Maker's. Hence Job's reply:

Job 42:5-6 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

When we examine these verses in Romans we discover that justification is not possible by merely keeping the law without saving grace.

Rom 3:22-31 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; :24 **Being justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set

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forth to be a propitiation through **faith** in his blood, to declare **His righteousness** for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time **His righteousness**: that **He** might be just, and the **justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the **law of faith**. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith without the deeds of the law**. 30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Paul is discussing righteousness without the law. But that does not mean that the law is done away with!

Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, **we establish the law**.

Righteousness is what Job proclaimed by his works to his friends. There is *no boasting* when righteousness is by faith. Now we can understand why Paul writes in Galatians 5:4 (also see prior Scripture entry on this verse, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Galatians 3:20-21)

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are **justified by the law**; ye are fallen from grace.

It is by faith, first, that Abraham walked and obeyed God. Scripture records that God only recognized the one son—not two—of Abraham. His son by

Heb 11:8 **By faith** Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 **By faith** he sojourned in the land of promise... 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...**17 By faith** Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his **only** begotten son,

Later we find that Abraham obeyed God's voice, commandments and even more (Gen 26:5).

Romans 6:14-16 Romans 6:14-16 Most people only remember the second part of verse 14, yet how many read the clear *and* simple answer in verse 15? It is not rocket science, folks, however, the answer put forth by Christianity today spotlights many are captured by church paradigms.

Romans 10:4. "Christ is the end of the law" would contradict Rom 3:3 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." The Greek word, *telos*, translated "end" may also mean the *goal*, or "the aim or purpose' of a thing" (*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, 1985, "End, Ending").

in English, end has two meanings. The first is termination, which is the majority usage of the word in English...However, we also have the phrases such as "the ends do not justify the means." In this case, the lesser used meaning is that of goal which applies in both Greek and English. —Carmen Welker³²¹

Telos is used in our English words, such as telescope, television, telephone, etc. and implies arrival as a goal. Our Savior is the goal, the destination, the arrival at end point of our spiritual journey of being guarded by the "tutor" of the Torah.

Consider James 5:11 which uses the same Greek word *telos*. Does this mean that the Lord no longer exists? ³²²

Jas 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end (G5056=*telos*) of the Lord;...

Nor does charity end:

1 Tim 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Romans 14:5 The context begins in verse one with Paul speaking about "doubtful disputations." (e.g. debate and dispute). How can the plain and easy to understand commands of God be open to dispute and debate? Esteem is not referring to a Sabbath day. The English word Sabbath is not even mentioned in the book of Romans. **6** Examine the context in verse six (v6). It reveals that the topic is either vegetarianism or observing the man-made Rabbinic days of fasting which are not required to be Scripturally observed (and which have become "doubtful disputations" (v1).

Salvation. The feast days, particularly the Eighth Day, teach that salvation is not limited to those who obey the *Torah* today. Keeping the *Torah* brings *blessings*—not salvation. Salvation comes through the Savior of the World. Not keeping *Torah* brings curses. It is a choice. One must consider the messages to all the churches in Revelation (particularly Rev 3:16 and Matt 5:18-19):

Mat 5:18-19 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Talmud. Talmud in Hebrew means "study" and is also termed the "Oral Law." It is a multi-volume set that contains 63 tractates in 6,200 pages in "standard print." (I have yet to determine what this print font size means). There are two Talmuds: the Jerusalem Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud. Both were developed in their respective regions; however, it is the Babylonian Talmud when the Talmud is referenced. ^{323 324} It can be purchased in either 18 or 26 volume editions.

The Talmud is composed of two parts: The *Mishnah* (Hebrew meaning "repetition") and the *Gemara* (meaning "completion").

Following the destruction of the 2nd Temple in 70 A.D. and the Jewish Diaspora, the oral law with its customs and traditions (c500 BC to 220 AD) were placed into written form about 220 A.D called the *Mishnah*. The *Mishnah* contains commands *not* recorded in the written *Torah*, but which were said to be orally transmitted secretly to God to Moses and later to Joshua and to the Levites generation after generation through oral repetition. ^{325 326}

There is no historic evidence for an oral law outside of the Mishnah tractate, Pirke Avot 1 of the Talmud which was written perhaps 1500 years after Moses: "Moses passed it [the 'Oral Law'] on to Joshua. Joshua gave it to the Elders. The Elders gave it

to the Prophets, and the Prophets gave it to the Men of the Great Assembly [including Ezra and Nehemia].”³²⁷ Joshua 8:35 (the last verse of this chapter) reveals that Joshua read every single word that Moses commanded. There is nothing read from any “Oral Law.”

Later rabbinic discussions developed on the *Mishnah* over the next 1200 years³²⁸ and were compiled into a commentary called the *Gemara*. These two writings collectively became known as the *Talmud*.³²⁹

There are two *Gemaras* which were named on where they originated: 1) the Jerusalem (completed about the 3rd century AD) which is shorter and is not entirely preserved, and 2) the Babylonian (completed about the 5th century AD) which is about 3 times the size of the Jerusalem and carries more authority. The Babylonian contains as many as 35 volumes, so it is not “a” book. These discussions are based on the opinions of over 2000 scholar/rabbis. They can be likened to the minutes of court of record and include scriptural interpretations pro and con, questions, arguments, debates and decisions, customs and traditions formalized into laws, folklore, old parables, proverbs, prayers, dreams, new Rabbinic decrees with no Scriptural basis, prior deeds, actions, and stories as a basis for yet other new commands and even superstitions. Stories were an important rabbinical teaching tool.³³⁰

Maimonides, a famous Jewish rabbi (c1135-1204 A.D.) writes:

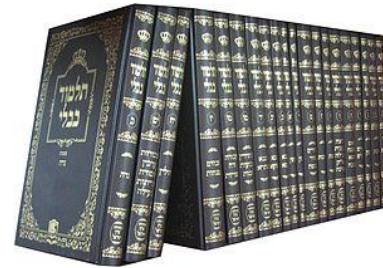
It should be understood that every commandment that the Holy One, blessed be He, gave to Moses our Teacher, peace unto him, was given to him together with its explanation. God would tell him the commandment, and afterwards He would give its explanation, its substance, and all the wisdom contained within the Torah's verses.—Maimonides' *Mishnah Torah* quoting *Sifra Leviticus 25:1*

“All the words.” Consider Moses' words for us in Exodus 24 (note the word “all”) which contrasts with the above explanation by Maimonides:

Exo. 24:3a And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments:..

To confirm that I am not building a point on one Scripture, there are other Scriptures to confirm this point, including Deuteronomy 28:58-59 where it is a part of the covenant with Israel to follow a written law:

Deut 28:58-59 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou may fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 59 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the



The TALMUD
Courtesy of Wikipedia:
article Talmud.

It is the Oral Law—the *Talmud*—that contains the many “fences” of the traditions of men. These fences are generally *mistakenly* referred to as the 613 OT laws.

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

All the words mean just that. There is no oral transmission outside of the written. Joshua 8:34-35 and 23:6 likewise fail to record any mention of an Oral Law. Neither do any of the covenant renewals and revivals where the Torah was read (Exod. 24:7; 2 Kings 23:1-3; Neh. 8:1-18) is there any indication of an Oral Law being recited. All of this only adds to the conclusion that one is not to add or subtract from the Torah (Deut 4:2 and 12:32).

During the first century the Oral Law was referred to in the New Testament as the tradition of men either Jewish (Mark 7:8) or secular men (Col 2:8), and traditions of the elders (Matt 15:2). Many Christians are not aware of the *Talmud* and can confuse these traditions mentioned in the New Testament as being part of the "written" Torah of "613 laws."

I highly recommend the book Rabbi Akiba's *Messiah* by Daniel Gruber to discover in detail the authority that the Jewish Rabbi's have assumed and have placed authority and position of the Talmud as being superior to that of Scripture. Five major lessons are conveyed by the Talmud according to Gruber: ³³¹

1. Miracles are not accepted by Rabbis to determine truth.
2. Heavenly voices (or inspired men) after Mt. Sinai are ignored.
3. A majority of rabbis determine truth in a matter—not Scripture
4. "God laughs when men outwit him"
5. Rabbis have the power to excommunicate those who do not submit to their decisions.

The authority of the Rabbis is stated in the Midrash:

Even if they instruct you that right is left or left is right, you must obey them." (Sifer §154 on Deut 17:11) ³³² "Even when they (the Rabbis) decide that left should be right or right left, when they are mistaken or misled in their judgment, they must be obeyed (*Rosh HaShanah 25a*).

He who transgresses the words of the scribes sins more gravely than the transgressors of the words of the law. (Sanhedrin X, 3, f.88b)

Those who devote themselves to reading the Bible exercise a certain virtue, but not very much; those who study the Mischnah exercise virtue for which they will receive a reward; those, however, who take upon themselves to study the Gemarah exercise the highest virtue. (Babha Metsia, fol. 33a)

The Sacred Scriptures is like water, the Mischnah wine, and the Gemarah aromatic wine. (Sopherim XV, 7, fol. 13b). ³³³

The Gospels record that Christ broke a number of these traditions. (See "The Talmud and the *takanot* in the New Testament" in the below highlighted box and **Matthew 23: 2-4**. *Takanot*—tack-AN-oat) is a Hebrew word and is defined as the "commandments of the Rabbis."

Takanot and *gezerot* are designated as "Commandments of the Rabbis." ³³⁴ "It is said that they were legislated to cure violations of the written Torah, as the people became more lax in their observances....The *takanot* are the handed-down 'commandments of men' that Paul speaks about in Colossians 2:8....They called the product of their decrees, a fence...around the Torah. —Avi ben Mordechai ³³⁵

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Moses received the Torah from Sinai and gave it over to Joshua. Joshua gave it over to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets, and the Prophets gave it over to the Men of the Great Assembly. They [the Men of the Great Assembly] would always say these three things: Be cautious in judgement. Establish many pupils. And make a safety fence around the Torah.—*m. Avot. 1*

Why is this? Because the Jewish leaders sat in the seat of Moses (Matt 23:2) and thought they needed to enact these "fences" which became a "yoke" that Christ referred to (Matt 11:30).

Mat 23:2-4 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 **For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders;** but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

These "fences" are *mistakenly* referred to as the "613" OT laws. It is the Talmud that contains the many fences. Rabbinic Judaism cites Exodus 23:2 ("Incline after the Majority"), Deuteronomy 30:12 ("It is not in Heaven") and Genesis 26:5 "(protected my protections) as their basis for their religious reforms and legislative powers. Could this also be a basis for the Catholic Church and others claiming their authority? Both Y'shua and Paul addresses these traditions in Mark wrote about these matters in Colossians 2:8.

Because the Jews have 3,000 years of experiencing and applying the Torah their knowledge can be of valuable assistance in clarifying difficult Scriptural passages, providing history, providing the methods on Scripture was implement when Scripture is silent, etc.

That is *not* to say that Rabbinic Judaism is always correct and is *not* to imply that one should study the Talmud. Studying Scripture is time consuming of and by itself and is the believer's foremost Spiritual tool in studying and establishing a closer relationship with our Creator.

The Jewish people consider the Torah as being *both* the written and oral writings. Quoting the written Torah is *not* necessary for Jews because if it is in the Oral Torah--it *is* "Torah." Many Jews, today, believe that the written OT is not comprehensible without the Oral Tradition.³³⁶

Christ said the Jews did not believe Moses:

John 5:45-47 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 **But if you do not believe his writings,** how will you believe my words?"

What did they these Jews of the 1st century then believe? Answer: The teachings and traditions of the Pharisees (Matt 15:7-9) which were regarded as "not only of equal, but even greater obligation than Scripture itself" according to Hebrew Christian scholar Alfred Edersheim.

The sayings of the elders have **more weight** than those of the prophets."(Jer. Ber.i.7)

An offence against the sayings of the scribes **is worse** than one against those of Scripture." (Sanh. xi.3)...it is inferred from Jer. ix.12, 13, that to forsake the

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law - in the Rabbinic sense was worse than idolatry, uncleanness, or the shedding of blood.—Alfred Edersheim³³⁷ (My Emphasis)

Dr. Israel Shakak agrees:

Jewish fundamentalists believe that the Bible itself is not authoritative unless interpreted correctly by talmudic literature.—Dr. Israel Shakak³³⁸

In the first century it was allowed to spit on a rock but not on the ground. Why? Because one was to cover his spit up with his foot, but that would be interpreted as plowing the ground which was prohibited by Rabbinic interpretation of keeping the Sabbath³³⁹ (John 9:6—Mishnah, Shabbat 108:20).

John Lightfoot gibes an explanation of the necessity for the washing of hands:

VII. To these most rigid canons they added also bugbears and ghosts to affright them.

It was the business of Shibta. Where the Gloss is, "Shibta was one of the demons who hurt them that wash not their hands before meat." The Aruch writes thus, "Shibta is an evil spirit which sits upon men's hands in the night: and if any touch his food with unwashed hands, that spirit sits upon that food, and there is danger from it.—John Lightfoot, A Commentary on the New Testament From the Talmud and Hebraica.³⁴⁰

Dr. Shakak further explains that the Bible itself is not typically studied:

The teachings of the biblical prophets, the books of Job and Ecclesiastes and numerous other parts of the Bible are studied neither in the heders [elementary schools] nor the yeshivot [talmudic schools of higher learning] and are therefore unknown to the Haredim [fundamentalists].—Dr. Israel Shakak³⁴¹

The penalty of death was the result of disobedience to the myriad commands of the Oral traditions of the elders (*takanot*) of

It is the TALMUD and the *takanot* (traditions of men) in the NEW TESTAMENT that Christ "broke."

Four Days: John 11:39—Beresh. Rabba, folio 114c, Tractate Smachot, Yebamoth, folio 120a, 121b, 121b. Yebamoth, folio 120a/Maimonides in Gerushin, cap. 13, from John Lightfoot, Vol. 3, p. 367

Hate your enemy: Matt 5:43—Pesachim 113b.

Healing on the Sabbath day: Luke 13:14-16— Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Shabbath, Folio 111a

Plucking ears of corn on the Sabbath day: Mark 2:23-28, Mark 3:1-2. See John 7:21-23 Where does it say in the OT (the Torah) where it is *not* lawful? — There are 39 prohibited activities listed in Mishnah Tractate Shabbat 7:2 of which one is reaping.

Sabbath day's journey: Acts 1:12—Eiruvim 42a.

Spat/spit: John 9:6—Mishnah, Shabbat 108:20 Covering spit on the ground with one's foot was likened to plowing on the Sabbath day . See also

<https://practicingresurrection.wordpress.com/2009/07/06/mud/>

Traditions of elders and

Washings of hands: Matt. 15:2 and Mark 7:3—Mishnah, Sotah 4b and Challah, J, 58:3. Kitzur Shulchan Aruch §40

Unlawful for a Jew to keep company: Acts 10:28—Babylonian Talmud, Abodah Zarah, 31b.

the Pharisees and Sadducees.

My son, be more careful in the words of the scribes than in the words of the Torah...whosoever transgresses any of the enactments of the scribes incurs the penalty of death.—Eruvin 21b

There is greater culpability in respect to the teachings of the scribes than in respect to the Torah..adding to the words of the scribes...he is culpable.—Sanhedrin 88b

A person must not say, "I will not keep the commandments of the elders because they are not from the Torah." The almighty says to such a person, "No my son! Rather all that they decree upon you, observe. As it is written, 'According to the instruction which they teach' [Deut 17:11]. Even I must obey their decree, as it is written, 'You will decree, and He will fulfill it' [Job 22:28].—*Midrash*, Pesikta Rabbati

Christ did adhere to some Rabbinic Oral commands, perhaps out of courtesy because they were common sense relationship rules of the Jewish culture, but *not* as a requirement—and provided they were not a yoke of bondage.³⁴² Does this mean He was subject to Rabbinic Law? No. Remember...He created the *Torah*.

The *Talmud* is adhered to by many in Orthodox Judaism but not Hebrew Roots® or Messianic-Jews. Nor do all Jews recognize the *Talmud* as a spiritual authority. The Sadducees of the Temple era, today's Reformed³⁴³ and Karaite Jews, for example, only recognize what we term the Old Testament as their authority.³⁴⁴

The New Testament only uses the Greek word *nomos* for law. This makes Paul's writings more difficult to understand because we do not know which law he was referring to: the written, oral, or another law.

Also see Chapter IV Hebraic Roots Ministries Commonalities.

QUESTION

Which law is Paul and others referring to: the *Talmud* or the *Torah*?

Ten Commandments. References to the Ten Commandments and many other *Torah* instructions (including the Sabbath, festivals, sacrifices, a form of tithing, etc.) are given in Genesis. These examples may demonstrate either that 1) man created a worship system (prevalent evolutionary thought) or 2) that more probably God gave numerous instructions (Gen 26:5) to Abraham and probably to humanity (which subsequently lost or destroyed them—intentionally or otherwise), prior to the selection of Israel as His people in Exodus and the formal giving and expansion of His *Torah* from a family to entire nation as the book of Exodus records. The book of Job is considered the oldest writing to be included in and before was Scripture as we know it. Yet Job knows and states that his “redeemer lives” (Job 19:25).

This answers in part the issue promulgated by some critics that the *Torah* was based on earlier secular laws—such as the Code of Hammurabi. It also answers in part that ancient religious festivals, such as the Akitu (barley) festival in the month of Nisannu in Babylonia. The festival has been linked as a parallel, if not a forerunner of

the Scriptural festival of unleavened bread.³⁴⁵ The first month of the Jewish Calendar is named Nisan (from Nisannu)

Historic records that libraries have been intentionally destroyed throughout human history. We need to realize that politics, power, human ego, and the ability to eradicate writings (and burn Elvis Presley records³⁴⁶) have not changed throughout recorded history.³⁴⁷ In 303 AD, Diocletian ordered all the sacred books to be burned., Eusebius, a church historian wrote,

I saw with mine own eyes the houses of prayer thrown down and razed to their foundations, and the inspired and sacred Scriptures consigned to the fire in the open market place.—Eusebius, (263 – 339 AD, H.E. viii).

Human nature has not changed. Yet how many people think otherwise? Those that believe in Scripture have been categorized by many as myth believers, ignorant, racist, incapable of critical thinking and more.

History is often said to be written by the victors (e.g. Pharisees and not the Sadducees). However one would not find people dying for Christ unless He was really lived and performed the recorded miracles. There were no CGI, photo or photo manipulations or holograms in that day and age to induce mass illusions.

There are more copies of Biblical writings than other noted and famous historic secular writings. The apostles and disciples men had nothing to gain and were not seeking riches--in contrast to religious and political numerous figures in religious and political history. Without a set of moral, lying can be accepted as a means to an end. According to evolutionary theory it is the survival of the fittest of which the bottom line exclude ethical and moral values. The noted example, today, is Senator Harry Reid who deliberately lied to discredit Romney Presidential candidate Romney and later boasted of it.³⁴⁸

In 1890 Scottish anthropologist Sir James George Frazer (1854–1941) wrote the first two volumes of his 12 volume book *The Golden Bough: A Study in Comparative Religion* (retitled *The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion* in its second edition).³⁴⁹ It is a "wide-ranging, comparative study of mythology and religion" in which he was the first to propose the concept of a dying-and-rising god. "Frazer associated the motif with fertility rites surrounding the yearly cycle of vegetation" and "cited the examples of Osiris, Tammuz, Adonis and Attis, Dionysus and Jesus Christ."³⁵⁰ He also "proposed that mankind progresses from magic through religious belief to scientific thought." a with a substantial influence on "contemporary European literature and thought."

Ancient myths have claimed that at least 10 various Christ like gods that predate Christ had various Christ-like similarities, including miracles, dead and rose in 3 days, virgin birth, etc.³⁵¹ Both *Zeitgeist: The Movie*³⁵² and Bill Maher's movie *Religulous*³⁵³ mentions stories, that predate Jesus and which have striking parallels such as the 12 apostles. Mithras has also been associated with 12 apostles. Mithrasim was practiced from 1st to 3rd centuries in the Roman Empire and reached its peak in the 2nd and 3rd centuries among Roman soldiers³⁵⁴ His supposed miracles reveals "speculative interpretations of Mithraic artwork by a few scholars who begin from a false premise....What is far more probable is that as Mithraism developed, it started to adopt Christian concepts."³⁵⁵ As is commonly stated, Imitation is the best form of flattery.

Torah. This word has different meanings to different people. 1) In its broadest sense, Torah can mean and include Jewish Rabbinic teachings and traditions such as the Oral Torah. 2) In another sense it can also mean the first five books of the of the Old Testament. 3) in its narrowest definition it refers to the written law of the 613 commandments of which the Ten Commandments (In Hebrew, the 10 words or *mitzvot*) are included). It is a guide to Gods righteousness.

Although one finds the Hebrew word Torah word translated as "law" in English Bibles, its real meaning is *instruction* or *teaching* in Hebrew.

Pro 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

The Torah contains the "law" but it is much more than that as one can see by reading the first five books. It also include history and prophecy

Keeping the *Torah* cannot make one perfect. One cannot of themselves keep the spiritual aspects of the *Torah* because of the nature of our being (see Romans 7). Pursuing obedience sets one apart (i.e. the meaning of the word *holy*).³⁵⁶

Trinity. I do not know the beliefs of those in the HR movement. Why? Because I do not care to ask. The Worldwide Church of God was anti-trinitarian and I would think its offshoots are likewise. I believe in God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. What else do people need to know? Let's not feed people meat to choke over the question of God's nature. Humans can recognize four (4) dimensions (Including time). Scientists acknowledge that the universe of composed from 10 to 26 dimensions. So...let us just consider the ramifications of the below verses...OK? And not make a salvational mountain out of a mole hill issue where we cannot see clearly into the mirror.

John17:11, 22 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are....22 And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Under the Law. What law? ³⁵⁷ The written law (the *Torah*)? The Oral Law (the *Talmud*, i.e. Jewish customs and traditions)? Those NT commands and teachings stated by Jesus Christ? The NT teachings and commands later given by the Apostles? The commands (e.g. no dancing, card playing, etc) of Christian Church traditions and others? ³⁵⁸ Imagine the United States being governed not by a Constitution, but personal letters written by Colonial Revolutionary War and other leaders.

Both NT and OT is *all* the Word of God.

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Timothy only had the OT at that time. The NT was not yet compiled.

Under the law means succumbing to the penalties (i.e. curses) of the law if one breaks the law. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law—death. The curse of the Law is *not* the Law. Blessings and cursings come from the Law. The curse is the divine consequence of breaking the law. Christ became a curse because as Paul writes

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the **curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:we have peace

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Paul is referring to Deuteronomy where the Torah pronounces a curse for a person left hangin on a tree:

Deut 21:22-23 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; **(for he that is hanged is accursed of God;)** that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Christ was crucified on the trunk of a tree. to which a crossbeam (Matt 27:32, *stauros*-G4716)) which He carried was attached: thus forming a cross.

Acts 13:29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the **tree**, and laid *him* in a sepulchre. (also Acts 5:20; 13:29)

The blessing is the reward that comes from being e Law. We use the similar expression today if one breaks the law. Is one "under the law" when he breaks the speed limit? Yes.

One must also be cognizant of Marcion's considerable influence as Christianity acquiesced and accepted a number of his teachings. (See Core Difference #6)

Yoke of Bondage. See Galatians 5:1 and Index.

3. The Talmud is NOT a Spiritual Authority

Jewish Oral Law (the Talmud) is *not* considered Holy Scripture to be obeyed,³⁵⁹ nor are Jewish traditions³⁶⁰ and many Christian traditions.³⁶¹ There is some value to be found in many teachings, historic and contemporary; however, as long as they do not conflict with Scripture.³⁶²

Investigate the many Rabbinic *do's and don'ts* that are given in the *Talmud* (the Oral Law) in Orthodox Judaism.³⁶³ For example, Scripture says very little on how to keep the Sabbath in comparison to the Talmud.³⁶⁴

For the State of Israel, Rabbinic Judaism is the reason why there is a secular state and not a true Torah state. Vast numbers of Israelis have concluded that the Torah is impossible to keep, because they have been told that the only way to keep Torah is through the Rabbinic halacha.—Avi ben Mordechai³⁶⁵

A certain heathen once came before Shammai and asked him, “How many Torahs, [i.e. Torahs] have you?” “Two,” he replied: “the Written Torah and the Oral Torah.” —Babylonian Talmud at tractate Shabbat 31a.³⁶⁶

Halacha is a Hebrew word meaning “the path that one walks.”

In his book *The Tent of David*, Messianic Jew Boaz Michael writes that it is improper for 99%+ of Messianic Gentiles to label themselves as “Torah Observant (or pursuant)” if they do not observe the Torah in the Jewish tradition. This includes the Sabbath with its traditional Jewish Talmud fence observances and instructions.³⁶⁷

It has been said that the 6,200 page *Talmud*/Oral Torah is a **yoke of bondage** that is being referred to—*not* the written *Torah* (i.e. the Old Testament laws of which many cherry pick to obey). See Rom 10:1-4 where Paul speaks of the Jew's Israel's righteousness which they based on man's righteousness—not God's righteousness (v4 and Psalm 119:172). (See **Galatians 5:1** for additional insight).

Similar to Christianity, there are Jewish traditions which have no Torah support for their keeping. One must recognize that all traditions are *not* necessarily bad and to be avoided simply because they emanate from either the Jewish or Christian culture. The Jewish culture is established by fine traditions as much as American culture with our hot dogs, apple pie, baseball games, etc. I highly recommend the book *The Jewish Book of Why* by Alfred Koatch to better understand the nature of many of the Jewish traditions.

The Jewish Book of Why by Alfred Kolatch is highly recommended to better understand the nature of many of the Jewish traditions.

Christian traditions include, but are not limited to, Sunday worship, Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, proselytizing, etc. of which many others have already written about. Christianity is about replacing God's Sabbaths, feast days, commandments, etc with man's and beginning a new religion. The issue is that God does not change (Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8). Both Y'shua and Paul also writes about the traditions of men (Matt 15:3,6, Mark

7:9, Col 2:8). On the other hand, all traditions are not offensive to God (1 Thes 2:15); for example, the blessing of children.

For a further discussion of this topic refer to the Talmud Section in Chapter IV: Hebraic Roots Ministry Commonalities.

Acts 15:5 Circumcision. Before delving into the Scripture's spiritual interpretations, it is important to address the physical aspects of circumcision being performed today by the medical establishment. Today's form of male circumcision practiced for past 140+ years is not Scriptural and was later introduced by the rabbis. See Appendix H.

As for the spiritual interpretations, I number them below

1). **What did circumcision portray in 2nd Temple times?** In Acts 15:5 where circumcision is addressed, it was not just a matter of physical circumcision (which Paul *also* preached (Gal 5:11) yet did not compel Titus to undertake (Gal 2:3). It was a term which expressed a formal Rabbinic conversion to Judaism with a rite of circumcision and embracing the Oral Law and Rabbinic authority. Being circumcised in that day was equated with being saved! Note Acts 15:1:

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, **ye cannot be saved.**

Note the phrase "after the custom of Moses" does not mean or say "obedience to the *Torah*." These Jews were teaching that circumcision was *required* to be saved. Keeping the law cannot save anyone. This is explicitly stated in verses Acts 15:11 and Gal 2:16:

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Gal 2:16 ... that we might be justified by the faith of Messiah, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Avi Ben Mordechai writes:

It already had been determined, in the days of Hillel and Shammai, two generations before Paul, that only through Pharisaic decrees and works of the law, could Gentiles be made to qualify for the blessings of Avraham.³⁶⁸

These Jews advocating circumcision did not keep the law as Paul further explains in Galatians 6:12-13:

Gal 6:12-13 As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Messiah. 13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Christ said this as well.

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keep the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

Apparently the Jews wished to glory in the flesh of another Greek convert to Judaism and the Rabbinic Authorities. The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:6) did **not** place circumcision as being *required* to attend a Jewish synagogue or to be a convert. Nor did it require or believe in the yoke of the Oral Law that "**neither their fathers nor we were able to bear**" (Acts 15:10).

Matthew 23:4-5a "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men.

Please refer to Eddie Chumney's explanations on the OT and NT verses associated with circumcision on his web site.³⁶⁹ When we recall the words of Christ in Matthew 5:19, John's instruction to walk "as He walked" (I John 2:6), and understand Paul's use of the word relating to a formal Rabbinic conversion to Judaism and its oral traditions, it is my understanding that these verses refer to ritual circumcision.

After all, circumcision is a commandment of God. On the other hand, ritual conversion, a man-made ritual, is not. Instead, this new teaching does not acknowledge the "ritual conversion" usage of the word – choosing to revert to the physical commandment of circumcision in Acts 15:1, against all historical and grammatical evidence to the contrary.—Grafted-in Ministries³⁷⁰

2) ***1 Cor 7:18-19 Is Circumcision required today?*** *I am not about to attempt to address this topic that is beyond my pay range and outside the scope of this book.* The Torah is quite clear yet the NT *appears* to be contradictory when Paul's writing (at times difficult—2 Peter 3:16) are contrasted to the letters of James and John (quite easy).

I do present two opinions which resonate with me:

A) Bryan T. Huie. 2002, April 19, 2002, Revised: October 26, 2012

Acts 15 - What Was The Objective Of The Jerusalem Council?
http://www.herealittletherealittle.net/index.cfm?page_name=Acts-Chapter-15

B) The following are given to think about:

- Physical circumcision was commanded on the *eighth* day (Lev 12:3).
- Unless one is circumcised of the flesh *and* heart one cannot enter God's Sanctuary (Ezk 44:7-9).
- One cannot take of the Passover unless one is circumcised (Ex 12:48).
- Circumcision is not a requirement to accept Yeshua as Savior (Acts 10).
- The New Covenant was given to Israel—not to the Gentiles—unless the Gentiles are grafted in, accept Yeshua as Savior, obey the Torah and thus become a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. (Jer 3:31-33, Rom 11:17-24, Eph 2:12)

Acts 15:10. To state that the yoke "which our fathers nor we were able to bear asks the question of There is an underlying question in this verse of whether the Almighty God knows what He is doing. Why would he give the written Torah with its "613" laws and set up curses for disobedience when He did know that the people could not keep these laws? OOPS. Sounds like a God who does not know the make-up of men and women that he created---doesn't it? Imagine giving people curses when God knew or did not know that people could not keep His laws. This yoke is described in Matt 23:4:

Matt 23:2-4 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

I do not think it is reasonable and rational, therefore, to draw the conclusion that Acts 15:10 is referencing the Jewish traditions embodied in the Oral Torah which is the "yoke." See the discussion in [Galatians 5:1](#) for more on the "Yoke of Bondage"

Acts 15:20. In short, these four commands provide a basis for new believers to fellowship with Jewish believer in eating together. Otherwise this would not be possible for Jews to sit and eat with Gentile believers. This verse is not about the law being “done way.”

The new Gentile believers are then to attend the synagogues and learn the Torah that is read each Sabbath. Many skip over the context of Acts 15:21.

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Now ask yourself, what does this have to do with Moses being taught in the Jewish synagogues every Sabbath Day—not on a Sunday in a Jewish Christian home fellowship group? Verse 21 reveals that it is a process of growth in grace and knowledge. Believers are all at different levels of growth and one should not force another to grow faster than what is beyond one capability. This is why they call schools “grade schools” and call students by terms such as freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. Life goes beyond our formal schooling. A person can only take in so much knowledge and digest it in a period of time. One cannot accept the Messiah as Christ as Savior and be immediately baptized without knowing the definition of sin (I John 3:4, Rom 3:20)) and repentance from it. Let the John the Baptist answer that question.

Matt 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Many today believe in adult baptism. Why? Because it requires some knowledge of God’s Word in order to be able to repent and to understand the commitment that is being made. It is not for children. (See **Galatians 5:1** above for additional insight).

If we look back to the pattern set up in Exodus, we find that the people accepted the blood of the lamb on the door posts before they were let to the mountain to receive the commandments and be set apart as a people.

* * *

How many Christians are taught that the basis of the four instructions to Gentile believers are found in the parallel accounts in Leviticus 17 and 18? Not many. When people are taught something over and over again in error, the error becomes entrenched into a paradigm of belief and is difficult to objectively address.

The context of v20 is v5 and v10 (see Galatians 5:1-3 also). Stop. *Critically think* this through. If Gentiles were told to *only* obey these four (4) requirements in Acts 15; Gentiles are therefore not bound by any other of the 10 commandments and nothing else? Huh? What do I mean? You may say that the rest of the New Testament teaches otherwise? What New Testament? There was *no* New Testament until years later—when it was canonized. Does one sense a contradiction *based* upon how many interpret Acts 15? Yes!

One cannot tell Gentiles to do **only** four (4) things and then say...but “that is not what it means.”³⁷¹ Two Messianic Jewish leaders also state:

Acts 15 specifically declares that nothing should be required of the Gentiles but four laws, three of them related to blood. Galatians 5 warns Gentiles not to receive circumcision or they will be required to keep the whole Torah. The clear implication here is that without circumcision, Gentiles are not required to keep the whole Torah.— Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik.³⁷²

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Regarding these four commands, Tim Hegg, a noted Messianic teacher, has a something different explanation:

I have shown elsewhere that viewing the Four Prohibitions as representative of the so-called Noahide Laws (a common explanation) is unfounded. Nor can the choice of these four stipulations be adequately explained by appeal to groupings of laws [*i.e. ceremonial, civil, and moral*] in Leviticus or to those commandments which, in rabbinic *halachah*, must be obeyed even at pain of death (no idolatry, no incest [includes adultery], no murder). The most adequate explanation for the Four Prohibitions is that they prohibit common practices associated with the pagan temples and were therefore understood as such (without further explanation), since Gentiles with a history in the pagan temples would immediately recognize the association.

So the primary purpose of the Four Prohibitions was to assure the believing Jewish community that the believing Gentiles had made a clear and permanent break with their former idolatrous practices.—Tim Hegg³⁷³

Tim Hegg further explains that the Rabbinic writings attest that the law (Torah) includes *both* the written and oral torahs. When this recognition, we can better understand that the yoke of the law dealt with the oral Torah not the written Torah (OT) of which Christ explains:

Matt 11:30 Place my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest for your souls, 30 because my yoke is pleasant, and my burden is light."

Hegg goes on to explain that these four commands deal with the issue of idolatry and are actually man-made by the apostles. They were given by the Apostles to believers so as to not give the appearance of being idolaters in a Roman driven society where the heathen temples were a center of business and commerce. These four commands would enable believers to better assimilate into the Jewish culture and synagogues without being accused of idolatry and fornication with temple prostitutes.³⁷⁴

Acts 15:20*	Acts 15:29*	Torah	Ezekiel 33:23-26 ³⁷⁵
Pollution of idols	Meats offered to idols	Lev 17:7-9	Idolatry
Fornication	Blood eating	Lev 17:10-12	Sexual immorality
Things strangled	Things strangled	Lev 17:13	Strangled meat
Blood eating	Fornication	Lev 18:6-24?***	Blood shedding***

*Hegg describes v20 as “draft” version and v29 as the final version.
 **Hegg writes that the Septuagint does *not* use the Greek word *porneia* in Lev 18, but it is associated with pagan temples and associated prostitution which is prohibited for believers without the need to single out Gentiles. The prohibition would then be to avoid any association whatsoever (ritual, service, support or any other) with pagan temples that involved prostitution.
 ***Shedding Blood is not the same as eating blood.

A thinking person should ask "Why did James instruct the Gentiles to learn the Torah which was “read every Sabbath in the synagogues” when the yoke of the oral customs and traditions were also being taught there? Christ had already given the answers regarding not to follow the commandments of men (Matt 15:9).

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Paul mentioned both his Jewish teachers: Gamaliel and Christ. Teachers today teach from the pulpit, books, TV and radio, etc. Was it any different in ancient times? Questions may be asked of teachers for clarification: i.e. "Whereof do you teach that from, Rabbi, the written Torah or the customs and traditions of the elders?" Many people do *not* ask questions for the fear of appearing dumb. Asking questions, instead, it is a sign of intelligence and being able to think.

One may not believe in evolution, but one should learn about evolution and its fallacies. One would not otherwise be able to critically refute evolutionary theory. It would be the same in a synagogue where one could learn the difference between the Talmud and the Torah. There was nowhere else to go to worship God.

Acts 21:21 Paul, arrives in Jerusalem and learns from the faithful what the unbelieving Jews are saying about him. This verse does *not* say Paul has forsaken "the law"! The context of the preceding verse 20 informs us that the faithful are "zealous for the law" and the context of verse 23-26 reveals Paul accompanying the men to the temple to keep the law. Verse 24 indicates that Paul did these things to reveal to others that he "walk orderly and keep the law." In verse 27 we discover it is the unbelieving and falsely accusing Jews who are making the accusation referred to in verse 21.

Later in **Acts 24:13-14** Paul defends himself against the wrongful accusations and affirms his belief and obedience to the law. Remember: the Hebrew way of thinking is action oriented in regarding to one's belief. The Greek way of thinking is having and thinking the correct beliefs but no required actions (i.e. works). In verse 21 Paul states his one exception to his difference in beliefs with the unbelieving Jews: the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 21:24 I present the Cambridge commentary on verses 24 and 25 as a spring board for your (and mine) further investigation and have no further comment at this time. The *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* states the following commentary on this verse:

...saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law] The oldest authorities omit the Greek of these words, which look somewhat like a marginal explanation that has crept into the text, especially as "to keep the law" is an expansion, though of course a correct one, of the statement made in Acts 15:1, about the teaching that was given. There circumcision alone is mentioned as the point on which disturbance was created.— *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* ³⁷⁶

Acts 21:25 The *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* states the following commentary on this verse:

...that they observe no such thing, save only] The oldest texts omit all these words, and they appear merely to be a marginal comment, echoing in part, but with a negative, the language of Acts 15:5; Acts 15:24. They do not represent any part of the form given in that chapter of the letter of the synod. ³⁷⁷

.."we have written that they observe no such thing.." Commentators remark that this is in reference to "keep the law" in verse 24.

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Is it any wonder believers ar(as myself) can be left wondering about the accuracy of Scriptures with the various interpretations and the ongoing revealing of mistranslations along with additions and omissions? (But then I digress).

2 Tim 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they **strive not about words** to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Judaizer. This pejorative term arose against and among believers in Jesus Christ to separate them from those in the Jewish faith which also used the same Old Testament. The term may also refer to one formally becoming a Jew by keeping the *Talmud*—not the *Torah*.

Probably the best description of Judaizers is in Acts 15:1: "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, and said, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you CANNOT BE SAVED.'" (Emphasis mine-Editor)... Circumcision performed for the purpose of being "saved" meant a full, formal conversion to Judaism, complete with a baptism/immersion into Judaism and an embracing of the rabbis' entire Oral Law (probably the law that Peter had in mind when he referred to "a yoke...which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear...The Judaizers believed that this conversion process would turn the Gentile believer into a full-fledged Jew, and that without this the Gentile could not be saved. Without a complete, formal conversion to Judaism, the Gentile believer could not become a full-fledged member of the saved Messianic Community, the Judaizers said.—Daniel Botkin ³⁷⁸

4. The *Torah* is for Everyone

The *Torah* is for both the Jew and Gentile.³⁷⁹

Christianity has disputed this since the first century. Yet the simplicity looks us right in the face—unless we are captured in traditional church paradigms.

Imagine instructing your five year old son to put a new roof on your house. He is not capable of doing it. Yet a father punishes the son for not being able to perform it. God is love and did not give His people Israel instructions that they were not capable of fulfilling in the letter. If the law is a “yoke” then the law is grievous and a burden to keep. Yet Scripture says otherwise:

I John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are **not** grievous (burdensome—YLT)."

Practicing Christians already obey up to 87% of the *Torah* requirements of those which still can be kept today according to author Andrew Gabriel Roth in the Appendix of the *Aramaic English New Testament* (p846)³⁸⁰ Sabbath and festivals, idol worship, dietary laws and miscellaneous others are dismissed as non-binding today.

It is not just about grace. It is about grace and obedience or as it has been said “pray and obey.” The “what” to obey has been the wall between Christians and Jews.

Many attempt to understand the calculus of the matter (Paul's letters—the difficult to understand as Peter writes in 2 Pet 3:16) when they have a hard time with the simple mathematics (the easy to understand letters of Peter, John and James).

This misinterpretation and misunderstandings have arisen for the most part due to a) the Jewish rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, b) Jewish persecution of Jewish believers in Messiah in c20-c200 AD, c) The Roman requirement for all to renounce their faith and worship the Roman gods—except those of the Jewish faith, d) the Roman persecution of the Jewish and those believing in anything Jewish. e) the resulting Christian adoption of heathen beliefs and rejection of almost everything Jewish in starting a new religion to escape persecution, and comply with the emperor in unifying the empire, f) mistranslations, g) ignorance, h) deception, i) ego, j) peer pressure/conformance to a Christian society k) blindness, and/or l) power/control/politics.

Remember McCarthyism in the 1950s and the WWII years of being Japanese? People could be looked on with suspicion for association with the enemies of our nation—even though they were innocent. Such was the case with the Christ believing pacifist Jews in the first few centuries after Christ.³⁸¹ If one adhered to anything Jewish, one was considered a Jew and an enemy of the Roman Empire or the later Christian Church. Better to change religions than endanger one's life, livelihood and family...right?

As Paul teaches in Romans 11, when a wild olive branch is grafted into the natural olive tree of Israel, the branch becomes part of the natural olive tree (Israel) which is nourished by the same root, as Bill Cloud explains.³⁸² All believers in Yeshua, therefore, become citizens of Israel, spiritually and are subject to the laws (the *Torah*) of the Kingdom of God. This is *not* Replacement Theology. Believers do *not* replace Israel, they are graft-in to Israel and the promises made by God to it. The *Torah* made provision for the stranger to become part of Israel. There are no Gentile gates in the New Jerusalem.

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Some Christians confusingly teach otherwise and may cite Exodus 12:48-49 as evidence, i.e.

We see here that in context it is referring to non-Jews who were living amongst Israel wanting to keep the Passover. So the inference is that non-Jews living amongst them could choose NOT to keep the Passover, and NOT be circumcised nor required to adhere to all ceremonial customs in the Torah. These verses prove that the Torah was for Israel, and not for the Gentiles (nations).— Bryan Baker.³⁸³

Yet Numbers 15:14-16 amplifies the verses in Exodus with another example that omits any mention to Passover. This negates beliefs held by others such as Bryan Baker (above). One must remember the purpose of circumcision. It is to become identified with Abraham and the promises made to Him by God.

Gen 17:10-11 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and **it shall be a token of the covenant** betwixt me and you.

It does not take much investigation, however, to realize that Israel was to be a kingdom (i.e. kings, territory, laws and subjects) and priests to the world representing and teaching God's instructions to the nations—the Gentiles—to achieve His blessings for an abundant life. Gentile had a choice to choose the gods of other nations or the God of Israel. It was not a matter of living the way one wishes and also claiming the God of Israel. Scripture illustrates that the acceptance of Gentiles/ strangers into the body of believers is not a New Testament phenomenon.^H

There are three steps to salvation from death and they are symbolized in the festivals: 1) Justification (Passover / Pesach and Unleavened Bread, 2) Sanctification (Pentecost/Shavuot), and 3) Glorification (Sukkot/Tabernacles. All believers are justified by Christ, His faith and His blood.

Rom 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon **all men unto justification** (G1347 from G1344) **of life**

Rom 3:24 Being **justified** (G1344) freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified** (G1344) by faithG4102 without the deeds of the law.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now **justified** (G1344) by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Unfortunately too often babes in Christ are often so misinformed or uninformed to believe that repentance is not necessary to be justified. God will accept you just as you are—is true—IF we accept his Son's sacrifice as payment for your debt of sin and desire to repent of sin! Far too many are not even taught the basic definition of sin prior to baptism. If not, what have they truly repented of? Some man-made definition to be a "good" person?

I John 3:4 Sin is the transgression of the law (Torah)

^H Num 15:15-16; Lev 24:22; Ex 12:48, Gen 17:14

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

The beautiful plan of God's festivals reveal that once we accept Christ as Savior, the believer is to become set-apart ("holy") by obedience as ancient Israel was so instructed to become a "holy people" (Deut 7:6) and a "kingdom of priests" (Ex 19:6). That obedience set forth at Mt. Sinai by God speaking. The law was later spoken and written from God by Moses because the people did not wish to hear God speak to them.

Deut 4:5-8 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. 6 **Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations**, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

In 1892 Chief Justice David Brewer wrote a Supreme Court opinion, which ended as follows:

These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation. [143 U.S. 457 (1892)]

It thus appears that this statement is contrary to those of this generation's leaders of our nation.

Sanctification is the work of two persons: 1) God through his Holy Spirit and 2) the believer yielding to it.

1 Thes 4:3 For this is God's will, your sanctification...

Our spiritual journey to glorification will entail bearing spiritual fruit in this life. Obedience brings blessings, it does not save, that is bring one salvation by doing good works, even thought believers in Christ are to become zealous of good works.³⁸⁴

Rom 3:20 Because by works of Law not one of all flesh will be justified before Him, for through Law (Torah) is full knowledge of sin.

Examples of future blessing and cursing from the law are made clear in both Isaiah and Zechariah:

Isa 66:16 For by fire and by his sword will YHVH (the LORD) plead with **all flesh** (does it say all JUDAH or ISRAEL): and the slain of YHVH (the LORD) shall be many. **Isa 66:17** They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, says the YHVH (LORD).

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one **sabbath** (does is say SUNDAY?) to another, shall **all flesh** (does it say all JUDAH or all ISRAEL?) come to worship before me, says YHVH (the LORD).

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH (the LORD) of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH (the LORD) of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have

no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith YHVH (the LORD) will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Note: Eating pork, mice, and the feasts are considered the “Ceremonial Law” by many in Christianity and not the Ten Commandments. Yet, what happens to these people if they do not keep these “Ceremonial Law” instructions written by Isaiah (above)? Would one say they are cursed? Yes.

Nor does it say that the “Moral” Law shall go forth from Zion and Jerusalem in the future (Isa. 2:3; Mic 4:2).

Unfortunately, the COGs and even HR adherents can lose sight of the fact that the gospel is not the “law.” Critics can lose sight of the fact that repentance involves keeping the law—not discarding it—and mistakenly use Colossians to support their position.

Furthermore, as opposed to the gospel of scripture which proclaims the good news of forgiveness of sin, the Hebrew Roots message is a gospel of law; to wit, that man is to be reconciled unto God not by faith in God, but by keeping the Law of Moses. Accordingly, no person can hope to be in a healthy relationship with God unless he or she is keeping the weekly Sabbath, the appointed feasts, and the dietary laws. The scriptures testify otherwise. (Col. 2:16).—IAMCS ³⁸⁵

Messianic “Two Law” Theology vs Hebrew Roots “One Law” Theology

The leadership of the MJAA, UMJC and Tikkum Ministries do not believe that the Torah is for everyone. It is only for the Jewish people.³⁸⁶ Judaism considers the *Torah* as their heritage belonging to no one else. **Should a person wish to keep the Torah, it can be considered a form of Replacement Theology.** It teaches that Gentiles are not obligated to observe the Torah. Gentiles only need to observe the Noahide Laws.³⁸⁷ In other words, Christians *should not even keep* all of the Ten Commandments or are obligated to adhere to any of the Torah teachings. Christians are only obligated to keep the Noahide Laws and Jews are obligated to keep the Torah (Two Law Theology).

So there we have a major difference with Christianity little alone Hebrew Roots® which believes that all are obligated to the Torah. Period.

This difference in law keeping theological positions nothing more than an attempt by Messianic-Jews to modify and adopt the Catholic and Christian positions of allowing people to work on the Sabbath days and eat unclean foods without incurring any guilt. It is my opinion that “One-House” reestablishes the “middle wall of partition” between Jew and Gentile that Paul describes in Ephesians 2:14.

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The unique calling of Israel lies within the Abrahamic Covenant and Israel's obedience to the Torah. Israel is a chosen people and is called to be a holy nation and a Kingdom of kings and priest for one big reason: they will teach others under the Messiah the ways of righteous and obedience to the Torah. Gentiles may be grafted-in and participate in this calling and the responsibility it entails in this life.

Monte Judah addresses Isaiah 2:3 and the Messianic Jewish organizations interpretation of it:

Isa 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

These exact words are also found in Micah 4:2. This is considered a "messianic" prophecy by Judaism, and they are correct in that interpretation. Judaism says that the Messiah will teach the Torah to all nations in the kingdom, that everyone will come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. I agree with them. However, the IAMCS leaders who profess Yeshua as the Messiah say the opposite. What is even stranger is that these same leaders have used the words of Isaiah (these very words) as themes for their national conferences, apparently with no understanding. It is illogical to me that any Messianic Jewish leader would read these Scriptures and then say the commandments of the Lord should not be taught to "all of the families of the world."

The position of the MJAA, the IAMCS, and the UMJC of teaching the Torah only to Jews is a racist, bigoted position at great odds with the teaching of the Torah and the Messiah Himself.—Monte Judah³⁸⁸

Messianic Judaism, as an evangelical effort of Christianity to convert Jews to Christ, follows in the steps of Judaism by teaching two laws: the New Testament/Covenant for Christians (i.e. Gentiles) and the Torah/Old Covenant for Messianic Jews. The reason is that the Jews, even Messianic Jews, are still a special covenant people who are still required to keep the *Torah*.

Another reason is that in order to be saved, one must accept Christ as His personal Savior. There is no other way or by any other name that a person may be saved. As long as a Jew accepts Christ, does it matter to a Christian whether the Jew keeps Torah or not? But it does matter when a Christian Gentile keeps the Torah.

The basic 2000 year of conflict between Christian and Jew becomes apparent. This conflict has influenced the understanding of God's appointed days.

What about the many, many other Jews who have not accepted the Messiah? Are they lost forever? Absolutely not!! The means for their salvation and the remainder of mankind who have not accepted Christ is hidden within the concealed meanings of God's appointments and festivals. These meanings are revealed in my free book *The Future and Hope: Revealing the Concealed Messages of God's Festivals*.

The unique calling of Israel lies within the Abrahamic Covenant and Israel's obedience to the Torah. Israel is a chosen people and called to be a holy nation and a Kingdom of kings and priests for one big reason: under the Messiah they will teach others the ways of righteous and obedience to the Torah. Gentiles may be grafted-in and participate in this calling and the responsibility it entails in this life.

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Messianic Judaism embraces the concept of one new man differently than those in Hebrew Roots. It teaches the one new man of [verse 15](#) is Jew and Gentile being likened to the differences between the man and woman coming together in marriage to be "one." Nothing is said about the wife submitting to the leadership of the husband or being unequally yoked together since can two cannot walk together except they agree (Amos 3:3).

Because Messianic Judaism does not teach Torah adherence, which is only meant for the Jewish people, it can co-exist with the anti-Torah theology of the greater Christian community. Torah observance is optional for any believer.³⁸⁹

MJ teaches that Jew and Gentile are grafted into one olive tree with each retaining its difference: one keeping *Torah* and the other not keeping *Torah* yet both are "one in Christ" until the End Times when all remaining Jews will accept Y'shua. Here is their thinking on the subject:

From the strict Messianic Judaism perspective, Hebrew Roots is a positive development only so long as it isn't One Law, which eliminates the distinction between Jew and Gentile. —Paul Spinrad³⁹⁰ [Note: The writer does not address Rom 2:28-29 nor Ex 12:48 & Lev 24:22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God. Num 9:14. See Two House Theology].

Many in Torah-observant circles are not Jewish. Thought should be given as to why non-Jews are so eager to observe a law never intended for them.—Richard Robinson³⁹¹

We in the messianic Jewish movement also wish to make clear the fact that we are opposed to One Law theology, and to any doctrine which advocates, as One Law does, the idea that New Covenant faith among the Gentiles is to be fulfilled by embracing the Sinai covenant.—International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 2004. "One Law, Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots Movement." published by the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues or IAMCS.³⁹²

The idea behind "One Law" theology, whether stated or implied, is that he who keeps the law given to Israel, therefore IS Israel.³⁹³—IAMCS

The bottom line is this: The ultimate goal of "One Law One People" theology, as embodied today in the Two-house movement, is replacing the Jewish people as Israel. —IAMCS³⁹⁴

The essential, unifying message of the Hebrew Roots movement is the mistaken belief that all people everywhere – Jew and Gentile alike - should be keeping the law of Moses....It is propelled by the common misconception that one law was given at Mt. Sinai for all people, and that the law is the way for people to be reconciled unto God....The idea, whether stated or implied, is that if a person keeps Torah, then this confirms their identity as Israelites.—IAMCS³⁹⁵

Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry has taken exception to statements made in the IAMCS Two Sticks paper quoted above.³⁹⁶ Here are some of his pointed responses:

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Every word in this paper is pure racism, disguised as "Oh those poor Gentiles they want to be like us, oh God bless em." It appears that it is okay to work on the plantation, boys, but ya gotta use the commode out yonder! Although the commandments of God are designed to bless us when we keep them, 'you boys' are on the wrong side of the tracks, the blessing are for us...

Scott then quotes from the One Law Two Sticks paper:

We, as Messianic Jewish leaders, have become increasingly concerned that there are a growing number of individuals and groups today promoting the idea that all the world's believers in the Messiah - Jewish and Gentile alike - ought to be keeping the Torah, particularly the Shabbat, the feasts, and kosher diet. The doctrine which is the subject of this paper has been around since the day of the Apostles, in different forms, but today it has come to be known as "One Law One People" or just "One Law," for short... —IAMCS ³⁹⁷

Brad Scot then rephrases that quoted paragraph as follows:

We, as leaders of the superior race, have become increasingly concerned that there are a growing number of individuals and groups today actually promoting the idea that all the world's believers in the white Messiah - white and negro alike - ought to be using the same public bathrooms, particularly the sinks, the toilet stools and the soap dispenser....since it [One Law] suggests that the white man and the negro are one. Can ya imagine that?...Thankfully however, there are many negroes in the world that recognize the fact that their beliefs are rooted in a white Messiah, white apostles, and a white man's gospel....Obviously, the roots of public bathroom usage are white and belong to the white man. Thankfully however, there are many negroes in the world that recognize the fact that their beliefs are rooted in a white Messiah, white apostles, and a white man's gospel."—Brad Scot ³⁹⁸

The Talmud goes further in stating that a Gentile should not even study the Torah:

R. Johanan said: A heathen who studies the Torah deserves death, for it is written, Moses commanded us a law for an inheritance; it is our inheritance, not theirs. Then why is this not included in the Noachian laws? - On the reading morasha [an inheritance] he steals it; on the reading me'orasah [betrothed], he is guilty as one who violates a betrothed maiden, who is stoned. An objection is raised: R. Meir used to say. Whence do we know that even a heathen who studies the Torah is as a High Priest? From the verse, [Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments:] which, if man do, he shall live in them. Priests, Levites, and Israelites are not mentioned, but men: hence thou mayest learn that even a heathen who studies the Torah is as a High Priest! - That refers to their own seven [Noahide] laws. —Talmud - Mas. Sanhedrin 59a ³⁹⁹

Yet, some in MJ, such as Firstfruits of Zion, teach extensively on the Torah. The "Divine Invitation" teaching from First Fruits of Zion is that Gentiles are invited to learn and observe the Torah with its blessings, but are not required to keep it (at this time).

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

Hebrew Roots teaching suggests that the only hope for the Gentile believer is to get out of the church, and start keeping the Sabbath, the Levitical feasts, and eating kosher along with other Sabbaterean Hebrew Roots “believers.” This kind of legalistic message is necessarily connected to a mistaken belief about the identity of Israel. —IAMCS ⁴⁰⁰

This includes the eating of pork at the 1990 UMJC conference in Glorietta, New Mexico, according to Avram Yehoshua.

[I]t was never the intention of those [Messianic Jewish] men to walk in Torah, for themselves or for the Gentiles... “at Messianic Jewish functions” pork chops were served and “none of the assembled leadership even raised an eyebrow.”-- Avram Yehoshua ⁴⁰¹

Michael Rood and Tim Hegg confirm the eating of pork at conferences or following Shabbat services. ⁴⁰² Tim Hegg of Torah Resource writes:

I have attended UMJC and MJAA congregations where the Judaica Shop is open on Shabbat, where visiting Messianic musicians sell their recordings after the Torah service, and congregates retreat to their favorite restaurant following the Shabbat morning service. Some don't seem to have any qualms about shrimp on ice at their wedding receptions, and it's not uncommon to hear bold statements that “since we are members of the New Covenant, we are free from the Law.

In fact, I wonder if it might not be appropriate to label some groups within “Messianic Judaism” as “Reform Messianic Judaism?...Additionally, in the official statement called “Defining Messianic Judaism” of the UMJC, the conversion standards of Reform Judaism are the accepted norm for proselytes within the UMJC. In some ways, then, the current drive to redefine Messianic Judaism appears to have some close affinities with the Reform movement.—Tim Hegg ⁴⁰³

In my meeting with a local MJ Congregation leader in a discussion on the 613 laws in 2017, he revealed that that two leading MJ personages (whose names I will not reveal) ate pork.

Rabbinic Authority. Jewish people do not consider HR as being Torah observant because it does not observe it in accordance with the Rabbinic teachings in the *Talmud*. ⁴⁰⁴ FFOZ asserts that the Rabbis have the rights to interpreting the *Torah*—which is established by the *Talmud*. (This conflicts, though, with Christians and MJ teaching the opposite of the Rabbis when it comes to Two-House.) FFOZ is opposed, therefore, to a non-Jew interpreting Scripture outside of Jewish and Christian tradition. That is not to say some non-Jews may teach it. Boaz Michael of FFOZ is correct that Hebrew Roots® rejects the *Talmud* as a spiritually authority. (He combines HR with the term Two House). ⁴⁰⁵ I would again direct the reader to the highly recommended book *Rabbi Akiba's Messiah* by Daniel Gruber to discover the authority that the Jewish Rabbi's have assumed and from whom Christianity has taken a number of their beliefs including those of man-made authority.

Boaz Michael writes in his book *The Tent of David* that it is improper for a Messianic Gentile or Hebrew Roots adherent to label themselves as “Torah Observant (or

pursuant)" if they do not observe the Torah in the Jewish tradition such as the Sabbath with its Talmud fence instructions which add to Scripture—something which Scripture warns against. The implication is that is observance to be done the Jewish way or not at all.⁴⁰⁶

I find this quite revealing on how concepts can be turned 180 degrees. The trunk with the same nourishing *holy* root system is Christ (Rev 5:5; 22:16). He is *not* divided into two ways of life.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? As John Wesley's Explanatory Notes explains: Can you have God's presence while you walk so contrary to him?

2 Cor 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

In summary:

1. Messianic Judaism believes there is one law for the Jew and one law for the Gentile. This is termed Dual-covenant or Two Law Theology which is reported to originate with Jewish teacher Maimonides (1135-1204).⁴⁰⁷
2. Gentiles may wish to keep the Torah as they are able to, but they should not believe or teach that the Sabbath and/or the law is required to be kept. If they do so they practice Replacement Theology because the Torah is uniquely Jewish, belongs to the Jewish people and is not for anyone else.
3. MJ have taken the Constantine and Christian perspective of abdicating the Sabbath observance day if not the Ten Commandments for believers in Yeshua. Those who keep the Sabbath day (some 550 Christian church organizations) can be considered Judaizers and have fallen from grace and are purveyors of a false gospel that kills.⁴⁰⁸ "It is a different gospel."⁴⁰⁹ ..".the Hebrew Roots message is a gospel of law."⁴¹⁰ They should only be instructed mostly by the NT epistles, not primarily following the steps and teachings of Yeshua—which are an application of Torah.

Christ, is THE way (John 14:6, Act 24:14)—NOT two ways or 41,000+ denominational ways with some prohibiting marriage between them. A holy root system bearing commandment keeping holy branches does not bear commandment breaking unholy branches of a differing core belief system.

Num. 15:40 That ye may remember, and do **all** my commandments, **and be holy** unto your God.

Deut 28:9 The LORD shall establish thee an **holy people** unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, **if thou shall keep** the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

Rom 11:16,18 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the **root be holy, so are the branches...**¹⁸ Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou beat not the root, but the root thee.

As noted above in Leviticus 19:33-34 and elsewhere in this book, I do not find the Messianic Jewish belief of the "one new man" of two law keeping entities neither logical or Scriptural. Does it appear that the envy and the vex continues today?

Isa 11:13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

Christians believe in keeping the law of love but not the Torah. Matthew 22:36-40 is often quoted for support.

Matt 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? :37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Yes, the Torah was given to Israel. They are His Covenant People! Yet, gentiles may be grafted in to the tree as Paul explains (Rom 11:11-34). Gentiles become *part* of Israel. They do **not** replace Israel. This is not Replacement Theology or supersessionism (the same but more scholarly term). Elijah was not a native Israelite either!⁴¹¹

Noahide Laws. Messianic-Judaism and Judaism teach that Gentiles are only required to keep the seven Noahide Laws:

1. Do Not Deny God
2. Do Not Blaspheme God
3. Do Not Murder
4. Do Not Engage in Incestuous, Adulterous or Homosexual Relationships.
5. Do Not Steal
6. Do Not Eat of a Live Animal
7. Establish Courts/Legal System to Ensure Law Obedience (of the preceding 6 laws)

The Noahide Laws are seven laws considered by rabbinic tradition as the minimal moral duties required by the Bible on all men. While Jews are obligated to observe the whole Torah - 613 commandments, every non-Jew is considered a "son of the covenant of Noah" and he who accepts these obligations is considered a righteous person who is guaranteed a place in the world to come.⁴¹²

Gentiles are not to observe the *Torah* according to the Noahide Laws. In other words, the Torah is only for the Jewish people. This is not just a theological point, but it is apparently also an emotional issue evidenced by statements in formal written rebuttals against Hebrew Roots® which go as far as to claim an opinion that HR has latent anti-Semitic/anti-Jewish elements.⁴¹³ Messianic teacher Boaz Michael of First Fruits of Zion (FFOZ) explains Jewish thought:

Furthermore, Jewish dietary laws, religious apparel, and distinctive customs have always identified the Jewish people as a distinct people group and prevented them from being completely assimilated in the cultures and peoples among whom they have been dispersed.

Any challenge to this identity is likely to be perceived, from a Jewish perspective, as an attack on the Jewish people themselves."⁴¹⁴

...I want to state emphatically that *Judaism does not need or want Gentiles taking on Jewish identity or becoming Jewish.*"⁴¹⁵

Walk into any MJ congregation, and one will find some Messianic Gentile Christians wearing the same Jewish attire in order to make potential Jewish attendees/guests more comfortable in attending a MJ Shabbat Service.

IV. 7 DISTINCTIVE CORE DIFFERENCES

Jewish people do *not* like MJ Gentiles appropriating Jewish religious attire as Danile Botkin explains:

The FFOZ writers obviously have overlooked the fact that FFOZ does far more to blur the Jew-Gentile distinction than other Messianic do. Why do I say this? Because while FFOZ does not teach that Gentiles are obligated to keep the Torah, they do urge and encourage them to do so, and to do it IN THE RABBINICAL MANNER. Most Messianic Gentiles are not real concerned about Torah in the exact manner prescribed by the extra-Biblical traditions of the rabbis. FFOZ, on the other hand, strongly urges Gentile believers to follow rabbinical traditions when doing Torah. Thus a group of FFOZ Gentile disciples, with their Hebrew siddurs, their covered heads, and their all-white tzitzit, resemble Jews (and thereby blur the distinction) (sic) far more than a group of sola scriptura Messianic Gentiles who are saying spontaneous prayers in English with uncovered heads and blue tzitzit. I'm not criticizing those who prefer the rabbinical approach. I'm just saying that Gentile believers who incorporate lots of Jewish tradition are blurring the Jew-Gentile distinction far more than those who use little or no Jewish traditions.⁴¹⁶

Revealing another contrasting viewpoint, Batya Wootten explains:

Boaz Michael (First Fruits of Zion), Hegg, and much of Messianic Judaism seem to think that descendants of Judah have a greater right to be acknowledged as heirs because most of them know about Torah and their heritage. Conversely, they believe those who feel they are heirs of brother Joseph are not to be regarded in the same way because their heritage is "unprovable." It is essentially argued that they have not obeyed Torah and have not kept the feasts, and thus are disqualified.⁴¹⁷

However, as Hebraic Roots teachers Monty Judah and Eddie Chumney state:

Therefore, those joining with Judah in the Messianic movement should observe the custom and culture with proper protocol rendering no disrespect to anyone. We also believe there is a difference between commandment and custom and teaching the observance of commandment while honoring custom.⁴¹⁸

The WCG and its splinters, without calling itself Torah observant, do keep most of the OT "laws" and believe in BI to one degree or another. Perhaps a reason they have not come under such severe criticism by the MJ or Jewish community is because they do not adopt Jewish customs/traditions, do not proselyte, are too fractured, too small to be much of a concern and/or cultic/exclusive of which they desire to not be associated in any manner.

5. The Hebrew Language is Studied

The Hebrew language is especially studied in both its ancient⁴¹⁹ and contemporary forms⁴²⁰ to achieve a better understanding of Scripture.⁴²¹ Greek words are not ignored.

One does *not* have to learn Hebrew (contrary to what one web-site preacher stated and yet another)⁴²² or Greek. One can be productive fruitful and faithful disciple learning Hebrew.⁴²³ Because it does aid in better understanding Scripture and learning about the various mistranslations, those in HR and Messianic-Judaism wish to learn something about these languages. I hope that many Christian believers think the same. It should be noted that Greek is taught much more often than Hebrew in the seminaries.⁴²⁴

We need to bear in mind that a revival of the Hebrew language began with Eliezer Ben-Yehudain toward the end of the 19th century. He instituted language changes from the sacred to a spoken and written language used for everyday contemporary life in Israel.⁴²⁵ As to how much ancient Hebrew had changed from today's Hebrews will be left to the linguistic experts.⁴²⁶

Many in HR and MJ may place an undue emphasis on studying Hebrew rather than learning and remembering foundational English Scriptures. Messianic services can mimic Catholic services in the use of a foreign language for liturgy (Hebrew vs Greek) in the attempt to evangelize the Jewish population.

No English translation is perfect, so we all believers in the Messiah be familiar with Bible helps such as concordances and commentaries. Knowing some Hebrew does not make one an expert in translating. Nor does saying prayers in Hebrew make one more spiritual. Arrogance needs to be kept in check.

Wouldn't be nice if most church going Americans and those calling themselves Christian *and* Hebrew Roots would even read and know more about their Bibles—in the *English* language!⁴²⁷

One of the first things people will notice is that Jesus' name in Hebrew (Yeshua or a few other variations) is predominately used in worship and study in HR fellowships and also Messianic Jewish congregations

It is interesting to note the respect for the four letters comprising God's name (the Tetragrammaton) in the copy of the Great Scroll of Isaiah found in the Dead Sea Scrolls on display in the Shrine of the Book Museum in Jerusalem. God's name is written in paleo-Hebrew letters while all of the rest of the words in the text are written in the modern Hebrew. The ancient paleo-Hebrew alphabet can further define the meanings of Hebrew words as Dr Frank Seekins describes in his book *Hebrew Word Pictures*.

Some take on Hebrew names/nicknames. Perhaps this make them feel closer to God? Ask them and find out.

6. Learn the Lessons of History

The first and second century faith, culture,⁴²⁸ history,⁴²⁹ persecution,⁴³⁰ and religious politics,⁴³¹ which led to the core differences with the Jewish and Christian communities and the subsequent Christian acceptance of pagan myths, rituals⁴³² and observances are critically studied.⁴³³ Contemporary scholarship (Jewish, Messianic-Jewish, Protestant, etc.)⁴³⁴ is also studied in order to continually prove all things⁴³⁵ and not be in ignorance.

Many Christians do not know the Scriptures or history well enough to understand the politico-religio events of the first centuries which led Christianity to adopt syncretism and contrary explanations regarding “the law.”

support the Jewish people, or even Jewish customs, was interpreted as not being loyal to Rome...pressure was being put on Jewish believers from three sides: first, from the non-believing pagans who hated anything Jewish; second, from the non-believing Jews who feared their power among the people; and third, within their own congregations by the new gentile believers who were entering the faith already affected by the rampant anti-semitism.—Joseph Good⁴³⁶

Notwithstanding the deep hatred entertained by the Jews for their enemies (e.g. the Romans) they did not avenge themselves upon such as fell into their hands. It was only against the Jewish Christians who lived in Judea that Bar-Cochba displayed his hostility, because they were considered as blasphemers and as spies. This hatred against the Jewish Christians was increased because they refused to take part in the national war, and were the only idle lookers-on at the fearful spectacle.—Heinrich Graetz.⁴³⁷

On the other hand, many in HR are studying history (not a popular subject for many). They are fitting together the simple 1+1s of Scripture without having the trained attorneys and trainees of religious life tell them how to do it, without the agenda, prejudices and bias of religions (but no one is perfect), and without the erroneous teachings which can cloud critical thinking. Many, apparently, are coming to similar conclusions.

Recall that hundreds of years ago people were once not even allowed to read the Bible in their native language and/or allowed to read the Bible at all. The schooled religious leader had to teach them. It was a Catholic monk named Martin Luther, who against the advice of his superiors, began reading the New Testament. It was his shock to discover the absence of scriptural authority for many Church traditions. The rest is history. Unfortunately, *Sola Scriptura* would only take him so far before he, like many, could not shake all of the traditional spiritual baggage.

For those who are short on their history, this 1-2-3-4 explanation is offered:

1. The Jews persecuted the Judeo-Christians/*Talmidei Y'shua* (Heb=students/ disciples of Y'shua) /Nazarenes (different names for the same group of people) accepting Christ and obeying the Torah from the time of the apostles especially though the Bar Kokhba rebellion of c132-136 A.D.⁴³⁸

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2. The Romans persecuted the Jewish people because of their continual uprisings against Rome. The Judeo-Christians began to suffer the same Roman persecutions even though they were pacifist. To disassociate itself with this persecution, many of the new Christians began to reject things Jewish including the Old Testament. Discover Marcion.⁴³⁹
3. Christians later persecuted the Jews and Judeo-Christians. Constantine, who wished to have a socially and politically stable empire, issued decrees which made Christianity the official religion. The Biblical Passover date was rejected in favor of Easter so as to avoid any similarity with the Jews. In short, one could lose their job and economic security over which days they observed unless they changed their faith. (Similar to the book of Revelation?) Discover the Quartodeciman Controversy where those who wished to keep the original date of Passover were persecuted by those who demanded the change to Easter Sunday.
4. To disassociate itself with anything Jewish and to convert masses of people to "the faith," the Christian church adopted pagan myths and customs with Sunday as the day of worship. To continue these myths and customs, the church has had to come up with man-devised explanations of why God sanctions man's proclaimed holidays of mythology (which God prohibits). Perhaps that is how the explanation that the Holy Days have been fulfilled and the *Torah* is past history was developed?

One's physical and economic security and his family came to rely on which faith he claimed. Is it any different today? What would you have done to avoid persecution? Would you have been included with 90%-95% of slaves which made up the population of the Roman Empire, who could not read or write, and only wished to live their lives?

Christianity is not alone in adopting pagan mythology.

The Jewish people have done likewise as a result of their stay in Babylon. Examples include the naming of months after Babylonian deities⁴⁴⁰ and the adoption of the Babylonian New Year's festival of "Akitu". This festival fell on the 1st day of Tishrei which coincided with Yom Teruah on the 1st day of the Seventh Month. Yom Teruah was renamed Rosh Hashanah (the head of the year).⁴⁴¹

7. The Sabbath Days, Appointments and Festivals Are Observed.

The 7th Day Sabbath and the Creator's (*Torah*) holy days which picture/foreshadow the 1st and 2nd comings of the Messiah and the Master Plan of Salvation for mankind are observed,⁴⁴² not Christianity's adoption of non-Biblical mythical holidays, traditions,⁴⁴³ and other such observances⁴⁴⁴ of which Scripture expressly prohibits in honoring the Creator by both adults and children.⁴⁴⁵

One could write on this point until the cows come home. The Seventh Day Adventist Church and the split-offs of the now defunct Worldwide Church of God have just about done that already, though⁴⁴⁶ The majority of Sunday keeping believers are not convinced by any reasoning on this subject. This includes the religio-political events of the first few centuries during which Sunday worship came about. The Sunday defense relies on the "early church fathers" who wrote about it—not Scripture. This is where spiritual blindness enters the equation. There is no issue on worshiping God on Sunday or any of the other five days of the week. But there is an issue when one neglects the Sabbath day. It is about 10 commandments—not 9.

Note that the Sabbath command takes up one-third of the text of the ten commandments, which by this weight alone indicates significance. Especially note that there are two parts to this commandment. Rest *and* work. If rest is indeed symbolic, then by its corollary, everyday work must be symbolic and spiritual as well. One should be doing "spiritual" (not physical) works seven days a week. If so, where does one have the time to earn a living to feed, cloth, and house themselves?

2 Thes 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

If one does not think this is the case, where is the Scriptural (not extra-Biblical) authority that gives us this distinction. There is none

Christ responds to the Pharisees regarding the 5th commandment (Honor one's mother and father) when He states:

Matt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Men attempted to redefine the 4th commandment by their interpretations and traditions. Christ stated that their hearts were far from Him when they did so. The Catholics openly acknowledge that it was the authority of the Papacy and the Church that the observance of the Sabbath Day was transferred to Sunday—a change not found in Scripture.

One must recognize and appreciate the Catholic Church for its stand on Sunday. They honestly believe they have the power to change the day of rest and worship from Sunday to Saturday, rather than attempting to change Scripture to mean something else that what it states. Even Martin Luther bowed to the church's authority on this and not *Sola Scriptura*; otherwise, where is his argument? (Perhaps Luther was not totally objective and loving in his thinking about the Jewish people when he did not wish to address Sunday teaching?)⁴⁴⁷

Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

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(1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

(2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the Ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

(3) We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Baptists are the only group that reason correctly and are consistent with their teachings. It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible.—Peter R. Tramer, Editor, *The Catholic Extension Magazine*.⁴⁴⁸

Others may believe that any day is a day of worship and/or resting in "the lord" on every day. But therein leads to a fallacy.

Exo 20:9-11 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: :10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, days shall you labor, and do all your work; :10 but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: in it you shall not do any work...11 for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah (YHVH) blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

A bit about me...

Now let me start with a little bit of my personal history. While a Catholic I began keeping the Sabbath day as a day of no labor (on Sunday!) by myself as a senior in high school. The Ten Commandments are simple to understand even to a child. After high school graduation in 1967, I then learned that it was the Sabbath was the seventh day (duh!)—not the first. At college later that fall, college Christians began knocking at my dormitory room door to preach the Gospel. Christians, then and today, opposed the theology of the Worldwide Church of God and its keeping of the Sabbath, Festivals and other Torah Laws except for tithing (of course). I discovered the brick wall that one faces when speaking to professing Christians about the need to keep the Sabbath—not Sunday. Protestant churches have followed the Catholic lead on Sunday keeping. We should not be surprised that Messianic Jewish think likewise. In order to maintain a wall of separation (See Ephesians 2:14:15 in "Distinctive Core Difference #2. Recall that the MJ mission is to evangelize the Jewish people,"⁴⁴⁹

Jewish leaders also have their interpretative boundary markers: That brick wall is still evident with the Messianic Jewish organizations when it comes to not just the keeping of the Sabbath—it is expanded to include the entire Torah. Here is the MJ and Jewish position on the One Law and Torah and the keeping of the Sabbath day by non-Jewish believers in Yeshua.

First, many non-Jews do not understand that Shabbos Observance is a command given ONLY to B'nei Yisroel...

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"The Torah definition of Shabbos Observance and B'nei Yisroel must remain exactly the same as the day Hashem gave it. The definition of Shabbos Observance and B'nei Yisroel cannot adapt to new meanings PERIOD!— Dr. Akiva G. Belk ⁴⁵⁰

Resh Lakish (d. 278) said, "A Gentile observing the Sabbath deserves death" (Sanh. 58b). This refers to a Gentile who accepted the seven laws of the Noachidæ, inasmuch as "the Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel alone," and it was probably directed against the Christian Jews, who disregarded the Mosaic laws and yet at that time kept up the observance of the Jewish Sabbath.—*Jewish Encyclopedia* ⁴⁵¹

Permit Christ to answer:

Mark 2:27 "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath."

Notice Christ did not say the Sabbath was made for the Jew or Israelite. One attorney (that I personally know) interpreted verse 27 as Christ speaking to the Jews so it was meant only for the Jews. Following that line of reasoning, one would suppose most everything Christ said in the New Testament was meant for only the Jewish population. Huh?

Because the Jewish people do not accept Christ as Messiah to them, this verse is meaningless to them. For a law that was never meant for Gentiles, is it not revealing that the OT does state that all nations (meaning Gentiles, too!) will keep the Sabbath (Isa. 66:23) and Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot (Zech 14:16-19) aka Sukkot) and new moons in the millennium? God and Christ do not change.

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, say the LORD.

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Permit the Torah to answer: The book of Genesis records the five sacrifices, unclean foods, tithing, sins of others, the ten commandments, and that Abraham "obeyed my [God's} voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws (Heb=*torah*)." (Gen 26:5). Can sin exist when there is no law? No, according to Paul in Rom 5:13. This was all before the law of Moses which was "confirmed," i.e. accepted by Israel at Mt Sinai. God had given something to Abraham before Moses. (Let me add that the Noahide Laws are an invention by man—the Jewish Rabbis).

God is not capricious. God does not change (Mal 3:8, Heb. 13:8) To exempt one law (the Sabbath) and not the other nine reveals a capricious God and/or strains critical thinking. If Christ fulfilled the Sabbath for us, did He not fulfill the other nine and, therefore, it is OK to break any of the other nine today? To later exempt the "law of Moses" as being ceremonial because ancient Israel wished Moses to speak to them, instead of God (Ex 20:19), does not mean God invalidated His laws for Christianity, yet held the Jewish people accountable to obey them. Is that fair? No that is capricious.

Millennium Viewpoints

Many TV religious teachers are *premillennialists* who believe Christ's 2nd coming occurs before the millennium. Amillennialists do not believe in a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth. According to them, unfulfilled prophecy is not to be interpreted literally, but is to be interpreted spiritually (or non-literally).⁴⁵²

Catholics "believe in a more allegorical, or symbolic, view which says that we are living in the Millennium now, and Christ is sitting on the throne in Heaven, where He "reigns through the Church." [i.e. there is not literal reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years (CCC #676 that we are living in the millennium now⁴⁵³ and that the book Revelation refers to a spiritual battle not a physical battle on earth.⁴⁵⁴] Their *amillennial* viewpoint was promoted by Augustine of Hippo in his work *The City of God*.⁴⁵⁵

There are also those who believe the millennium is symbolic of the entire age of the Church. They point to Bible verses which speak of Christ reigning in heaven now. This is called amillennialism (no millennium), although some prefer to call it realized millennialism because it doesn't deny the millennium, but merely interprets it as a symbol of the Church age.

The Catholic Church has never defined which position is correct. Still, most Catholic theologians have been amillennialists or postmillennialists. We can't think of any who have been premillennialists.—Catholic Answers Staff⁴⁵⁶

Catholics generally hold to the Amillennial ("no Millennium") view,⁴⁵⁷ condemn "millenarianism" and considers it to be an indefinite long time.⁴⁵⁸

Nine out of ten churches believe in Amillennialism.⁴⁵⁹ The Amillennialism belief is held by the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, Protestant denominations such as the Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, and Methodist, the Churches of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Amish, Old Order Mennonite, and Conservative Mennonites, and some Baptist churches including The Association of Grace Baptist Churches in England.⁴⁶⁰

Jehovah's Witnesses do believe in a literal millennium, yet believe that any day (as do Christians) is a Sabbath Day.⁴⁶¹ *Seventh Day Adventists*, although believing in the millennium, believe it to be a period of time in which only Satan and fallen angels will be inhabiting the earth.⁴⁶²

According to Chuck Missler, noted Bible teacher:

One of the derivative aspects of an amillennial perspective is that it denies Israel's role in God's plans. This also leads to a "replacement theology...—Chuck Missler⁴⁶³

This is a classic misapplication of Biblical Eschatology. In other words, if there is "no Literal Israel" in the future then there is no need for a future Kingdom.— Ron Matsen⁴⁶⁴

Let me add that no matter what one thinks about the Millennium, it should not be a deal breaker when it comes to fellowshiping with Sabbath observing believers. One needs to be aware, though, of the other theological positions.

* * *

These varying beliefs are presented above to reveal the disparity, if not confusion, that arises when Christianity began as a new religion and disassociated itself from the Old Testament Scriptures to avoid appearing "Jewish." The Jewish people, as a whole, lost the vision and meaning of the Messiah being represented in all the Scriptural (God's) Holy Days when they rejected the Christ as the Messiah while placing the Talmud as its authority.

A Big Question. Why do believers in Christ expect to reign as a bride with Christ (a Jew) with:

- a "Jewish" Millennium (which pictures the Seventh Day "Jewish" Sabbath), to walk as Christ walked (not the traditional interpretation of Paul's walk)—1 John 2:6;
- a "Jewish" temple that all will come to worship in—Ezk 40;
- a law (*Torah*) that goes out from Zion—Isa 2:3;
- sacrifices—Ezk 44;
- the keeping of the Hebraic ("Jewish") festivals (such as the Feast of Sukkot—Zech 14:16+);
- the keeping the 7th day "Jewish" Sabbath and new moons—Isa 66:23;
- the shunning pork/unclean meats—Isa 66:17—all of which many refuse to keep in *this* age, during *their* lifetimes, and probably know *nothing*, or very little about—because Christ already "fulfilled" the law for them.

It begs the following questions:

QUESTIONS

Why would the Creator go to the effort of creating the Torah feasts/holy days if they were just pretty sermon illustrations and passing stories for us today?

Why are Christians given a free pass not to keep these days?

Do non-Torah pursuant believers expect to be able to teach others to follow *Torah* in the millennium when they do not know *Torah*?

A Big Answer. The Creator calls them *His* "feasts" (KJV in Hebrew meaning an *appointment*) and also *my* feasts (i.e. appointments in Lev 23:2) and the Sabbath "*my* holy day" (Isa 58:13) all of which will be observed in the millennium (Isa 66:23) along with the dietary laws. They are *not* called "Jewish" sabbaths and feasts. Simply because the nation of Israel (12 tribes including Judah) accepted the covenant from the Creator, it does not make the feasts solely "theirs" or "Jewish."

There is *no* indication of Sunday keeping as a Sabbath day in the millennium—not *one* word. Not Christmas or Easter. There will only be one day of the normal seven day week that the Ezekiel temple will be open.

Ezek 46:1 Thus says the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looks toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.

It *appears* that the majority of professing believers in Christ and active doers of good works along with any other believers who are *not* chosen as the bride, *may* be resurrected to salvation *after* the 1,000 years on the symbolic "8th Day"—not the 7th

day Sabbath millennium (Rev. 20:11). They are considered among the righteous and do not lose their salvation. Though...*who really knows the future rewards of all those who have accepted Christ as their Savior?* Only God knows.

If Christians kept the Hebraic Holy Days they would know that there is an annual "Eighth Day" Sabbath (Lev 23:39) that has a profound meaning—which must be gathered from Scriptures in the meaning of the number "8," since nothing is written on the meaning of this day. Indeed, it is a mystery (Rev 10:7) for many. Some in Hebrew Roots® and many Sabbath-keeping Churches of God, however do offer an incisive interpretation of the Eighth Day being a *new beginning*.⁴⁶⁵

It has been mentioned that although Christians can learn much from the meaning of the festivals, they are not required to be kept.
National surveys continually reveal the Biblical ignorance of Christians.
Who really knows and understands the festival meanings unless one *observes* them and teaches them to their children? (Psalm 111:10)

Secular / Pagan Holy Days. These days (Easter, Christmas, Halloween, etc). with their myths and customs are not observed in HR. The Hebraic festivals are observed. When people respond with the answer that Christ fulfilled the ancient Holy Days, it begs the question as to why observe Christmas and Easter—since Christ also fulfilled them. Why would so many teach a blatant mistruth of secular observances? Perhaps they have not received the love of the truth as Paul writes in II Thes 2:10?

Sadly, one will discover that though many Christians proclaim that their church teaches the truth ("Thy word is truth" -John 17:17); however, it is difficult for many to break the paradigms of church and family traditions and peer pressures, little alone explore the topic.

Christmas. See Appendix E2 for more about Christmas.

Easter begs the question of Scriptural integrity, not whether bunny rabbits can lay eggs (which rabbits do not) but whether our Savior meant what He said

*Matt 12:39-40 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth. (i.e. the grave=*sheol*=*hades*).*

1+1 QUESTIONS

Is Christ's statement recorded in Matt 12:39-40 true or not?

According to the Good Friday - Easter Sunday observance, Christ was only in the earth one day and two nights if one counts 12 days and nights. If one counts a portion of a day and night (of which the OT provides examples), there is only two days and two nights.

Based on the above, one would have to answer *no, it is not!*⁴⁶⁶

What then? Has the Scripture been broken? According to the traditions of man it has! According to the Hebrew Feast Days it has not. There are two interpretations in Hebrew Roots on the meaning of three days and three nights:

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1) The primary one: Christ was crucified on the Passover preparation day of Wednesday (prior to the high day of Thursday) according to the Rabbinic Calendar. This is based upon the beginning of the month starting at the Astronomical New Moon. This accounts for a 12 hour day and 12 hour night with the three days expiring on a late Saturday Sabbath afternoon

2) The lesser one: Christ was crucified on the Passover preparation day of Thursday according to the Sighted Moon Calendar which was in observance by the Temple priests. This is based on the beginning of the new month on day of the first observed (sighted) crescent moon at evening. This interpretation is also based on the OT examples allowing a portion of a day to be counted as a day. This method clears up further Scriptural conflicts vis-a-vis the Rabbinic Calendar and matches the observance of Christ arising just before dawn on the first day of the week (Sunday).

Although the *Torah* and the prophets warn against following the worship of foreign gods (Deut 12:29-31; 6:14; Ex. 20:3; Jer 10:2; 25:6, Ezk. 11:12, etc), this does not christen the believer as a member of the pagan police patrol unit. However, if one believes that the Torah is done away with, and the law has been changed in the New Testament, one is able to do almost anything they please.

It is the simple inconvenience of stepping out and being different from others that precludes many from breaking from their traditions and paradigms which are so ingrained in our national culture. It is called peer pressure. Is that not what Christ stepped up against with the Jewish customs and traditions (later codified in the *Talmud*) of his time?

The Apostles keeping the Sabbath is noted 85 times in the Acts (see also Heb 4:9).⁴⁶⁷ It is also used when one reads about Paul or keeping (note the word *keeping*, i.e. observing) a feast day (e.g. Acts 18:21, 20:16. I Cor 5:8)—not just attending a gathering of Jews for evangelizing purposes. Polycrates, Polycarp, and other early leaders who taught after the apostles have also been recorded as keeping the feasts. Paul writes about the apostasy which began during his lifetime when all Asia (presumably the Roman province) turned against him (2 Tim 1:15). That is no small statement.

As one Christian stated his non-observance of the feasts (and the Sabbath) "the way I see it, Jesus will fulfill the feasts of Israel...it doesn't matter to me much since I am in the Lord..." Hmm.

Paganism in other forms. Believers can carry an extremist agenda against non-Biblical sources. Not everyone is a believer. Does that mean we cannot read a newspaper or a book without determining if the publisher or chief editor are non-believers? I don't think so. Wedding rings have been said to be pagan in origin. How many believers wish put a ring through the noses of their brides to indicate that we are married? After all...*that is Biblical!*¹ Why not the men as well? Male slaves wore them. (II Chron. 33:10-11). There is no Scriptural injunction against that. If your conscience is against wedding rings (and I use this only as an example) don't wear them...or ask others to not wear them. Better yet, come up with a *better idea* and promote its acceptance. Rather than being against something, I think we all should come up with an alternative and be *for* something.

¹ Gen 24:22; Ezk 16:12. Got Question? n.d. What does the Bible say about nose rings / getting a nose ring. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-nose-rings.html> Retrieved 1/17/19.

Sacred Traditions and the Catholic Church. Catholics believe that they adhere to the ancient traditions of the Apostles and church fathers—not paganism.⁴⁶⁸ In defending their faith, they correctly ask critical questions on the role and influence of various forms of paganism in all Christianity denominations.⁴⁶⁹

Definition of Pagan: simply a non-Christian, denotes someone from the countryside (The Romans...from Village to Empire. Oxford Press 2004)"

Augustine wrote The City of God in 413-426 AD. Augustine answers the pagans, who attributed the fall of Rome (410) to the abolition of pagan worship. If pagans were angry that Catholicism abolished pagan worship it's hard to imagine that the Church adopted paganism.—Catholicbridge.com⁴⁷⁰

Pagan accusers of Catholicism at the time of Augustine could have been opposed to the syncretism of their pagan faith. God rejects pagan rites as part of worshipping Him:

Deut 12:29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goes to possess them, and thou succeed them, and dwell in their land; 30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

Ezk 11:12 And ye shall know that I am YHVH⁴⁷¹ (the LORD—KJV): for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you.

Catholics and others have put forth Ralph Woodrow's recanting of his book *Babylon Mystery Religion* since it drew much information from Alexander Hislop's book *The Two Babylons*. Mr. Woodrow was drawn into an honest investigation and replaced his book with *The Babylon Connection*. I have not yet read this book, I just offer the observation that we must be careful. Citing a source as an authority may not be a supportive position when that "authority" is in error.

Critical Thinking. Who can you trust? Doing so does not mean proving one's agenda of faith to the exclusion of facts to the contrary. Perhaps a college course in critical thinking (they called it propaganda analysis when I took it in college) would be wise for many people. One must be willing to question, prove *all* things, follow truth and change/repent.

When one reads the Bible for himself and finds that it is not what his church teaches and raises questions, church leaders could confront him with questions, such as "Have you studied hermeneutics?," "Have you attended a seminary?" or a statement such as, "God is leading (place the name of minster here) and we must follow him."

We should quietly and respectfully explain to others that we do not believe in keeping Christmas and Easter. There is no need to condemn others for observing them or for us to be defensive. Others will either agree with us or think we are nuts. Such is life! In a way the world needs Christmas. They have nothing else to take its place.

One can also look at a matter from two different directions from either traditional teaching or outside of the box. It is the later which must make a definitive case. Yet, even if made logically and reasonably, it may not be enough to convince traditional thinkers.

Exegesis is the analysis or interpretation from Scripture defining and interpreting itself. It is being able to add 1+1s together correctly. Eisegesis *not* exegesis is the method utilized to claim a change to Sunday as the new Sabbath day when one reads about Paul or others meeting on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).⁴⁷² (see endnote ⁴⁷³ for an advanced explanation of the underlying Greek words) Otherwise, one must also claim Paul kept Pentecost (Acts 20:16 and I Cor 16:8) and Passover (I Cor 5:7) and was not just there to proselyte Jews when they meet at their synagogues. An understanding of the Hebrew/culture of the first century reveals that Paul, a Jew was *closing* the Sabbath day with a small ritual called *Motzei Shabba*.⁴⁷⁴

A **fallacy** is the result of an erroneous conclusion reached from a syllogism. I cannot take the space to explain a syllogism, so look it up on the internet. Let's look at the fourth commandment:

Exo 20:8 Remember (H2142: "to bring to the forefront fo the mind" ⁴⁷⁵) **the sabbath day, to keep it holy** (H6942, qâdash or kodesh=to be clean, i.e. set-apart).

Eisegesis is the analysis or interpretation from one's personal perspective and ideas. This can be a consequence of being captured by the religious paradigms. Part of this interpretation can involve *prooftexting*.

Eisegesis in Hebrews 3 and 4 is also utilized to believe that one can "rest" on any day of the week. The word *rest* in Hebrews 4:9 is incorrectly translated and should read "keeping of a Sabbath." Words *mean* things. Rather than take the simple explanations all the way from Genesis to Revelation, one has to stretch and change the meanings of words in order to establish the new religion of Christianity to differentiate it from Judaism.

The NT also speaks of the church as being the spiritual bride of Christ. Is this not also a symbolic, spiritual concept? If the spiritual concepts are to be consistently applied, why is it then necessary to literally obey the seventh commandment in the flesh: Do not commit adultery?

The vast majority of Christian churches no longer rest even on Sunday. This is contrary to those colonists who founded this nation kept Sunday set-apart as a day of rest, who also came through the Protestant Reformation, and who also promoted various "Blue-Laws" to enforce Sunday business closures. Somewhere in our nation's "enlightened" progression in the past 150 years, has Christianity progressed—or has it further apostatized?

If one believes that the Sabbath day is now symbolic for us today. How would that affect one's thinking about the millennium? How would that affect one's thinking about the end-times when today's disciples' are warned that the day is done away?

Mat 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

Consider this opinion. If believer's are following the Jewish Talmudic instructions for travel on the Sabbath, they should be praying that it does not occur on the Sabbath Day. Those believers who are not bound by these instructions will be able to flee.

Change (repent) is a message of the NT. Truth should be followed, however, do many people in the United States accept lying because it is comfortable to do so, and

would rather have someone else stick their neck out for truth to have it cut off—not just in religion but in other facets of life as well? Is the *silence of the churches* in our nation with critical national issues a result of not sticking one's neck out?

Personal Bible study can unlock truths that relatively few teach. One must be careful, though, to prove all things and bounce discoveries off of friends for confirmation or rejection. As an example, in the early 2000s my personal studies into the meaning of words revealed that there were only three harvest feasts (Hebrew=*chag*)—*not* seven. At the time of my discovery I shared that with a fellow believer who also investigated my claim and also came to the same conclusion. Some few others have now also come to the same conclusion even though many, including HR ministries, still state that there are 7 feasts. Is this a issue that should create division? Absolutely not.

I attended two meetings by an "advanced" HR fellowship who had tithing as their group discussion subject for two consecutive Sabbaths. Not being well-known by the group, I attended as an observer. At the conclusion of the second Sabbath study on the subject, I just offered the question "How does the Bible define tithing—since all other tithing issues were discussed with the exception of this one primary question?" I received the response from the leader that that was a good question. To which no one attempted a follow-up.

The 5 W's

One has to ask the 5 W's (who, what, why, when, where) as an investigative reporter should do.

Trust God—Not Men. People place their faith in an organization or man which appears to become the underlying rational for continuing in their belief system. Name a faith that has not done that. They all have. Otherwise, it would bring into doubt the organization or man (and his divine inspiration) and it/he would become a proverbial house of cards. Are there 41,000 card houses?

Along with this faith in men comes control. An organization expresses control through the element of fear religion. Depart from their church/the true church man-made rules and one will be lost/burn in hell.

Many say that they believe in the Word of God or are Christian. Survey after survey reveals, however, that the vast majority are ignorant of the Bible and their faith. So what they really mean is that they live by the word of their man—the pastor/teacher—organization or man-made traditions, their peer group/friends and/or parent's religion. Was it any different for many in the first century when Christ warned against the traditions of men?

Mercy Aiken, author of *If Hell Is Real*, writes:

In the time of Christ most of Israel completely missed the Word of God when He was in their midst. They were too busy with their nose in the book, to perceive the Word Himself as He came and dwelt among them! Certainly the masses must have thought...“But none of the teachers, Pharisees, or priests believe that Jesus is the Messiah! And they know the scripture better than me!” That fact alone kept many Jews from daring to believe in Jesus. To do so was heresy and to admit faith in Him was basically asking for scorn and rejection. We have been quick to point the finger at the Pharisees, and not realize that we as the church

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follow the same pattern today. Are we going to play it safe and side with the majority, who are clinging to their traditions... or risk it all and step out and follow Him?

We should fear God (Ex 20:20) —not the precepts of men.

Psa 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

Let's look at some church interpretations (taken from a Sunday keeping church web page):

The word "Sabbath" does not occur in the book of Genesis.

"However, there are several things that Genesis does not tell us, although some people have assumed or claimed these things.

- It does not say that humans rested or were told to rest.
- It does not say that humans were told to follow God's example.
- It does not say that God taught Adam and Eve on the Sabbath.
- It does not say God created the Sabbath, or that humans kept it. ⁴⁷⁶

Scripture records various commands given to Adam and Eve, but there is no hint of a Sabbath command either before or after they sinned.—Grace Communion Church ⁴⁷⁷

All of the above, in the most technically literal sense *is true!* One must read such statements as the above carefully.

Some might say that Gen 26:5 does not include the commandments given at Mt. Sinai. Yet the same Hebrew word for law is the same word for law in the Book of Exodus. There is also no command to not kill, not steal, not lie, not commit adultery, honor one's father and mother, take His name in vain, eat clean foods, sacrifice animals and tithe in the book of Genesis. So why was Cain punished for Abel's death since there was no command not to kill a human being? "Sin lies at the door" is not a command not to kill. Sin was not defined at this time in the book of Genesis either!

There is no indication that God told Cain what sin is. Let's make sure we understand clearly the nature of this above quotation from a Church that instructs that the Sabbath command is not valid. i.e. if God does not say it—we do not have to do it—unless He punishes us for something specifically we are not told to do (as with Cain killing Abel) or after the fact (as in the case of Abimelech in Gen 20).

Consider: The Genesis flood occurred because of man's wickedness, violence, and evil. God does not define those terms. What are they? Were these all man's laws? If so, what were they? It does refer to some things as sin. But what is sin?

I John 3:4 Sin is the transgression of the law.

It does not say in the book of Genesis that sin is the breaking of God's laws. Is it the breaking of man's laws? If one takes the literal in the most narrowest sense, one may eliminate God in many places. We need to learn how to connect the dots in Scripture. There is no one marriage book, baptism book (or chapter), once encompassing tell all prophecy book, etc. God states:

Isa 28:9-11 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon

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line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

Let's look at another church interpretation:

The prophets described an ideal time in which all peoples worshipped God. To effectively convey this concept to an old covenant nation, the prophets described old covenant forms of worship, including new moon observances (Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 46:3) and sacrifices in the temple (Zechariah 14:20-21; Ezekiel 20:40; 45:17; 46:4). —Grace Communion Church⁴⁷⁸

So is that to say when God does say it, He does not mean what He says? If the words of a prophet do not come to pass, are Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah really prophets (See Deut. 18:20-22). Only Christ is stated to speak in parables.

The religious explanations and traditions of men for many, today, are not only man devised Rabbinical rules for the Jewish people, but also man devised and pagan ones for Christianity. Truth is turned aside to uphold them. Remember the movie where Dorothy, tin man, scare crow, and lion were cautioned to “pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.” Many people rely on religious leaders to explain Scripture. A leader behind the curtain can offer an interpretation that discards the simply stated Scripture of “sin is the transgression of the law.” Everyone who simply reads the Bible knows what “the law” states—until they are taught otherwise. Oh, they are only the 10 guidelines. Oh, they are only the 9 guidelines...

Does Christianity take a cue from the Rabbis who obey *Talmud* in receiving some of its man devised authority from Christian ministry teachings and not Scripture? I think so.

Feast of the Jews: John 7:2. John uses this interesting phrase a few times (John 5:1; 6:4; 7:2) in his gospel account. He does not say the “feast of God.” This phrase has been in the back of my mind for years; nevertheless, it has not persuaded me otherwise not to observe the feasts. Why? Because of the **preponderance of evidence** that indicates that we *are* to observe the feasts. One cannot and should **not** make a doctrinal point on one verse (or phrase). Yet there is more to be said.

The word translated as Jews is the Greek word *loudaioi*. Wikipedia indicates the word is a source of debate:

The choice of translation is the subject of frequent scholarly debate... Translating it as Jews is seen to imply connotations as to the religious beliefs of the people, whereas translating it as Judeans confines the identity within the geopolitical boundaries of Judea. —Wikipedia⁴⁷⁹

Messianic-Jewish author Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg offers one explanation. He distinguishes the Samaritan Israelites and the authorities in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Judea (e.g. the Pharisees and Sadducees) as the *loudaioi*. The remaining Jewish religious population was considered “the People of Israel” (also noted as such by David H. Stern, a Messianic–Jew,). The Passover and Sukkot feasts celebrated by the *loudaioi* were called the Feast of the *loudaioi* in order to distinguish them from the other religious calendars being used at that time (vis. Samaritans and Essenes/Qumranites).⁴⁸⁰ Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg further writes:

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The designation “Jewish” Passover, as many Bibles translate it, or more literally ‘the Passover of the loudaioi/Jews’ (τὸ πάσχα τῶν Ἰουδαίων), is stated each time this feast is mentioned (Jn. 2:13, 6:4; 7:2; 11:51-5517) but strikingly, the winter Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) never had the word “Jewish” attached to it. (Jn. 10:22). This was because the Samaritan Israelites did not celebrate this holiday and hence there was no need to specify whose calendar it followed. —Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg⁴⁸¹

Furthermore, the Samaritans rejected the mountain which the Jerusalem Temple stood up to worship so there was no need to for them to celebrate Hanukkah. There are also other interpretations as to the meaning of John 5:1.⁴⁸²

In further delving into the meaning of *ioudaioi*, I learned that David H. Stern, writes that there are three possible distinct meaning to the word *ioudaioi* according to Scholar Malcolm Lowe’s analysis of the New Testament and other ancient Greek sources:^{483 484}

- 1) Members of the tribe of Judah
- 2) Adherents to the Jewish religion
- 3) All people living or born in the geographical region of Judea: Judea (the original tribal land, the procurate of Pontius Pilate (including Idumea and Shomron) and the last Hasmoneans. This included almost the entire historic land of Israel (extending to portions of modern Syria and Jordan today).

Stern also makes the following assertions:

- A) The Greek word could have all three above meanings in the first century.
- B) The word in the Gospel accounts and Acts Chapter 1-8 should be translated as Judeans and from Acts 9 onward as “Jews”
- C) The continued use of the word “Jews” by translators as meaning members of the Jewish religion reveals anti-Semitic bias by translators.

John’s extensively uses “the Jews” in his gospel account 67 times compared to the total 16 occurrences in the synoptic gospel accounts (Mark-6x, Matthew-5x, Luke-5x). One could think that John, himself a Jew, was anti-Semitic himself. John 11:53-54 records that Jesus went to Ephraim for fear of *Hoi loudaioi* – “the Jews.”

It appears that these references to “the Jews” are geographical. Therefore, John is describing the “feasts of the Jews” because the celebrations are held at the Jerusalem temple in Judea. John further records potential and actual confrontations between Jesus and “the Jews.” In some of these events it is clear that that “Jews” means “Judeans” because Judea is specifically mentioned.⁴⁸⁵ Let’s look at two examples:

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry (G2449), because the Jews sought to kill him.

John 11:7-8 Then after that said he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea (G2449) again. 8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and go thou thither again?

Hebrews 4:9 King James translators used the word "rest" instead of the actual Greek words which should have been translated "keeping of a Sabbath." One can stretch this to mean anything they want (as many churches have).

V. HEBRAIC ROOTS MINISTRY COMMONALITIES

Other than the above core difference from Christianity, one can find a number of other commonalities inherent within and which define the HR Awakening. It is up to you—the reader—to investigate the diversity of the ministries which claim the label of HR or Messianic as part of your spiritual journey. None are perfect, some are exclusive, and some, like Christian churches, are far less spiritual than others.

The following additional commonalities have been gleaned from the most influential HR ministry web sites and writings (listed below) along with my attendance at their fellowships, conferences, and holy days/appointments. It is also my hope that this listing will better acclimate you to the awakening and peace in attending a fellowship.

For more on commonalities see <http://www.isitso.org/guide/hebroot.html>

- There is no ecclesiastical government superstructure which unites the various Hebrew Roots® ministries. It is a grass-roots **awakening**. This lack of a superstructure also reflects many Messianic-Jewish congregations according to Daniel Juster and Peter Hocken in their book *The Messianic Jewish Movement: An Introduction* (2004).
- People come from a variety of individual religious backgrounds. They have begun reading the Bible on their own. The Word they read is not what the mainline religious system is teaching for the most part.
- A commitment to truth. (Then again how many denominations also state that?well?) For many people today, lies (including religious lies—like Christmas) enhance a comfortable life. Scripture can be complex to understand at times, yet there are many simple statements which will allow one to connect all the dots—when we commit to truth. When one sincerely practices the Word and adheres to Truth—not lies of any type, the Bible becomes easier to understand. For as Paul writes:

2 Thes 2:9-11 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

Believing in the truth can set one apart:

2 Pet 2:2b .."by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

- The Gospel is being preached through these ministries to the nation and to the world.⁴⁸⁶
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God and it is through Him that we are saved—**not** through law keeping.

Further Commonalities are now listed in alphabetical order by title for ease of reference:

- **Bible Versions.** One may use any version of the Bible to study. It is sad to see criticisms which state Hebrew Roots® adherents require only one version be

used. This is not to say it "ain't so." The *Complete Jewish Bible* and the *Tree of Life Version* are seen to be used by more than a few. Furthermore there is no documentation to indicate which ministry is preaching this and a generalization is concluded regarding all Hebrew Roots® ministries.

None of the major HR ministries that I am aware of promote one particular Bible. With the shoe on the other foot, consider that some Christians promote only the KJV. Some translations are better than others, but that is for you to discover as part of your journey. (E-Sword® is a free, downloadable software program found on the internet and is highly recommended for those who wish to study the Bible in greater detail).

- **British-Israelism.** Please see Chapter VI: Criticisms and Current Issues for a discussion on this topic.
- **Dancing.** Messianic and Hebrew Roots is not a staid traditional type church service. In larger fellowships it can be a robust atmosphere with respectful energy and exuberance with dancing, standing and raising one hand's in praise, music that is both reverential and upbeat along with shofar blowing.

Group dancing is practiced (when there are enough in attendance who know how to dance) as a form of rejoicing and worship at both congregational services and at the annual Appointments and Feasts.

Davidic (Messianic) Dance is a physical expression of praise, thanksgiving and joy to Elohim (God). The Hebrew word for dance is *rikud* which means to skip or leap for joy. Some of the dances are patterned after traditional Israeli folkdances...They vary from very simple, repetitive steps to more complex. They are meant to be danced as a group without any emphasis on one dancer. The tone of the dances range from reverentially devotional to exuberantly joyful. Dancers include men, women, teenagers and young children.⁴⁸⁷

Dancing as a means of worship is Scriptural.

Ecc. 3:4 A time to dance

Pslm 149:3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Pslm 150:4 Praise Him with tambourine and dancing"

2 Sam 6:14 And David danced before YHVH with all his might..."

The waving of the lulav and the teaching of its meaning is a part of the Sukkot celebration and tradition.

The raising of one's hands in praise is also Scriptural and is not limited to a Pentecostal category.

Psa 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.

Psa 63:4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Psa 119:48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

Psa 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless YHVH (the LORD).

Lam 2:19 ... lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

Lam 3:41 Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.

Heb 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

- **Denominational Identification and Ministry Names.** Many Hebraic Roots ministries and congregations take Hebrew Names and/or *may* call themselves Messianic. The term "Messianic" and even "Hebrew Roots®" can become confusing with other groups (including Messianic-Jewish) which do not adhere to the 7 Distinctive Core Differences. There are three groups doing basically the same thing: 1) Torah Christians; 2) Jewish Roots; 3) Hebrew Roots, and to a great extent the various Sabbath and feast keeping Churches of God. *Please note:* The definitions of *some* of the groups listed below can change and are not meant to be definitive!
 - **Hebrew Christians.** The Hebrew Christian Alliance (HCAA) was formed in Britain in 1860 to bring together Jewish Christians.⁴⁸⁸ In 1915 the HCAA was formed in the United States and changed its name in 1975 to the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA).⁴⁸⁹
 - **Hebrew Roots®.** Yes, even this name/label can have ministries with different, and perhaps, divergent doctrines. For those keeping the written *Torah* (not the Talmud) and accepting Jesus Christ / Y'shua as their Savior, Hebraic Roots is the term can be used to describe the belief system. Using the term *Messianic* should can be associated with and can creates confusion with those in the Messianic-Jewish community.
 - **Hebraic Roots.** The term Hebraic Roots is now spreading due trademark issues with the term Hebrew Roots®. In 2013 the Hebraic Roots Network was formed with the participation of leading Hebrew Roots® teachers. The network was formed after Eddie Chumney was removed from the Light of the Southwest program On God's Learning Channel (GLC) Satellite TV for allegedly teaching Two house theology on the program—which he had *never* done. Other Hebraic Roots teachers voluntarily removed themselves from this program in support of this injustice to Chumney and formed their own network. This incident highlights the emotional reactions to this theological viewpoint, and of which I also have witnessed in a local MJ congregation.
 - **Jewish Roots.** Hebrew Roots is *not* "Jewish Roots." Nevertheless...the two terms may be used interchangeably and lead to confusion. Yet there is a distinct difference.⁴⁹⁰ The roots of the NT are distinctly Jewish: Jewish Apostles (Paul, technically of the tribe of Benjamin which was allied with Judah and Judea being a Roman province in the first century) and a gospel proclaimed by a Jewish Messiah. Hebrew Roots generally includes only those traditions that are directed supported by Scripture. The Jewish people have a lot of experience in studying the Torah. On difficult Scriptures and history it would be wise to consult Jewish sources as one should "prove all things" (I Thes 5:21). This does not mean that one obeys and follows all Jewish teachings.
 - **Messianic Judaism.** The term goes back to the 19th century.⁴⁹¹ Messianic may be defined "as adjective referring to things concerning and/or related to the Messiah of Israel."—Brad Scott⁴⁹² Jewish people who accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior, keep the Sabbath and "blend Jewish liturgy with a Christian message."—Barry Yeoman⁴⁹³ It is considered by most Christians and Jews to be a form of Christianity with its foundation in evangelical Christianity and with its

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purpose to proclaim its message about Jesus Christ—especially to those of the Jewish faith.

- The primary way a Jewish believer can continue to live a live as a Jew and not assimilate away from his Jewish people is to be a member of a Messianic synagogue. In a Messianic synagogue, a Jewish believer can continue to worship the Lord in a Jewish way, celebrate the Jewish festivals, raise his children as Jews and be a testimony to his family and his people.

Completed Jews: Jewish people who have found the Jewish Messiah, have not converted to another religion but are fulfilled in their Judaism and heritage in the Messiah Y'shua.—David Chernoff ⁴⁹⁴

Those of the Jewish faith oppose Messianic Judaism and believe that the acceptance of Jesus Christ by a Jew no longer makes him/her Jewish. Whereas Christianity teaches salvation comes through the acceptance of Christ as personal savior, Judaism teaches that God forgives repentant sinners and the righteous of all nations are being saved.

The Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) defines Messianic Judaism: "as a movement of Jewish congregations and groups committed to Y'shua the Messiah that embrace the covenantal responsibility of Jewish life and identity rooted in Torah, expressed in tradition, and renewed and applied in the context of the New Covenant. Messianic Jewish groups may also include those from non-Jewish backgrounds who have a confirmed call to participate fully in the life and destiny of the Jewish people. We are committed to embodying this definition in our constituent congregations and in our shared institutions." ⁴⁹⁵

According to Daniel Juster and Peter Hocken, authors of *The Messianic Jewish Movement. An Introduction*, the following commonalities are found: a) most Messianic Jewish congregations do not celebrate Christian holidays, though individuals may do so (p12-13); b) most celebrate the communion monthly, but a significant minority celebrates weekly; c) no more than ten percent submit to Rabbinic *halakhah* where there is no Biblical contradiction (p30-31); d) the most liturgical congregations are in North America, moderately so in Western Europe and South America, and the least so in Israel; e) dance as a form of worship is widespread. (p34), e) and a major point of friction is the role of *Torah* in the New Testament /Covenant and the appeal to Matt 5:17 (p28-29).

Most mainstream Jews believe that Christianity and Judaism are mutually exclusive, no matter what evangelists claim." ...The theological differences between Judaism and Christianity are deeper and more complex than the issue of Jesus' messiahship. For instance, Judaism says God forgives repentant sinners; Christianity describes an irreparable breach that could have been bridged only by Jesus' death...Judaism has the righteous of all nations as being saved; Christianity says heaven is reserved exclusively for those who recognize Jesus as Messiah. When the two religions diverge, Messianic Jews tend to side with Christians.—Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

⁴⁹⁶

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Groups differ among themselves in keeping or not keeping specific Jewish traditions and the *Torah* (some or all of it). This includes the eating of pork for which. At the 1990 UMJC conference in Glorietta, New Mexico, Avram Yehoshua reports on the non-observance of the dietary laws.⁴⁹⁷ Michael Rood and Tim Hegg confirm the eating of pork at conferences or following Shabbat services.⁴⁹⁸ Tim Hegg of Torah Resource writes:

I have attended UMJC and MJAA congregations where the Judaica Shop is open on Shabbat, where visiting Messianic musicians sell their recordings after the Torah service, and congregates retreat to their favorite restaurant following the Shabbat morning service. Some don't seem to have any qualms about shrimp on ice at their wedding receptions, and it's not uncommon to hear bold statements that "since we are members of the New Covenant, we are free from the Law."

In fact, I wonder if it might not be appropriate to label some groups within "Messianic Judaism" as "Reform Messianic Judaism?...Additionally, in the official statement called "Defining Messianic Judaism" of the UMJC, the conversion standards of Reform Judaism are the accepted norm for proselytes within the UMJC. In some ways, then, the current drive to redefine Messianic Judaism appears to have some close affinities with the Reform movement.—Tim Hegg⁴⁹⁹

In a meeting with a local ML Congregation pastor in a discussion on the 613 laws in 2017, he revealed that that two leading MJ personages (whose names I will not reveal) ate pork. This aligns with the MJAA, UMJC and Tikkum Ministry leaders' positions of the Torah being applicable to only non-Messianic believing Jews.⁵⁰⁰

Boaz Michaels of First Fruits of Zion explains that because Messianic Judaism does not teach Torah, which is only meant for the Jewish people, it can co-exist with the anti-Torah theology of the greater Christian community. Torah observance is an option for any believer.⁵⁰¹

Many MJ congregations and their leaders are aligned and sponsored by conservative Protestant denominations as a part of their evangelical missionary efforts and with a national messianic organization. The most prominent are the Foreign Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Assemblies of God.⁵⁰² Others include the Evangelical Church of America, International Church of Foursquare Gospel, Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Presbyterian Church, and Seventh-day Adventists.⁵⁰³ One can therefore see the parallel with Christian evangelism of the Jewish people.⁵⁰⁴ The two main Messianic organizations the MJAA and the UMJC are somewhat different in outreach. Generally speaking, the MJAA maintains ties to these Christian evangelical organizations and also emphasizes outreach programs on television (e.g. Jewish Voice Ministries, Zola Levitt Ministries) for evangelizing Jews. The UMJC, however, does no televangelism and has a closer identify with Jewish communities and keeping Torah and Jewish traditions.⁵⁰⁵

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How does a Gentile become a Messianic Jew? This becomes an intriguing question because Messianic Judaism is a Christian Evangelical Outreach to the Jewish people and of the demarcation between the Christian and Jewish faiths. With the emphasis of the Torah by many of the ministries, some Gentile Christians have converted to Judaism.⁵⁰⁶ A prominent leader in Messianic Judaism who was not born Jewish received his conversion (for a fee) to Judaism from a rabbi of questionable credentials⁵⁰⁷ and who did not require that Jesus be denied in order to convert. Interestingly, this same leader, who then adopted a Jewish name, does not advise others to convert to Judaism⁵⁰⁸ and teaches that only the Jews are allowed to interpret Scriptures. There is to me a conflict of interest here. This is a man who has a notable gift for teaching and administration yet is not ordained as a Rabbi.

Tim Hegg explains that the Jewish ritual of conversion for Gentile to become a Jew is just a man-made ceremony. Nor is there any evidence prior to the time of the Maccabees. There is no Scriptural basis behind it.⁵⁰⁹ Tim Hegg offers other thoughts on conversion:

The only solution offered by Juster and Resnik to this dilemma created by the “Gentile problem” is to postulate a special, divine call upon a few Gentiles to join Messianic Judaism, with the possibility of a conversion ceremony by which they could be reckoned as Jews, thus maintaining the identity boundaries of Messianic Judaism as distinct from the Gentile Church while “theologically” still part of it. Such a scenario might allow Messianic Jews to be accepted within the wider Jewish community, something that is considered impossible as long as Gentiles comprise a significant percentage of Messianic Jewish synagogues. It is hard to escape the perception that what actually drives the current “Two Law” position of Juster and Resnik (i.e. Only Jews and Messianic Jews are entitled to keep Torah and Gentiles are not) is this goal to win acceptance within the larger, traditional Jewish community at the expense of their Gentile brothers and sisters.⁵¹⁰

For them, a Gentile who undergoes a prescribed conversion ritual is not viewed as diminishing the “unique calling” of Israel when he or she fully participates in all matters of Torah. On the other hand, a Gentile who has not gone through such a ritual is charged with usurping the distinctive way of life unique to Israel if he or she lives a Torah pursuant life. From their viewpoint, the ritual of conversion makes all the difference. But where do we find anything in the Scriptures that teach this? It is not from the Scriptures but from rabbinic Judaism that the conversion ritual is what makes the difference for Gentiles.⁵¹¹

Hebrew Roots adherents simply have to follow the instructions of Acts 2:38 to repent of sins, accept our Savior for the forgiveness of sins and be baptized to receive the gift of the Spirit.

- **Messianic/ Messianic Christian/Gentile/Gentile Christian.** Here is where it can become somewhat confusing. The attendance / membership of the majority

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of Messianic Jewish congregations includes *non-Jewish* Christians who consider and/or may call themselves one of the above names, do not keep "the law" and the "oral law," may also observe Sunday, while others may observe the Torah. Others may come because they see the truth in keeping the Sabbath and do not wish to attend Christian churches on Sunday, The later may seek fellowship because of the lack of other Sabbath keeping groups in their area. It all depends on who is writing the definition of *Messianic or Messianic Christian* and/or what an individual wishes to call himself <whew!> The majority of congregants probably believe all Israelites are Jews.

- **Messianic Israel.** A name used about 1992 and until 2013 by Batya Wooten to describe those who belonged to the Messianic Israel Alliance. The name was later changed to Redeemed Israel in January 2013.
- **Natsar (Natsarim** is plural, from Acts 24:5; 28:22) or **Netser (Netzim** is plural). When asked the question, "What faith are you?," some believers come up with different terms other than "Christian." The term is no longer the term it once carried. This is because of the political and negative baggage that name can carry when more than 70% of the population identifies itself as such, yet many do not conduct itself as a spiritual example worthy of that light. Terms such as such as disciple, "believer," "servant of the Lord," "Natsarim," Netser" may be given as a response.⁵¹²
- **Torah Christians** believe they are gentiles and that the "Church" has replaced Israel.
- **Church of God.** The name "Church of God" is not seen among any Hebraic Roots groups thus far. Perhaps it is because of the desire of the people to emulate the Jewish people by using Hebrew names, and/or they remain ignorant of Paul's use of the term "Church of God" (of which the Greek word for *church* should be more properly translated as *congregation*). Perhaps another reason (?) would be that a proper distance is needed due to a perceived negative association with the Worldwide Church of God spinoff churches which all call themselves with the surname "Church of God"? Who knows? A person's character is more important than a name that is claimed and not lived up to.
- **Didache** (DID-duh-key – one of a few ways I have heard to pronounce it). The word in Koine Greek means "teaching" and is the short name given to the anonymous *The Teaching of the Apostles* written c100 AD. It is allegedly one of the oldest collections of apostolic instructions and is dated to a time period of changes in doctrine.⁵¹³ It is the Greek word for doctrine (G1322) in the NT and is pronounced differently in Greek (did deh HAY)⁵¹⁴
- **Dietary Laws.** These are kept, not as mindless rituals and rabbit's foots, but as health laws given by the Creator.⁵¹⁵ Clean and unclean animals were distinguished in Noah's ark—before the Jews existed as a people and Israel received the *Torah* at Mt. Sinai. Scripture also describes sanitary practices of sewage disposal. Now imagine if that was just another Jewish ritual. Unfortunately, the many did and ignored it in the Dark Ages and into the Renaissance as streets were disposal areas.
- **Drinking.** There is no prohibition against drinking alcoholic beverage (that I know of) which is contrary to today's belief of a majority of evangelical Christians. (See Gen

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27:28; Lev. 23:13; Duet 14:26; etc.) One has to recognize that alcohol prohibition is a 19th century invention by churches which until that time had accepted drinking alcohol as being Scriptural for over 18 centuries.⁵¹⁶ The convolutions one must make to turn the Greek word *oinos* into fruit juice are extraordinary. (For example, see *Defending the King James Bible*, 1996, by Rev D.A. Waite, p 231 for the "juice" explanation). As Paul teaches, though, if one refrains from drinking alcohol we should not condemn them.

- **Fellowshipping.** The primary HR ministries and fellowships are *inclusive*, in contrast to the exclusiveness of some others (which apparently are in the minority). Love sees God, or His potential, in each other. Some groups have many commonalities with HR, yet maintain an exclusive flavor in their fellowship patterns such as some in the Sacred Name Movement and the fragmented Churches of God of the former Worldwide Church of God.

The mark of arrogance is the exclusiveness—defining myself in opposition to some other. The mark of love is inclusiveness. Love recognizes that I am not only capable of being each and every one of those whom I have put outside me; love goes beyond mere intellectual acknowledgment. Love says that I am, essentially, exactly what every other human being is. —Alan Lee

- **Fringes** (*tzitzit*, *tzitziyot* is plural). Some in HR wear them, some do not. (See Appendix C as it further addresses the wearing of Jewish attire in a congregation).

The Black Obelisk in the British Museum is a 6.5-ft tall, 1.5-ft wide, 4-sided black limestone monument inscription found in the ruins of Nimrud, ancient capital of Assyrian empire, in northern Iraq. It pictures five different subdued kings, including Israelite King Jehu bowing before Assyrian king Shalmaneser III about 825 BC (see photo below). The obelisk is the earliest known depiction of Israelite dress. Note the fringes worn by both kings in the below photo of the Black Obelisk. The photo of the inscription appears brown (perhaps for clarity) when it is actually black. (Photos courtesy of Wikipedia)⁵¹⁷



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Anciently the fringes (*tzitziyot*) were used as a symbol of status or rank in a ruler's court. With the addition of a string of blue, it indicated the wearer was a Torah observant Israelite.⁵¹⁸ The Dictionary of the Bible (1909) addresses the apparel shown on the Black Obelisk and states that it "may with some confidence be identified" with the upper garment (the *me'U*) that "men of a high social position or of the priestly order wore."⁵¹⁹

William H. Shea, an associate professor of Old Testament, at Andrews University Theological Seminar offers a detailed analysis of the Black Obelisk which states that both the inner and outer garments carved on the stela have the fringes.⁵²⁰

The KJV translates the Strong's Hebrew word *beqed* (#H899) for garment in Numbers 15:38 a total of 217 times into a number of English words: garment (107x), clothes (69x), cloth (13x), raiment (12x), apparel (4x), robe (4x), wardrobe (2x), very (2x), clothing (1x), lap (1x), rags (1x), vestures (1x). In this verse where the command to wear fringes is found, there is no Scriptural command to wear the *tzitzit* (H6734=fringes) on a particular type of clothing (e.g. as an undergarment or an outer garment) or how to design them.

From this reading, I find that our Creator gives us some creative latitude on how we position them on our clothing. To state otherwise is to read into Scripture something that is not there. What is the difference if one wears them as a continuous fringe sewn into a men's belt or as four different cords hanging from four pant belt loops? There really is none. Our culture and dress today has evolved even as it did in ancient times.⁵²¹

As far back as 1869, another writer discovered the same thing I did:

Although the command is simple and unconditional...The Rabbis actually contradict the Word of God and bid the Jews to insert fringes in some garments only for they say "We will tell you on what garments you must put fringes; do not confine yourselves to the law of Moses and the Prophets for that is what the heretics do." —C Schwartz, Ed⁵²²

The Talmud gives the instructions for the wearing of the *tzitzit* for observant Jews. The *tzitzit* are four tassels (or cords) attached to the four corners of the *tallit katan* (an everyday undergarment) of the *tallit* (prayer shawl). From a simple command in Scripture, the commands evolved into various Talmudic regulations (of which HR adherents are not obligated to follow).

The Hebrew word for "corner" is *kanaph* and it is translated in a variety of ways. Generally means extremity and is translated "borders" in Numbers 15:38, "four corners" of the earth in Isaiah 11:12, and "ends" in Job 37:3 and 38:13." Except for the probability of the north and south poles, can we know exactly where the other two corners are specifically located on a spherical earth? We cannot.

I chose to wear a one piece fringe sewn into my belt in a circular loop around my waist in a fashion similar to the Black Obelisk depiction. I also had a lady in the faith alter a shirt with the fringes placed in a loop on the bottom of the shirt. It is only Jewish tradition that instructs to do so in this manner—not the Torah. Either way one chooses to wear the *tzitzit*, in my opinion is acceptable.

So how did the wearing on the belt loops begin? When Jewish evangelism adopted the belt loops locations, they positioned the *tzitzit* in roughly the same place

where they would be worn on a *tallit katan*.⁵²³

Rabbis differ in their opinions on whether women should wear the fringes or not. Unlike Jewish traditions, there is no ambiguity in Scripture when it states that the "children of Israel" are required to wear them. The phrase that requires they be worn is written in the masculine singular. A woman who was beginning to learn Hebrew took this as meaning that only men should wear them. A casual reading in English reveals that even the Ten Commandments were required of the children of Israel and the women were not excluded. And yes, the same masculine singular phrase is also found in the Ten Commandments.⁵²⁴ Note the story of the woman who touched the hem of his garment (Matt 9:20-22).

The Jewish belief is that the blue color was derived from a snail. If so, why an unclean creature and also the exorbitant cost involved for the average person? After watching the movie *Braveheart* with Mel Gibson with the Scottish warriors painted their faces with blue, I surmised that the color was probably produced from a plant (such as woad, indigo or the root of the madder plant (*Ribia tinctorium*)⁵²⁵, if not soil. *Without further study*, I can only conjecture that such plants could have been eradicated due to over harvesting or significant environmental upheavals in Israel and portions of the Mideast or by curses pronounced in Deuteronomy.

Deut 28:23-24 And thy heaven that is over thy head **shall be brass, and the earth** that is under thee **shall be iron.** 24 The LORD shall make the rain of thy **land powder and dust:** from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

Jer 7:34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: **for the land shall be desolate. (see**

Overgrazing and desertification have occurred in the Middle East and northern Africa. As to how much of ancient Israel was made desolate by God (Lev 26:23; Isa 6:11;13:9) remains to be learned. Daniel Botkin indicates that the color comes from the indigo plant.⁵²⁶ Does the indigo plant still grow wild in the Middle East?

- **Grow in] Grace and Knowledge.** We are all in various stages or classrooms of spiritual growth. The fruit of the Spirit expresses our spiritual growth in grace and knowledge in our relationships with others and with a good conscience.
- **Hebrew Thinking versus Hellenistic (Greek) Thinking.** Hebrew vs Greek thinking is an Eastern mindset that teaches the definition of faith also requires the priority of the "doing" the right actions. This is not the same as the Western (Greek)/Christian mindset that requires an individual to "believe" in the right doctrine without corresponding actions. Hebraic thinking, in other words, emphasizes right action over the Greek right thinking. Does that explain why 78% of America call themselves Christian as a doctrinal belief...but yet we are in a state of moral decay from believing in law but refusing to be a law abiding? This is the fruit of a lawless society.

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TYPES OF THINKING ⁵²⁷	
Hebraic / Eastern ⁵²⁸	Hellenistic / Western ³⁶¹
Concrete terms (e.g. <i>a tree</i>)	Abstract terms (e.g. <i>love</i>)
Cyclical/Creation	Linear/Evolution
Verb (action) oriented	Noun (descriptive) oriented
Open block logic * (more than one answer)	Inductive/deductive / step logic (only one answer)+
Function (What it does)	Form (Description)
Emotions are natural	Emotions are criticized
Physical body is good	Physical body is bad
Worship is continuous service	Worship is an event
God never changes	Gods constantly changed
Biblical stories use allegories based on parables and <i>real</i> history which had prophetic meanings. ⁵²⁹	Religion based largely on myths which used mythological stories as allegories <i>not</i> real history. ⁵³⁰
* Consult <i>Our Father Abraham</i> by Marvin R. Wilson, 1989, p150-153 for the definitions and discussion of block and step logic. Block logic creates paradoxes and tensions which step logic does not. Jews accepted this because the deed was more important than the creed. Also <i>Let This Mind be In You</i> by Brad Scott, 2011, p38-47.	

- **Jewish Traditions.** Some wear the *kippa* (head cap) and prayer shawl (*tallit*) and many incorporate shofar blowing, dancing, some Jewish liturgy and ceremonies. (See Dress Attire in Chapter V: MJ and HR Differences.)
- **Kabbalah.** See **Talmud**.
- **Name of Church.** See *Denominational Identification and Ministry Names* above.
- **Name of God, Sacred Name.** The HR ministries listed below do *not* require the name of Jesus/Y'shua and the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) to be pronounced in Hebrew or in one specific way (unlike the Sacred Name Movement). This answers the misleading false statements of "Another claim is that there is no salvation under any other name but the Hebrew name of Jesus. This claim is the essence of the Sacred Name Movement, which is also essential to the Hebraic Roots Movement." ⁵³¹ I think that writer got it wrong on both points based upon my experiences with the HRM primary ministries.

Dr. Daniel Botkin wrote a short, insightful article on the SNM in which he dispels the story that the name of Jesus comes from the pagan god Zeus. He also describes the "rotten fruit" of the SNM of a "glaring lack of love for the brethren," and quotes a well known leader of the SNM who similarly states:

The Sacred Name movement has been characterized by knowledgeable observers as a 'bunch of splintered, divided sects' and this is EXACTLY what have found. ⁵³² (His emphasis)

Indeed, many SNO proponents do not even consider the brethren their brethren. Christians who do not use the Hebrew names are often regarded as lost at best and as devil worshipers at worst.

One large SNO organization printed these words in a newsletter last August: "Christianity calls 'God's' Son by the name 'Jesus'. Thus, those worshiping 'this son' are committing spiritual adultery!!" This is from one of the more tolerant SNO organizations. Other SNO writers have flatly stated that Christians who use the words " God," "Lord," and "Jesus Christ" are actually worshiping Satan. ⁵³³

- Christian ministers who wish to use Christ's Hebrew name may even be mislabeled as Hebrew Roots adherents by their ignorant fellow Christians. ⁵³⁴ Appendix J elaborates more on the Sacred Name issue and includes the relatively recent research by Nehemia Gordon.

QUESTION

Do many desire to stop somewhere in their spiritual journey instead of continuing to prove all things—and then require everyone else to stop with them?

- **Prophecy.** The interpretation of prophecy may be as varied as it is among Christian denominations. Unfortunately, as in Christianity, there are at least two ministries in this HR Awakening which have implied or set a date for either a city to be punished by destruction or the "world to end." No doubt these ministries are now chagrined to see that this has not happened.
- **Replacement Theology.** See Appendix on the Two House Controversy
- **Sacred Name.** See **Name of God.**
- **Services.** The weekly readings of Scripture (called *parasha*) are found in many fellowships. Interactive presentations (Q&A among the members during or after services) may be conducted where there are those present who wish to teach on a topic. This enables many to participate, as in the days of the early church and which Paul also writes.
 - **Talmud.** The ministries listed in Appendix A do *not* require the study of the Jewish *Kabbalah* and/or *Talmud*, and do *not* hold either as a spiritual authority and/or recommend that they be studied. (Please note that I am incorrect, please notify me immediately). Only Scripture is considered the spiritual authority). "*Kabbalah* is today known as the mystical teachings of Judaism, and most recently popularized by Madonna" ⁵³⁵ [the rock star]. Do some ministries teach aspects of the Kabbalah? Yes. Do not panic however. One must consider all opinions. Just because some opinions are Jewish does not mean that they have no value in attempting to understand Scripture. Many Christians read other sources of information outside of their denomination. Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry explains:

{T}he bulk of it [the Kabbalah] gravitates right to the warnings given to us in Devariym (Deuteronomy) 18. Much of it is esoteric and unprovable. I like provable things, things you can demonstrate scripturally and that have everyday meaning and purpose." ⁵³⁶

I am not totally against Kabbalahism, there are things about Kabbalahistic teaching that are true. There is a good deal about it that is just esoteric nonsense, etc. But, there is a good deal about it that is true. As I have said before in these series, that I get accused of being a Kabbalahist all the time because I teach some things that Kabbalahists

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teach. I don't know how in the world that makes me a Kabbalahist, but that is the way, some people ignorant of the facts, think.—Brad Scott⁵³⁷

Tim Hegg adds:

There are many spiritual dangers connected with Kabbalah, including its obvious connection to the occult and its utter denial of the immanence of God, referring to Him rather as the Ein Sof. —Tim Hegg⁵³⁸

- **Torah.** The *Torah* is taught in all HR ministries.
- **Trinity/Nature of God.** I have not investigated this, have not seen it discussed (except for Brad Scott), nor do I bring it up or make an issue of it. Why? Does this belief give me entrance into the Kingdom? No. Even the Apostle gave only four immediate requirements to the Gentiles with their advice to be follow up with the weekly Sabbath teachings in the synagogues. I believe in God the Father and in His Son Jesus Christ as my Savior and the Holy Spirit.
If it is anything that will turn a new person "off " fast, it is the Trinity issue. The average Christian does not even know his Bible, little along the controversies, and merely and blindly repeat what they have been taught by others (many times since childhood). Give people time to grow. And if they have a different opinion than yours—just look up the transubstantiation controversy of the Middle Ages to see the fruit of what happens.
We must have a healthy respect for God's power and abilities. He can make a donkey speak. Or as Brad Scott has stated, God can be 37 penguins if he chooses to be.
- **Two House Theology.** Please see Chapter VI: Criticisms and Current Issues for a discussion on this controversial topic and Appendix D.

VI. HEBRAIC ROOTS DIFFERENCES

- **Beards.** Relatively few men wear beards and even fewer in the Orthodox Jewish style. Beards are not commanded in Scripture, although historically in ancient times it appears to have been the custom to do so. Karaite Jews do not follow the Talmud and do not grow beards because of Lev 19:27. Scripture does instruct that one should not “mar the corners” of the beard.” Does this refer to the squared off Assyrian beards of later times as portrayed in the ancient stone stele, or other cut beards as worn by the ancient Egyptians or to pagan funeral ceremonies? (The name Assyrian comes from the name of their god Assur). Does this refer to goatees and other configurations of beards perhaps as seen in our younger generation today? One can jump to any man made conclusion. Commentaries and essay say differently.

[This verse] meant to cut a person’s hair so as to then offer it as a sacrifice to an idol or pagan god.”—Shawn Brasseaux⁵³⁹

Because it was so precious a treasure, it was customary among some of the ancients to present to their gods the firstlings of their beards. The prohibition before us alludes to this practice.— Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers⁵⁴⁰

The context of Lev 19:27 deals with pagan influences. How the pagan cultures wore their beards is subject to conjecture. History records that some shaved their heads as religious rituals. (Remember the Hollywood movies of monks with a large bald spot on their heads?) Once again, this reveals the need to investigate history, Middle East and ancient customs, and to understand the use of idioms (which comprise 42% of Scripture) and metaphors.⁵⁴¹

Now what I am about to say is opinion. As a landscape architect I appreciate good design and beautiful things. The Creation reveals a Creator who is a designer of beauty. Mustaches can be viewed as extensions of the beard and I keep mine trimmed because I do not wish to have it in my food. Many who do wear their beards today do trim them. Does Scripture rule out trimming? Ezekiel 44:20 addresses hair trimming. It does not rule out trimming one’s hair or telling us how to trim our hair.

Hair ceases to grow long in certain parts of the human body and typically does not need to be trimmed on those parts. If God did not wish men to grow long hair on their head, why not have it stop there as well? I do not think an unkempt/untrimmed beard or long hairy sideburns which may be braided are something to be admired as beauty. Just my opinion of which others have expressed different ones.⁵⁴² Regardless of one’s opinion, it should not keep one from fellowshiping with others who think otherwise.

- **Calendars.** Many observe the traditional Jewish Rabbinic Calendar for festival dates. To a lesser extent some observe the Jewish Karaite Jewish Sighted Moon⁵⁴³, and to a far lesser extent others observe the Equinox Calendar (termed the *Biblical Calendar* by its proponents). The Rabbinic and Sighted Moon calendars generally affect the festival dates by one to a few days, whereas the Equinox calendar can change dates by an entire month. All observe the same 7th day Sabbath day of rest. The observance of the day of Shavuot / Pentecost may also vary within those observing the same calendar. When the Sighted Moon is observed, Shavuot does *not* always fall on Sivan 6. It can also land on Sivan 5, 6 & 7. The Lunar Sabbath Calendar has significant inherent issues, yet it is observed by some. The observance of the calendars need not be divisive when the Sabbath is observed with the exception of the lunar calendar.⁵⁴⁴

Yet another calendar observance is the last (or waning) crescent of the moon to determine the beginning of the month. This can be difficult to determine. I presume this is based on the metaphor that since beginning of the Genesis day is at evening, the beginning of the month is at evening. Hold on though! There are some that believe that the beginning of the day is really at sunrise according to Scripture.

In my opinion, it seems that the basic foundational knowledge of the meanings of the Torah along with the appointments can be hindered and spiritual growth slowed when fellowships are fractured and weaken the learning from each in a spiritual community of believers. Batya Wootten writes:

Leviticus 23:14 tells us divine ordinances are to be followed "wherever you live" (NIV) ["in all your dwellings" KJV]. Jeremiah said to the scattered Jews in Babylon, "The exile will be long; build houses and live in them and plant gardens and eat their produce" (verses 29:5,28). These scattered ones would have planted and harvested based on new moon sightings in their own *locale*. While the law is to forth from Zion (isa 2:3), living by sighting the New Moon in Jerusalem cannot logically be mandated for believers who live in the Diaspora (Dispersion). It can be freely followed, *but it cannot be mandated.*"—Batya Wootten⁵⁴⁵

- **Dress Attire.** Some (not many in HR) adopt several Jewish customs (e.g. prayer shawl [tallit], *tzitzit* (fringes) head cap [*kippa* / *yamaka* (Yiddish)] by both Gentile MJ and HR adherents to show solidarity, support and as a gesture of respect for the Jewish people and their traditions when they are not Scripturally prohibited. One sees much more of these, however, in MJ congregations. Certainly such traditions are not an affront to the Creator if they are not Scripturally prohibited. Traditions help establish the Jewish culture—and all cultures as well. The wearing of these garments outside MJ congregations (particularly the tallits with its fringes or *tzitzit*) in other venues of worship apparently then attracts criticism from both Christians and Jews. Though I do not wish to wear a *kippa* or use a prayer shawl, I think the tradition of the Jewish garb is innocuous. Consider that that a Christian minister may wear attire which is also traditional and not Scriptural.

Head coverings (men).⁵⁴⁶ There is no Scriptural prohibition against covering the head while praying.⁵⁴⁷ It was not until the 17th century that wearing a kippa became *halacha* (Hebrew="way of walking" or more commonly Jewish law) within the Jewish community.⁵⁴⁸

Tzitzit. The Torah does direct *tzitzit* to be worn (Num 15:38; Deut 22:12). Perhaps this is because of one or two reasons: 1) they are worn during weekday morning prayers by Jews, or 2) they are symbolic and not to be taken literally. (e.g. Prov 6:20, 21, neither is anyone is literally writing commandments on their heart).

Tallits. The white and blue bordered prayer shawls contain the fringes (which are commanded Scripturally).

Tefillin. I have seen no one wear *tefillin* in MJ or HR meetings

Head coverings (women). Very few do, I do know of at least one HR leader who teaches women should wear head coverings. I do not believe that Scripture requires head coverings, but they can be culturally defined as distinguishing the married women from the single women, believers from non-believers,⁵⁴⁹ and believers from temple prostitutes.⁵⁵⁰

- **Feast Days.** There is much information on HR and COG web sites describing and explaining the meanings of the seven "feast" days. No matter which calendar is observed, the feast day meanings and explanations generally remain the same; however, there are two, perhaps four major differences:

1) The Hebrew word for appointment (*moed*) has been mistranslated as *feast* in the King James Version, and that error has been repeated by many in HR, MJ and COG groups. There is a separate Hebrew word for "feast" (*chag*); therefore, only 3 harvest feasts (*moedim*) are commanded. Each feast, nevertheless, remains designated as one of the 7 appointments.

2) The appointment of the Eighth Day is combined with the Feast of Sukkot (aka Tabernacles) when they are two separate appointments, and Unleavened Bread is separated into two appointments when it is only one.^{551 552} (Passover being the other moed). The total number of appointments (7) remains the same, but the meaning of the Eighth Day, which is highly significant, may go unnoticed and perhaps, unobserved, by many Messianics when it is combined with Sukkot

3) Pentecost/Shavuot may be observed on a different date dependent on the day the "count" begins.

4) Fellowships may not meet on all of the Feast Days and Appointments. I am in wonder why some HR ministries promote conferences in various cities around the nation, and yet do not promote Feast locations on their web sites. (Huh?) Some adherents are more willing to travel to a conference than to observe a feast day together.

- **God's Name.** The name of God (YHVH in Hebrew) can take various renditions in pronunciation. The ministries listed in Appendix A do not require that His name be pronounced in any specific manner and do not make it a source of contention to my knowledge.
- **Kiddush.** This is a ritual which is performed before the Sabbath and holiday meals. It involves a blessing before one first drinks a small amount of wine and

then another blessing before eating a small portion of *challa* bread. *Kiddush* means "sanctification" and was introduced between the fourth and sixth centuries BC. to celebrate the Creation and the Exodus.⁵⁵³ The Hebrew word *challa* comes from Numbers 15:20 where it is translated as "cake" or "loaf." The taking of the bread and wine is commonly called "communion." To what extent and/or if Christ was imitating this taking of the bread and wine with new meanings at the "last Supper" is something I do not know. Believers need to make sure that such regular taking of the bread and wine does not negate and eliminate the taking on the Passover.

- **Liturgy.** Because it is an outreach to Jews, Hebrew liturgy may be used to ease the transition for Jewish people to attend MJ worship and help make them feel comfortable. I have not seen Messianic Jewish liturgy performed in HR home fellowships but only at a HR Sukkot site and local MJ congregations. Some people enjoy structure and a religious feeling associated when attending a worship service. (We should feel good when attending a worship service). I do not see anything wrong with liturgy; however, I do not prefer it. Long liturgies can lead to a false and vain sense of spirituality and security in tradition with repetition outweighing substance. Yet, many people think that such long liturgies are a proper way worship and will not attend a congregation if it is not present. We should be educated at church services in the Word of Scripture. There is something inherent in me that does not appreciate facing east toward Jerusalem when a prayer is made. It reminds me of Islam. I think that mention of Daniel's example may ease the qualms of some like me, but then...
- **Salvation.** Many new adherents in Hebrew Roots® have yet to come to the realization of the Plan of Salvation revealed through the Festivals and the appointments—particularly the Eighth Day. It is not for believers to reach a fearful emotional concern for others (family, friends, Christians, the world) who are not keeping the Torah yet are living the best they can Scripturally. Christ will save them, but in His own time and according to His plan of salvation as evidenced in His appointments.

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be **the Savior of the world.** 1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the **sins of the whole world.**
- **Torah Walk/Procession.** I have noticed this performed at a HR feast site and a MJ congregation. Leaders at both have explained that this tradition is not meant to be idol worship but following God as He is the Word. I have not seen the walk performed at home fellowships. It inexplicable why HR leaders, especially any of those of a former WCG background, encourage or promote this Jewish tradition and especially when HR are drawing primarily "gentiles" into the faith. If there are Jewish believers, they too will be believing in both "Testaments." *Why not use a regular Bible in a walk—or just skip the walk entirely?* Frankly, I see no place in the HR faith for this Jewish tradition. Jewish people also do not appreciate this being performed by non-Jews. Neither can I see the purpose of non-Torah observant believers placing their hands on the Torah as it is walked in the church aisles. Isn't this hypocrisy? Just asking?
- **Worship Services.** They vary in terms of structure and songs. Enjoy the variety!

VII. CRITICISMS & CURRENT ISSUES

As indicated at the beginning of this book, various criticisms are made on the internet. Some of them reflect the 7 Core Differences that have been described previously. HR adherents in this grass-roots awakening can hold to a theological Heinz 57® of beliefs. Persons new in the faith may navigate their new roles of leadership of which they may not be well equipped. Perhaps that is why noted HR teacher Rico Cortez has stated that it is "the wild West" out there. Perhaps this also may be compared to the numerous Christian denominations.

The Awakening has now coalesced into a core of HR ministries which teach the essentially commonly held beliefs. I submit that one should go the trunk of the tree, not the numerous individuals taking the name of "Hebrew Roots®" (which is a trademarked name) when exploring the roots of the faith among the many named ministries on the internet.

□ 1) "The problem isn't the appealing, lively Jewish-style music that can be found in many Hebrew Roots and Messianic settings. It isn't in the quaint decorations or pleasant customs for the annual Feasts." ⁵⁵⁴

This interesting comment reveals the appeal of being joyful in song and dance in the presence of God while worshipping not only among adults but teens and children. Perhaps these type of comments reveal a staid appeal of the traditional Christian melodies along with the disappearance of teens and young adults from some churches? True, there is no harm in quaint decorations, but perhaps other festival keeping groups should adopt such decorations and customs to add to their Sabbath and festival joys? One can build new traditions and memories. Some customs are *not* "Jewish" but Scriptural, such as the menorah and dancing in worship. The issue for Christians is not wishing to identify with anything appearing "Jewish"—which recalls the issues of the early church.

□ 2) "What most of these people don't seem to realize is that the religion of Judaism, whether as it was practiced in the first century or as it is practiced in the 21st century, is not "the religion of the Bible....The problem is in some of the unspoken assumptions underlying the idea that true Christianity has its roots firmly in, not just the Bible, but first century Judaism." ⁵⁵⁵

Although the writers are in error in their statement "not the religion of the Bible" while escaping the mentioning of Christianity's adoption of pagan holidays and customs; these writers are *quite correct* in their criticism of the adoption of some practices and traditions. HR and Messianic have adopted the outward appearances of Judaism: changing their names and naming their fellowships in Hebrew, prayer shawls, music, the liturgies of prayers (instead of prayers from the heart) and observing Jewish

traditions without much questioning of the "why's." Hanukkah and Purim are not *Torah* commanded feast days. Hanukkah contains myths that even Jewish commentators acknowledge with contemporary observances adopted to compete with Christmas. To show support for the Jewish community is laudable; however, the Jews do not like non-Jews practicing elements of their faith. Purim has been formally added by the Jews because of the deliverance from Haman (Esther 9:25-32). One could consider that a national Jewish holiday. Some thought should be given to Purim since believers are grafted into Israel, yet also consider that believers are not of the Jewish nationality.

□ 3) There are various flavors of HR with beliefs which range "from the least problematic to the greatest." ⁵⁵⁶

1. Some HR ministries are not harmful when they connect the OT and NT with the Hebrew/Jewish background of Jesus with that first century Hebrew culture.
2. Some ministries research Jewish writings to make discoveries that can benefit the Christian life and belief, including Rabbi speculations. Some warn against Jewish literature because it can contain non-Biblical and pagan material.
3. Some may encourage the outward appearances and study into ancient Jewish customs obtain a deeper spiritual understanding and closeness to God.
4. Some go beyond encouragement to require the outward appearances and study of Jewish customs including Jewish " 'blessings' throughout the day."
5. The last type has "its goal is to totally undermine the faith of believers in both Jesus and the New Testament." I am unaware of such a group or is any such group named by some critics, but it is not to say that this criticism is invalid.

Two HR teachers (of which I never heard of) are named in the above source book. What I find interesting is that *not* one positive comment is made by either author (both of whom are former WCG members) on these groups keeping the Sabbath, the festivals and the desire of these people to read and follow God's word to the best of their understanding.

□ 4) "More often than not there are no distinctions made between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant or between the Bible....." ⁵⁵⁷

As Paul instructed Timothy:

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Core Difference #1 also explains why there is no distinction.

□ 5) "It is obvious in much of the HRM that it's not just the study of the first century for interpretation, information, and illumination that carries the day but keeping the traditions and practices of the Jewish Talmud, which was completed long after Jesus in the years 400-500."

Core Difference #3 reveals there are distinctions between the Bible and Talmud. When I asked the writer providing the above statements, I received the response regarding the wearing of the kippas and the tallits for following the *Talmud*. Although some, but *not* many, in Hebrew Roots® wear kippas and tallits, this does *not* mean they are following the Talmud.

❑ 6) "In practice, many promoters of the HRM draw their content more from Talmudic Judaism than from Old or New Testament Judaism."

I do not know what this writer is attempting to say without any examples, because HR does not believe in the Talmud as a Scriptural authority.

❑ 7) "There is an almost total ignoring by the Hebrew Roots® Movement teachers of two-thirds of the New Testament...

..".the Epistles are neglected and ignored, and Galatians is skipped over...."

I e-mailed the critic to advise him of this error in accordance with Matthew 18 and was rebuffed. Core Difference #2 not only refutes these two erroneous statements, but it appears that there was no investigation of the HR web sites⁵⁵⁸ of the leading and most influential HR ministries which have dispelled this erroneous statement. Avi ben Mordechai, a leading HR teacher, has authored a 505 page book which analyses in detail the book of *Galatians*.⁵⁵⁹

Note that these and the above assertions are all neither sourced or referenced with the criticism that "all" HR teachers are placed into this category. Internet critics can make generalizations without providing sources for their criticisms. I would suggest that referencing the stated *beliefs* of the primary Hebrew Roots® teachers would be a good start. The 5 W's required of any good newspaper reporter are also required of critics.

On the other hand, not all internet sites are in error.

Indeed, the growth of the HRM has resulted in diverse beliefs among its new adherents as they spiritually mature. Many can construct fine looking internet web sites for their teachings. Remember, there is no Hebrew Roots® college or umbrella organization. These new adherents are bringing along their Christian ideas, including evangelism to win souls—even when a number are not Scripturally grounded; but, *neither* are most American Christians.

A source in the Wikipedia article on Hebrew Roots®⁵⁶⁰ states:

Geoffrey Grider. "The Hebrew Roots® Cult Movement." Retrieved 2013-11-12.
The movement usually hides their beliefs and presents itself as simply seeking to educate Christians concerning their Jewish heritage. As they become acclimated to the Jewish orientation the more aberrant doctrines are slowly introduced.

Is this a rational observation? Really? No source. No research. Just an allegation. Can a grass-roots movement somehow, somewhere, by someone, be organized (by who?) by a mass teaching system so that all of these independent home fellowships are following secret guidelines to indoctrinate people invited to their homes? Really?

Another source, however, in the same Wikipedia article correctly states:

What is the Hebrew Roots® movement?" "The premise of the Hebrew Roots® movement is the belief that the Church has veered far from the true teachings and Hebrew concepts of the Bible. (Retrieved 2013-11-12).

Another source in the same article states:

The movement maintains that Christianity has been indoctrinated with the culture and beliefs of Greek and Roman philosophy and that ultimately biblical Christianity,

VII. CRITICISMS & CURRENT ISSUES

taught in churches today, has been corrupted with a pagan imitation of the New Testament gospels. [...]

This is also correct, and most all Christian churches even acknowledge the facts of major Christian holidays being pagan in origin.⁵⁶¹ Christianity is a *new* religion when one considers it began 2000 years ago.

□ 8) Many affirm the existence of an original Hebrew-language New Testament and, in some cases, denigrate the existing New Testament text written in Greek. This becomes a subtle attack on the reliability of the text of our Bible. If the Greek text is unreliable and has been corrupted, as is charged by some, the Church no longer has a standard of truth."

King James Version-only believers take the stance that there are no mistranslations in the King James Bible. HR adherents do not. When one considers the many versions of the Bible now available, does this mean that the reliability of the text is questioned? I have a few of the HR teachers indicate their opinions that the NT was written in Hebrew. Many in HR apparently are repeating them as well. They are opinions. I have not read any papers or heard any presentations devoted to HR teachers research into their stated opinions.

□ 9) "The problem again occurs when your teachings and ministries are so focused on the Torah, Hebrew roots & "Sacred Names" that Christ, Grace, Mercy, Love and the Holy Spirit are diminished by comparison!"

Yes, I agree. Many people are hungry for spiritual food. In one's hunger, does one forget hospitality and the everyday needs of people, and the need for community of believers? Who do we call on when a ride is needed to see the doctor, get a prescription filled when we are sick, when a ride is needed and our vehicle is being repaired?⁵⁶²

□ 10) "In this light, the Two House movement emerges as a distraction, and a dangerous one. The problem is not just that it is based on speculation regarding ancestry. Two house theology and British-Israelism both take the focus off the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. It blurs the distinction between Jew and Gentile. It encourages a sense of entitlement rather than a sense of humility and acknowledgement of the unique status of the Jewish people. It sets up a roadblock in the bridge of Jewish/Christian relations."⁵⁶³

Yes, I agree with this assertion based upon my experiences in the WCG—not HR. The former WCG and some of its split-offs strongly believe and teach that the American and British peoples are descendents of ancient Israel and are disobeying God which brings about curses for disobedience. I think *all* Christian ministries will agree that American does need to repent. The WCG added the British-Israelism (BI) flavor to the mix. The gospel is *not* BI.

As noted previously, HR does not teach BI, per se, to the best of my knowledge. Taken in the context of Boaz Michael's criticism of Two House, one would receive the impression that one's genealogy is foremost in the minds of HR adherents. I do not find this to be the case nor have I found any emphasis on the exiled ten tribes in my visits to

HR fellowships--but this does not make a conclusion on this matter. If one is looking for differences in beliefs to criticize, a critic can make it an issue.

I would like to have seen the Messianic author of the above criticism include Hebrews 11:9 (of which Wootten writes⁵⁶⁴) in his claim that Romans 4:16-17 and Galatians 3:7-9 state the Gentiles are from Abraham and not from Isaac and Jacob (which Hebrew 11:9 apparently states otherwise).⁵⁶⁵ It seems to be an obvious omission from a dedicated Messianic teacher. We are all human and I am not perfect either.

□ 11) "One of the things that is really important to be aware of regarding this and other heretical movements is that they engage in the re-definition of terms. Once that is accomplished, those re-defined terms become fields in which seeds of questionable doctrine can be cultivated..."

Redefining terms is a generalization and depends on the writer. One can make pros and cons of the above criticism. Christians redefine the "law" in I John as meaning only the Nine Commandments. Even in newer Bible translations the underlying Hebrew and Greek words have undergone considerable change. A good example is the word "hell" in the Old Testament where it should be more properly translated as "grave." The primary and most well known Hebrew Roots teachers are not using these one-man written translations of the word, but reference the original Greek and Hebrew.

□ 12) "One way that the Hebrew Roots Movement does this is to first cast doubt on the canon of Scripture that we have had from the earliest days of the Church (Body of Christ) until today. To think no one has gotten it right until the HRM came along!"

I have not seen anyone casting doubt on the canon. Casting doubt on men's interpretations of the underlying Greek and Hebrew, as just described above with the word "hell") into English is another matter.

□ 13) "Due to their suspicion of our current Bible, some in the HRM have worked to provide us with new "translations," such as the "Restoration Scriptures," "The Hebraic Roots Version," the "Ancient Roots Translinear Bible," and the "Complete Jewish Bible."⁵⁶⁶

This is a constructive critical comment that needs to be considered by HR. The majority of Bibles I have seen used in HR meetings are the popular translations (KJV, ESV, etc) although I have seen the Complete Jewish Bible used by a minority. I continually recommend the KJV because of its widespread use and the vast number of supportive writings geared to it. One must consider, however, the criticisms leveled against other new versions of the Bible over the past 30 years, as well as their notable accomplishments by cleaning up mistranslated words (such as "hell") and how they have engaged people to read the Bible.

□ 14) "I'll give them [HR] one point: Jews and Gentiles grafted into the Root are all subject to the same Law, but it isn't Mosaic Covenant Law, it is the Law of Christ!"⁵⁶⁷

The author of this criticism gives a good explanation of grafting, however this explanation is not germane. The author does not explain that all grafting in the nursery trade is done by the manner that the article presents. The olive branches of the Jewish apostles and disciples that believed and followed Christ in the New Testament did not*

have to be cut out from the tree. The example of a completely sawn-off stump is not accurate. Do you now see the improper application of this grafting example? To make their example work, they must misinterpret the "Law of Christ" of which we learned is the same Mosaic law *and more* as discussed in the Appendix I.

□ 15) Hebrew Roots teaches the Kabbalah and the Talmud.

These critics are both right and wrong—but mainly wrong. Even Messianic Judaism embraces certain "traditions" in their Sabbath and High Day services which are derived from the Talmud. One particular "tradition" at one MJ congregation was to wait an hour after sunset to eat after the Day of Atonement--because that is what the Jews do.

There are Jews and non-Jewish leaders/teachers in HR who have provided references to the *Talmud* as an indication of what Jewish leaders in the past have thought or taught. The same is with the *Kabbalah*.

I have personally heard two HR leaders (Brad Scott and Avi ben Mordechai) state there is a mixture of good and bad in both. Brad Scott has stated at one of his conferences is that if he agrees with something he has found in it, he will teach it. John Lightfoot (1602-1675). was an English churchman, rabbinical scholar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, England, had this to say about the study of the *Talmud*:

Among all those, who have either published their own chorographical tables of the land of Canaan, or have corrected others—you can hardly find any, that have consulted with the writers of the Talmud in this matter... Let us reason, therefore... Whether, among all the means used for the correcting and polishing this, the means that the Talmud affords, should, with any merit or equity, be only refused? Why the Jewish chorography of the Jewish country should not be admitted? Certainly, it is unjust, out of prejudice, to reject, or out of ignorance not to entertain, those things, which might either yield us the profit of the chorography of that land, or stir up no unprofitable search into it... surely it is very fit, that he should... consult those authors, as being the nearest witnesses, inhibitors of the country, and such as most studiously and most religiously describe it... When, in the reading of these writers, I... compared them with the maps and tracts already published, I plainly saw... that very many things might be fetched and drawn out of these authors, which might correct the maps.... Which might some way or other hold out a light to chorography.—John Lightfoot⁵⁶⁸

Because some HR leaders teach "PaRDeS" (an acronym)—a form of Jewish Exegesis⁵⁶⁹—which comes from the *Kabbalah* (Hebrew meaning "parallel / corresponding" or "received tradition")—they can be viewed as being heretical.

PaRDes consists of four levels of Scriptural interpretation of which no level contradicts the base meaning.⁵⁷⁰ It is a form of critical thinking that challenges the reader to examine Scripture from different perspectives—something similar to the allegorical interpretations by Augustine (in the 4th century) and others which came long before the *Zohar* (one of the fundamental kabbalistic texts) was written in the 13th century.⁵⁷¹

Mark Biltz was cited⁵⁷² to teach hidden *Kabbalah* messages in his 2014 book *Blood Moons*. I would offer that Mr. Biltz simply reveals the hidden or deeper ("sod") messages of the Hebrew and the paleo-Hebrew languages. Christians from any one of

the many denominations similarly expound Scripture (e.g. 666, the mark of the beast, 153, the Book of Revelation, etc.) and give their interpretation types different names when it comes to explaining "hidden" Bible verses and messages. What is the difference? One must consider truth wherever it is found; otherwise, how can we ever learn...*anything*?

Another writes than HR leaders should not be speaking at conferences hosted by those who have radical political, religious and or social associations. I agree that certain associations could cast a negative light and caution is needed. Should Christ not have associated with the prostitutes, winebibbers and tax collectors in his ministry? Perhaps it is the judgmental minds and eyes of others who also should be cautioned?

TORAH IGNORANCE

The ignorance of the applicability of the Torah is widespread. Additionally, too many people, including religious leaders, cannot separate and distinguish the House of Judah from the House of Israel. Critics ask...

If somebody is telling you he is a Torah observant, try to randomly pick a few commandments and see if he really observes them or not, for example, you may ask them:

A) "Do you keep your diet 100% animal fat free, as in accordance with Leviticus 3:17?"

Where does it say 100% in this verse? The definition of fat is stated in verses 15-16, that is, if one reads the context (which is what most Christians are cautioned to do).

B) "Do you stone your children if they curse you, as in accordance with Leviticus 20:9?" (also in Deut 21:18-21)

In the United States taking judgment into one own hands is illegal and is called vigilante justice. Judgment is reserved for the judiciary system as it was in ancient Israel. Does this question reveal that people are not cognizant of our nation's law(s)—not just the Torah? An individual cannot take judgment into his own hands. Recall the principles in Deut 17:6; 19:15.

As in ancient Israel, judgment belonged to the Levites and later the kings of Israel and Judah. God expelled the nations of Israel and Judah from their lands because of their sins (e.g. Ezk 20:11-13, 18-22). They are in exile, scattered among the nations, and except for the Jewish people (who refused to give up the Sabbath day) have lost their identity as they assimilated into the cultures of the nations that took they captive. The exiled are outside of His direct governance on a national level until they return to the promised land under His governance.

Many religious groups wish to enact their own laws but are not allowed when they conflict with our Constitution. Interestingly, Jewish writings record no significant instance where the stoning law was ever implemented.

The Jewish Virtual library in its article *Rebellious Sons*⁵⁷³ further explains:

There is no record of a rebellious son ever having been executed, except for a dictum of R. Jonathan stating that he had once seen such a one and sat on his grave (Sanh. 71a). However, it is an old and probably valid tradition that there never had been, nor ever will be, a rebellious son, and that the law had been pronounced for educational and deterrent purposes only, so that parents be

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rewarded for bringing their children up properly (ibid.; Tosef. Sanh. 11:6). In our times, we pay no attention to gluttonous and defiant sons, and everybody covers up the sins of his children; even where they might be liable to flogging or to capital punishment under the law, they are not even reprimanded. Many such children are leading purposeless lives and learn nothing—and we know that Jerusalem was destroyed because children loafed around and did not study. (Shab. 119b; Samuel Eliezer Edels, chiddushei Halakhot ve-Aggadot, Sanh. 71a).

C) "Do you never shave your facial hair, as in accordance with Leviticus 19:27?"

Translations do not always convey the culture or intent of the time Scripture was written. This question is answered under "beards" topic.

D) "Do you support the killing of gays and lesbians, as in accordance with Leviticus 20:13?"

This is explained above under the question regarding stoning. Perhaps believers in Christ should be asked how they have demonstrated love to the gays and lesbians (and Jews) since the time of Christ and even again in the past 100 years?

E) "During the Shabbat, do you not drive or BBQ? (and if you lived before the nineteenth century, will you not turn on lights nor start the heating in the winter if you are cold?), as in accordance with Exodus 35:3?"

Where does it say this in Scripture that one cannot drive or BBQ or turn on electric lights? It is **not** in Scripture. Why do many people ask this question when many claim to know the Bible? Perhaps because they are really not familiar with the Bible and repeating what everyone says or what the Jews believe? Interpretations of Exodus 35:3 have been established by the Jewish rabbis in the Talmud. Some of these same oral traditions are mentioned in the Gospel accounts. People confuse Torah with the Talmud. Look further at the Exodus account. It is referring to the gathering of wood on the Sabbath day, and may also infer the performing of one's daily labors in building a fire on the Sabbath Day. Keeping a fire lit in the ancient home on the Sabbath day by adding previously cut and gathered wood to the fire from time to time is not the same as gathering and chopping wood (no easy task) to start a fire on the Sabbath day.

F) "Do you never buy fruit in the supermarket as their producers do not wait until the 5th year to start selling them? (not to mention the fact that the majority of today's supermarket food products includes corn or soy), as in accordance with Leviticus 19:23-25?" ^{574 575}

May I ask the question of where corn and soy are mentioned in these verses and how they relate to fruit trees? All believers in Christ, including Hebrew Roots adherents need to be careful of what they state and teach, do not add or take away from His Word (Deut 4:2), and to not let their conscience be defiled. Paul warns about the responsibilities of a being a teacher when one is not grounded in the Word.

Current Issues In The Awakening

Peace Outside the Body: Enthusiasm and Spiritual Immaturity

Many new to the HR walk of faith emphasize *Torah* and shunning sin and for good reason. They may have their heads in the Scriptures for the first time in their lives. Daniel Botkin compares HR adherents to US citizens as he writes:

We would not try to convince foreigners to immigrate to America by talking all about the laws that we have. And we should not try to persuade sinners to come into the kingdom by telling them about all the laws of the Torah...

Knowing the laws of our heavenly Father is important, but just knowing and obeying the rules is no guarantee you will know your Father's heart. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the Prodigal's elder brother knew the father's rules, but he did not know his father's heart.—Daniel Botkin ⁵⁷⁶

Foreigners wish to immigrate to our nation because of our blessings—not because we have thousands of laws for them to obey. What are the blessings of the HR adherents that others can see that they wish to become a HR adherent? Are they noticeable? Are their marriages solid? Are their children obedient? Is the father supporting his family? Are they known by the light they shine as helping hands in the communities that they live in? Or do HR adherents wish to evangelize out-of-the-shoot and "talk the talk" of the Torah before they are themselves grounded to "walk the walk" of faith? Do they reveal the fruit of the Spirit in their lives that others may wish to be grafted into the olive tree?

It is natural to be filled with an enthusiasm for His Word that others may shout "legalism"—when these others do not even know their own Bible as national surveys have pointed out time after time.⁵⁷⁷ It is natural to reject sinful ways, however, it is important to consider those who do not know better rather than criticizing their faith:

Receiving a gift offered out of love [at Christmas] from a friend or relative is not a transgression of Torah; they are the ones still in bondage to a tradition, and need our help to understand the stronghold they are still bound-up in. In response to their kindness, the best opportunity to share the truth becomes available, rather than giving them a feeling of being "spurned," or even worse "judged." Our witness can be a positive experience for everyone who knows and loves us when we can meet them at their level, and gently kind them into an understanding of what the "season" really means.—Lew White ⁵⁷⁸

Chery Hauer of Bridges for Peace has written about the example of zealous new Torah believers of a Sunday keeping congregation coming to church demanding that their fellow believers begin worshipping on Saturday or they are "headed to hell." Yet these same zealous new believers exhibit "humility, sensitivity, and patience" to those in the Jewish community of whom they are attempting to influence. She notes that the above story has been repeatedly told to her from reports gathered from all over the world.⁵⁷⁹ But...did not fellow Christians teach each other to go out to the world and preach hell and brimstone and the lake of fire to sinners?

Note the below photo and newspaper reference and my own experience:

**REPENT
and
SIN NO MORE
LAKE OF FIRE
FOR ALL SINNERS**
*-The Sign by the Christian
group described at right-*

“A Christian group called....came...last week with big signs and loud preaching.”—Monika Staszczak. 2015. Oct 16. The Murray State News. See the photo with the sign and newspaper report at <http://thenews.org/2015/10/16/bible-group-stirs-controversy/>⁵⁸⁰

In my hometown, students on two corners of the county courthouse square used old-fashioned handheld megaphones to proclaim “Repent or you are going to hell” about 9 PM. Their words reverberated off the surrounding buildings and could be heard loudly across the plaza 800 feet away and more. This disturbed the serenity of the evening for many who came to enjoy the ambience of the quaint downtown. Do people need to be repent? Absolutely. I just ask whether people have become calloused to the fear of hell and brimstone by well-meaning people who wish to callously interrupt the public decorum. The best answer is God’s love for us which is expressed through the plan of His Feast days. His wonderful plan is described in my book *The Future and Hope: Revealing the Concealed Messages in God’s Festivals*.

One leader describes the people in Hebrew Roots as being a moral and ethical people.⁵⁸¹ Yet he also describes the Hebrew Roots as being "dangerous" yet offers no explanation as to why.⁵⁸² Perhaps the divisive actions and bad fruits are an answer. On the opposite side of the spectrum, thought, history records that ethical and moral people who think differently have been labeled as being dangerous.

Peace within the Body

The Pilgrims left a land for religious freedom only to discover a new land where they prevented others from exercising the same right. The Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629) envisioned their own theocracy of a “City on a Hill” —not for others of different religious persuasions who were not welcomed whether they be Anglicans, Baptists, Catholic, Jews, Quakers. Let’s not put down the colony, because others have done similarly in persecuting others, such as the Anglicans who harassed the Puritans in Virginia.⁵⁸³

Have things changed in the past 2000 years among religious groups including those who call themselves Hebrew Roots?

As other denominations, the Hebrew Roots® Awakening is no longer a stranger to internal controversial issues. Separations have now developed after experiencing significant growth since the mid-1990s. Since being involved in Hebrew Roots® now for over 13 years these separations continue. Why? Because the independent and inquisitive natures have led to a hyper-independent people who are immature in the faith.

These separations have arise over such issues as calendars (which determine the days of the feasts) and the pronunciation of God's name.⁵⁸⁴ Other issues include proper Sabbath observances, new moon observances, personal offenses, etc.⁵⁸⁵ As an example, I have been told that an occasional motorcycle into the country to experience the joy of nature and fresh air is not Sabbath keeping Scripture does address resting one’s animals on the Sabbath (Ex 20:10, Deut 5:14) Does the Rabbinic teaching about how far can walk on the Sabbath come to mind?

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The result [Messianic/Hebrew Roots] is a state of anarchy disguised under the name of Law. Congregations split over calendar arguments. People are embittered toward one another. Close friends are separated. Communities shrink . . . there are no other Messianic believers in the area with whom they can sustain a relationship. The program is not working . . . they reject Judaism and Jewish tradition, and they reject Christianity and Christian tradition. As romantic as such a hyper-protestant, sola scriptura purity may sound, it breeds arrogance and is unsustainable.—Boaz Michael and D. Thomas Lancaster⁵⁸⁶

The FFOZ writers [above] mention several problems in the Messianic Movement, and these problems are real. However, as I was reading about the various problems, I was struck by the fact that most of these very same problems exist throughout Protestant Christianity, and not just in the Messianic Movement...

The problems in the Messianic Movement are real, but FFOZ is putting the blame in the wrong place. They are blaming the One-Law message, but the message is not the cause of the problems. The cause of the problems is people who are immature, unstable, proud, arrogant and contentious. It's not the message that has made them that way. They were already that way before they heard the Torah message. If they were not preaching the One-Law message in an arrogant, contentious manner, it would be some other message...

The FFOZ writers obviously have overlooked the fact that FFOZ does far more to blur the Jew-Gentile distinction than other Messianic do. Why do I say this? Because while FFOZ does not teach that Gentiles are obligated to keep the Torah, they do urge and encourage them to do so, and to do it IN THE RABBINICAL MANNER.—Dr. Daniel Botkin.⁵⁸⁷ (His emphasis)

Without the guidance from mature doctrinally sound teachers, many of those within the HR Awakening are hyper-independent and think they must figure out everything themselves and become Hebrew, Greek, history, etc experts in their own right.⁵⁸⁸

There is simply not enough time in any individual's lifetime to find all the answers (if they ever could be found at all among man-made historical records subject to error, untruths and destruction). Many must think that because they are a small fellowship that "*they*" are the "remnant" church of believers; not realizing there could be hundreds if not thousands that believe the same but with different beliefs.

Spiritual Immaturity and Carnal Thinking In Breaking Fellowship⁵⁸⁹

- A rented church building.
- The music is too loud.
- The Sacred Name is not used (or not pronounced correctly)
- The strictest orthodox Jewish kosher is not being observed
- The children don't behave to your liking.
- Their calendar is not correct on Pentecost. (Forgetting that the first century had 6 groups keeping 4 different dates)

FFOZ states that the independent thinking one law Gentiles should look to Jewish authorities for the interpretation of the Torah according to the Jewish context. Does this mean

we should follow the rabbis in also rejecting Y'shua as the Messiah? Obviously many Gentile MJ attendees think so to the extent that half of the Jews accepting Y'shua as Savior are now counterbalanced by those in MJ now rejecting the Messiah and converting to Judaism.⁵⁹⁰

Peace Within Ourselves

We all have to come to grips that it is about faith in Him, acknowledge our weakness, and accept ourselves as imperfect beings who simply do the best we can do in life and in our walk of faith. A fruit of the Holy Spirit is peace. We cannot become religious monks. We are only lights to the world when we are in the world—not prepping on some 40 acre outland away from most people.

Some issues, like Pentecost, are honest difficulties in understanding God's will. This issue and others apparently will not be resolved until Christ returns. Until such time, it is *not* a case for separating when 99 commonalities outweigh *one* difference.

Judging. Overzealousness can lead to attitudes⁵⁹¹ of judging others. Do we gain our level of spirituality by marking off on our personal checklists what we have done to fulfill the Torah and others have not done? Have we forgotten that it is about His saving grace and the fruit of the Spirit? Not one's righteous works of obeying the Torah which save?

To me, love is the highest calling we must commit ourselves to. **Being right about every detail isn't going to earn us any points, but loving others to accept them with their flaws is the greatest test of our human nature.** If Y'shua loved them, while still in their sins, enough to be nailed to wood. -- then the least we can do is have a little courtesy and patience ourselves. The Y'shua I know isn't the type that writes people off very easily. If they are chosen. He will wait and continue to work with them —Lew White⁵⁹² [emphasis mine]

A Resolution for Internal HR Differences: *The Fruit of the Spirit*

A possible resolution for the difference between HR adherents is that Believers and Disciples need to overcome and grow in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). As much as possible, we need to live in peace with each other (II Cor 13:11). not discontinue fellowshiping (Heb 10:25), and remember the lessons of Matthew 25:34+.

We are all different rungs on the ladders, or said another way, in different classrooms in the faith (i.e. at different stages of spiritual growth and knowledge). We all have been *captured by the religious paradigms* of our past spiritual lives: either from our parents where we first received our beliefs (in the faith or otherwise), from our peers and teachers (in the faith or not) or from our own making through the idols of our hearts (Ezk 14:3-5).

Whether one is on the first rung of the ladder, or rung number 50, it is critical that we understand that so long as we are in Messiah, we are on the same ladder progressing in our relationship with the same God. We should expect to see far more confusion and error on the part of the believer who finds himself on the lower rungs of the ladder. If only we could spend less time being critical of where others are on the ladder, and spend more time recognizing the kinship we enjoy with all who are part of the family of God—even if we don't all look, act, or sound exactly the same. It is with differences that God designed the Body of Messiah, and it is this diversity that He expects us to embrace and use to His glory.—Ken Rank⁵⁹³

Since the Lord is long-suffering to our faults, we should also be with our brethren *and others*:

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Fruit of the Spirit	Fruit (Works) of the Flesh
Love	Hatred, lasciviousness
Joy	Sad, depression, strife
Peace	War, wrath, strife, murders, heresies, seditions, variance
Longsuffering*	Impatience
Gentleness	Harshness
Goodness	Badness/evil, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, witchcraft
Faith	Doubt, unbelief, Idolatry
Meekness	Pride, emulations, envyings, ego
Temperance	Drunkenness, revelings, lasciviousness,

One can become puffed up with knowledge and wish to share their discoveries and truth with everyone. When others do not agree with us, we should be patient with them as we are with children who need to grow up:

2 Pet 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Many disagreements can emanate from any number of reasons: ignorance, newness in the faith (immaturity among these independent thinkers and truth seekers who are now reading their Bibles intently for the first time), a lack of a trained ministry in the local area, egotism/pride/control, favoritism, totting spiritual Babylon theological baggage and religious paradigms from their former denomination(s), a deficiency of the fruit of the Spirit, combining national politics (e.g. Constitution activism) with religion, etc.

Are children and teenager are placed at a disadvantage when they are isolated from others of their own age when fellowship groups dissolve or fail to form for one of the above issues? Yes! Do they need the opportunity to have ethical and moral mature mentors that they could learn from and emulate just by observation? Yes! Do they need same age friends in the faith? Yes! Should fathers understand the warning of Malachi? Yes!

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse or the Highway.

Will children leave the faith to be like other "nicer" people in the world because of their view of their parent's religion?

My Way or the Highway. One Arizona HR fellowship of about 25 people evaporated in 2014 because the gracious hosts of the weekly home Sabbath wished and insisted everyone arrive *on time* and let them know if they were coming or not (a lunch was always prepared). Continuous late or non-arrivals by a number of attendees were creating increasing disruptions in the services. Many thought arriving on time was controlling and departed. Currently they are not meeting anywhere. Sad, if not silly, but true story. Yet, I have heard another similar story in two Arkansas fellowships where meetings cannot begin on time and others are forced to wait and exhibit patience out of "love" with repeat offenders. How long does it continue before one says "enough"?

People write about the increasing rudeness occurring across American in the past 20 years, yet some (many?) people who believe in God think they are exceptions to the (or any) rule. Does it seem that only other people are rude—not *we* God fearing individuals?

Sometimes such a minor issue may be the result of a larger elephant in the room which no one has the courage to address. What is the story in your fellowship / congregation? It does not have to be Hebrew Roots®; it might be Christian. Is the fruit of the Spirit evident?
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Leaders Speak Out. Since about 2010, an increasing theme among the primary HR teachers (e.g. Daniel Botkin, Eddie Chumney, Bill Cloud, Rico Cortez, Brad Scott, Dean Wheelock, etc) and various Sukkot sites (e.g. Season of Our Joy and Our Father's Festival) have been that of peace and commonalities within the faith. Unlike some ministries which are begun by ministers initiating the divisions, the primary HR teachers *are all apparently in unison* in instructing believers to remain in unity, to avoid breaking fellowship with other *Torah* observers and to continue fellowshipping together on the Sabbath days.

It is a clear, yet gentle, message which they are communicating which can be interpreted and distilled in three simple words: Please *stop it!*

In 2013 Evangelist/Teacher Brad Scott produced a CD series entitled *Six Things YHVH Hates, Yea Seven...The Imploding Hebrew Roots® Movement* in which he addressed the fragmenting. He has other things to say about this on his web site.⁵⁹⁵ Evangelist/Teacher Rico Cortez shares the same thoughts when he commented in a speaking engagement in Glendale, Arizona in March 2014 (paraphrased) *that after two years in the Hebrew Roots® Awakening people start dividing among themselves.*

As Eddie Chumney stated in his October 8, 2014 presentation at Sukkot:

In people's zeal for the *Torah*, wanting to follow the *Torah* and wanting to follow what is true and right...In their zeal for wanting to do things right, their overzealousness is actually causing them to violate the *Torah*. Because there are things that is and has separated those who wish to follow the *Torah*, especially in their local congregations and fellowships, because there are those that say [that one is not doing this or that *Torah* command correctly]...then they say, "oh because you do not do it or see the way I do it or see it, I cannot have fellowship with you."⁵⁹⁶

Paul states:

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these:enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions..." Gal. 5:19-20

"I fed you with milk, not with meat; for ye were not yet able to bear it: nay, not even now are ye able; 3 for ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you jealousy and strife, are ye not carnal, and do ye not walk after the manner of men? 4 For when one says, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not men? 1 Cor 3:2-4

Unity or Uniformity? Remember Psalm 133:1. It does not state "uniformity." Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jew, writes:

God's people are re-awakening all around the world to His truth, but not everyone is ready, willing, or able to the same degree, or at the same pace. God waited twenty-four years before revealing to Abraham the commandment of circumcision. Don't be so quick to circumcise your neighbor or condemn him for not being where you are in your walk with God! Let God speak to him in his own time, when he is ready!"⁵⁹⁷

The prophets tell us that in the future the ... Messiah will come and teach us by the wisdom of YHWH's spirit (Isa 11:2-3) and the High Priest will stand with the Urim and Thummim and answer all our difficult questions (Ezra 2:63; 2 Ch 15:3). When that happens everyone will know the true meaning of YHWH's word. Until then we can only do our best with the tools we have to strive for His truth. It is inevitable that today in the Era of Exile that different people will arrive at different understandings. Only one opinion can be right, but until the anointed King and anointed High priest come in the end-times we will not know for sure. Until that time we must not let our differences divide us! ... I believe that those who desire to follow YHWH's Torah should not be divided by their differences in understanding His word. [We] believe that unity can and must be achieved even when there is NOT uniformity. This requires a certain degree of spiritual maturity and humility. It is only human that we get frustrated when others do not see things our way. But we must be humble before YHWH and ask Him to lead us on our walk with Him. This does not mean that [we] do not have heated and fierce debates and discussions. This is an important part of trying to peel away layers of tradition and deception to arrive at the plain meaning of YHWH's word after 2000 years of falsehood that has kept us in Exile. This search in the Scriptures is part of our journey with YHWH who speaks to us through His word.

I hear many people shouting for "unity" **but what they really mean is "uniformity." They shout for unity and then kick out all those who disagree with them from their congregations and movements.** Is this truly unity? This is like a democracy in which everyone who does not toe the party line is denied the right to vote. And then the rulers of the people proclaim that there is complete unanimity! How is this any different from the Spanish Inquisition?"

...I urge all those who observe our Creator's times to treat their fellow believers in God's word with love and respect and to embrace them despite their differences.

What does YHWH require of you? To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?"(Micah 6:8).—Nehemia Gordon⁵⁹⁸

Tim McHyde was a member of the former Worldwide Church of God and has also witnessed its many subsequent divisions. He writes this in response to Nehemia's comment:

I believe the writer, clearly showing humility and maturity in his statements, is forgetting just how hard it is for most people to attain those same qualities! **These qualities are not something someone can decide to have and then acquire overnight. They must be developed over much time, usually at an early age thanks to a good upbringing. For this reason, there will always be a lack of maturity and humility in us, especially with most of us today coming from broken homes or dysfunctional families. We might as well ask people to stop sinning while we are at it!**

The other problem is that even if somehow we were to get everyone to be mature and humble enough to not attack each other over their disagreements, this would not change the fact that they fundamentally disagree. If they cannot agree, then they cannot be together in unity and must remain separated to keep the peace. Then they will naturally seek out others who do agree with them on what they deem together as important to God. In addition, if one of these people changes their mind later and disrupts the unity, then this ultimately may require kicking that person out to keep order, and so on. I empathize with the writer that it is wrong to kick people out when tolerance is a valid choice and is not chosen because of lack of maturity or humility. Yet, as noted above, sometimes it is the only way to keep peace and order. In fact, it is also quite a scriptural way of doing so as we will see in the next chapter looking at biblical precedents for unity. —Tim McHyde⁵⁹⁹ (My emphasis)

Believers and Disciples. We are in the times of Noah and days of Lot. Where exactly is anyone's guess. Events are now happening so fast in the world they can make my head spin.

There is a difference between a believer in Christ (knowing about God) and a disciple (or "follower") of Christ (knowing God intimately and He you).

Yet, how many Christians do you know who seriously pay attention to developing character like that in themselves? Not many; but of course self-development is not very exciting work for most compared to going out as an evangelist or engaging in doctrinal debates. Because of such distractions from this focus, too many Christians wind up having the same fruits that the world around them does or the same fruits, character or works that they had when they were unbelievers.

For example, some are so intent on sharing about Jesus or arguing what they believe the Bible teaches, that they mistreat, verbally abuse, or otherwise forget to love the person. It happens commonly whether it be in person or especially over the Internet in chat rooms, message boards or email. By acting so, we have lost focus on the fruit that Jesus said identifies someone as his disciples. **[John 13:35, Gal 5:22-23 and not Gal 5:19-21]**

Some Christians dismiss this problem with the claim that people with those behaviors are not "true Christians" anyway but "false Christians." Put another way, no true Christian would do such things (in the pattern of the old logical fallacy ("No True Scotsman"). Unfortunately, this explanation misses the sad fact that really all someone needs to do to be a Christian or follower of Christianity is to accept and profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (and most would add to that requirement the need to join a church or to be baptized). Thus, people acting unlovingly do indeed fit the definition of a Christian—and therein lies the problem. **The bar to be a Christian is pretty low and different than the bar to be a follower of Jesus.** Certainly this is a shocking suggestion for a Christian reader to hear, but as we are seeing in this book, Christian theology does not always line up with the words of Jesus that it claims to follow. (This is a big reason why so many verses bother us when we read the Bible or why so many sayings of Jesus are so difficult to understand.)

If we are tempted to dismiss the importance of this fruit or works focus, Jesus' warning about bad fruits should be considered. It contains advice on discerning individuals who come to us appearing as prophets, but it applies to fellow Christians and ourselves as well." (Matt 5:15-20)—Tim McHyde⁶⁰⁰ (Both the emphasis in bold and Scriptural references are mine).

Change Oneself. Let us stop force-feeding those younger in the faith and choke them, insist on one being right and winning a debate. Only the Father can call, draw and convict people. It is the Holy Spirit which will teach *all* of us (John 14:26).

In lieu of love and the fruit of the Spirit, some may condemn Christians for not repenting and adhering to Torah. Let us be reminded that many are not called during this age. The lessons of the God's Feasts reveal that there is more than one harvest of souls along with the tremendous meaning of the *moed* of the Eighth Day. These lessons need to be learned and understood. We are not sent to convert the world as Christianity attempts to do, but merely make "disciples of all nations." There is a difference.

I believe it is critical that one's witness stand on a personal example in demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in marriage, family, work, place of worship, and community—not preaching. How can one be a "light" if we are still in the darkness of divisions? If we are not being

blessed in our lives by keeping Torah--why are some so involved in preaching Torah? Can one give encouragement to others from their life experiences? Or does one give platitudes? We are called to be a witness to the world—*not* to convert it. Y'shua is the Savior of the world (John 4:42).

What type of witness is the example of your lifestyle revealing to everyone?

It is clear that believers must grow in changing themselves, *not* others. It takes spiritual maturity to navigate the ongoing divisions, fellowship with others that one does not totally agree with, and grow in the fruit of the Spirit as a disciple. May you have the courage to step out to *grow* in your own spiritual lives: to *grow* in **grace and knowledge** by **proving all things**, to *grow* in **bearing spiritual fruit** (Gal 5:22-23; Matt 13:23), to *grow* in **being an overcomer** (Rev 2 and 3), to **forgive** others, to have a **good conscience** towards God, and to **stand in the gap** for our nation. It is more than just knowing "about" God, but *knowing* God—and He *you*—in a personal relationship!

Shalom or Schism?

1 Cor 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another

The MJAA and the UMJC prohibit messianic musicians to play at their event if they play at MIA events (even though the MIA⁶⁰¹ has no such prohibition).⁶⁰²

The MJAA refused to fellowship with anyone associated with the MIA. They threatened Messianic music leaders, including Paul Wilbur and Jonathan Settel, if they led worship at any Two-House venue. If a visiting Two-House teacher was speaking in the same city or nearby town, the regional leaders banned their flocks from attending and harassed the hosts. They referred to the Two-House teachers and leaders as heretics and false brethren, using intimidation tactics....”

Paul Wilbur made a genuine effort to seek peace in this matter by inviting Dr. Dan Juster, (founder of the UMJC, leader of Tikkun Ministries, and co-author of The Ephraimite Error paper) to meet with Eddie Chumney (Hebraic Heritage Ministries) and Monte Judah (Lion and Lamb Ministries), with Pastor Paul Zink (Jacksonville, Florida) as a witness, to discuss the matter. Eddie and Monte laid out a Biblical basis for the Two-House prophetic teaching. They answered the objections posed by Brother Dan. The end result was a written statement defining the Biblical teaching by Two-House proponents followed by a written statement from Dr. Dan Juster. Both of these statements were made public. Dr. Juster's statement read in part that, while he did not place the same emphasis on the prophetic Scriptures in question, there was a Biblical basis for the Two-House teaching. That was a diplomatic way of saying "I don't want to agree with you, but the teaching is not heretical. Eddie and Monte felt this was a step toward understanding and future dialogue.

However, the brethren in the MJAA and the IAMCS proceeded to threaten Dr. Juster using the same bully tactics. Sadly, he backed down and withdrew his public statement.—Monte Judah⁶⁰³

This reminded me of the WCG spin-offs which did not allow a COG minister to speak before another COG congregation without the approval of the visiting minister's COG hierarchy. Otherwise the minister was reprimanded notwithstanding the content of his message or the group he was speaking to. The religious politics, control, and concern over people's tithes were still evident.

On the other hand, many Messianic congregations, including the nation's largest (Baruch HaShem in Dallas) welcome both Messianic Jews and Hebrew Roots Christians.⁶⁰⁴

Appendix A: HR/Messianic Ministries

These Hebrew / Hebraic Roots /Messianic ministries exhibit many commonalities and probably exhibit the conservative middle of the road in the HR *Awakening*, rather than those on the fringe which may gather more attention—and criticism—for their beliefs (e.g. exclusionary based upon sacred name pronunciation, calendar, etc), personal issues and which may focus on the minors not the majors of the walk in the faith. Some Christians, including church pastors unrelated to Hebrew Roots®, have been labeled as HR just for using the name *Y'shua* instead of Jesus, and *Yehovah*, *Yahweh* or *Yehuwah* (etc) instead of "God" or "the LORD" or "Adonai." Labels and ignorance can be so dividing.

The below ministries may comprise the most influential within the HR Awakening and are listed in alphabetical order. Those **names** highlighted in blue (not the web links) below are recommended for providing *much* free (or nearly so) literature for a foundation in Hebraic Roots teaching. For the few who recall Proverbs 23:23, consider the *first* part of this same verse:

Pro 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Remember the earlier explanation that Tithing is one of the Torah commands that are *not* applicable today ⁶⁰⁵, and also Christ's statement about the laborer;

Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

Daniel Botkin: <http://www.gatesofeden.org/>

Eddie Chumney: <http://www.hebroots.com/>

Bill Cloud: <http://www.billcloud.com>

Rico Cortes: <http://wisdomintorah.com/>

William F. Dankenbring: <http://www.triumphpro.com/> Died 2017. Formerly of the WCG, he is recommended for his dedicated researched writings which are mostly available for free on his web site. One has to ignore some of his egocentric and emotional statements.

Monte Judah: <http://lionlamb.net/v3/>

Hebrew Nation Radio: <http://hebrewnationradio.com/>

Hebraic Roots Network: <http://hebraicrootsnetwork.com/>

Tim Kelley: <http://amiyisrael.org/>

Lee Miller: <http://houseofdauidfellowship.com>

Brad Scott: <http://www.wildbranch.org/>

Season of Our Joy: <http://season-of-our-joy.com/>

Dean & Susan Wheelock: <http://www.hebrewroots.net/>

I am aware of HR leaders who either claim the book of Hebrews should not be in the Bible, are incarcerated, set dates to Christ's second coming (which did not materialize—of course), etc. "He who is without sin cast the first stone" (John 8:7). With that disclaimer said, I have not been able to explore these HR ministries in depth; however, from what I do know, they do express commonalities.

119ministries: <http://119ministries.com/index.aspx>

Avi Ben Mordechai: <http://www.m7000.com/>

Mark Biltz: <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/> Although he is not a believer in "Two house Theology," his ministry has valued teachings on the Torah.

Diana Dye: www.foundationsintorah.com

Joe Good: <http://hatikva.org/>

NATSAB. <https://natsab.com/>

Tony Robinson: <http://www.restorationoftorah.org/>

Michael Rood: <http://aroodawakening.tv/>

Jim Staley: <http://www.passionfortruth.com/>

Teshuva Ministries <http://teshuvaministries.net/about-us/>

Angus and Batya Wooten: <http://www.redeemedisrael.com/who-we-are-2/>

Appendix B: Recommended Reading List

After about 50 years in the faith, I have noticed that many in the Hebrew Roots Awakening are not aware of the Scriptures foundational teachings and have retained doctrinal church paradigms from the past 2000 years. I have placed the below list together to assist one in getting to learn the basics. Please note that although some material is *not* from "Hebrew Roots" labeled ministries, per se, they do, however, contain sound Scripturally messages as a whole.

Many appear to look for the perfect ministry. No one--person, minister, ministry, church--is perfect in knowledge or living their lives. Once you, an imperfect person, walk into a fellowship, that fellowship is no longer perfect! One person was "perfect" and they crucified Him. We need to stop following men and begin reading, studying and following His Word and bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our relationships with others

The following FREE books and booklets from different ministries are recommended foundational reading and may be accessed on line by clicking on the [blue title](#) of the publication or the [blue](#) underlined hyperlink.

The Festivals: Booklets explaining the Biblical Feasts by Dean and Susan Wheelock of Hebrew Roots Magazine:

[*The Spring Festivals: Passover*](#)

[*The Spring Festivals: Shavu'ot--The Feast of Weeks*](#)

[*The Fall Festivals: High Holy Days*](#)

[*The Fall Festivals: Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret*](#)

[**The Future and Hope: Revealing the Concealed Patterns in God's Festivals**](#) by Mike Bacon. Our Loving Creator has a wonderful future and a hope beyond hell planned for ALL Humanity. The Plan comes from outside of time and is contained in an Integrated Design encoded in the 49 books (the same 66 today) of the Bible written by over 40 authors spanning 2500 years. This FREE e-book in PDF format is currently being edited and is in stages of peer review..

[**Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?**](#) A booklet by the Sabbath and Feast keeping United Church of God (of which I am not a member). A downloadable free booklet in PDF format.

[**Hope Beyond Hell**](#) by Gerry Beauchemin. A wonderful study by Mr. Beauchemin which gives hope for all. Although the conclusion may not be accepted by everyone, it does provide histories of where we have received longstanding church traditions.

[**Hebrew vs Greek Mind**](#) by Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry. The link only takes you to his Home site. Go to teachings in the site menu or copy and paste the below web site in your browser: <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/hebrew-greek-mind/>

[**Hebrew Roots Magazine**](#). Free. <http://www.hebrewroots.net/> It is impossible for the Wheelocks to answer all of their e-mails. To be sure you get on the free magazine list offering

foundational teachings in relationships and doctrine, write them at Hebrew Roots. PO Box 400, Lakewood, WI, 54138

Hebrew Words Defined by Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry. The link only takes you to his Home site. Go to teachings in the site menu or copy and paste the below web site in your browser: <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons>

Miracles from Answered Prayers: Finger of God by Tim Kelley, the Season of Our Joy Sukkot Festival Coordinator. <http://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/FingerOfGod.pdf>

Old Testament Survey by Tom Bradford. <https://www.torahclass.com/teacher/author/tom-bradford/old-testament-studies/old-testament-survey>

Repentance. What is Real Repentance? <https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=getbstudy&InfoID=1316263513>

This is Lesson 9 of the former free Ambassador College Correspondence Course offered by the now defunct Sabbath and Feast keeping Worldwide Church of God. For new believers in the faith it is important to know the meaning of repentance. The WCG was *not* "Torah Pursuant/Observant" (they and their break-off churches (including the United Church of God) cherry-picked which of the "613" Torah instructions they wanted to keep). Nevertheless they offered fine publications, like this one, which effectively taught Scriptural subjects which I have not yet found among Hebrew Roots teachers and their web sites.

LAW:

Gentiles and the Law? Vol. I, II, III, IV. Hebrew Roots®. by Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. A series of articles. <http://www.hebrewroots.net/articles/gentiles-and-the-law/>

Under the Law...What is it?_ by Brad Scott The link may takes you to his Home site. Go to teachings in the site menu or copy and paste the below web site in your browser: <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/hebrew-greek-mind/>

'Which Law?' Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. 16p. <http://www.hebrewroots.net/media/68050/which-law.pdf>

Seven Laws of Radiant Health. This is not a Scriptural based book, but it is needed by many today. I read it during my college years and it served to keep me in good physical health through my adult years. It is sad to see that a number in my former church did not abide by its principles. [http://www.herbert-armstrong.org/Books%20&%20Booklets/Seven%20Laws%20of%20Radiant%20Health%20\(Prelim%201973\).pdf](http://www.herbert-armstrong.org/Books%20&%20Booklets/Seven%20Laws%20of%20Radiant%20Health%20(Prelim%201973).pdf)

Scriptures (Various) Explained by Brad Scott of Wildbranch Ministry. The link only takes you to his Home site. Go to teachings in the site menu or copy and paste the below web site in your browser: <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/>

Singing. Scripturally Unbiblical Songs. Paul Washer narrates a presentation with several pastors participating.
Paul Washer. 2015, Aug 15. Music in Worship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zg7kIkLHNo>

Paul Washer. 2017, Aug 24 Unbiblical church music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoeiZL8451E> Episode 1803. Note Time Mark 1:02:50 as it describes the singing of Psalms.

The Ten Commandments may be downloaded for free at <http://www.herbert-warmstrong.com/books/TENC~109/TENCOM~8.HTM> By Dr. Roderick Meredith gives a foundational instruction on these commandments.

Were the Ten Commandments in Force Before Moses. By Herbert Armstrong who explains how all 10 commandments are found in the book of Genesis.

Tithing: Is Tithing Applicable Today? A PowerPoint Presentation by Mike Bacon given at the Feast of Sukkot. Also listen to this presentation via MP3 at Sukkot 2010 Messages at: <http://www.sooj.org/Resources.html>

Unity vs Uniformity by Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jew, gives a short explanation of the difference. No matter his religious background, he hits a home run on what is happening in the Hebrew Roots Awakening.

Women's Roles in the Congregation. An Advanced Discipleship PowerPoint Presentation on this controversial issue by Mike Bacon given at the Feast of Sukkot.

613 Torah Laws. A paper in PDF format by Mike Bacon which details 689 laws--not 613.

7 C's of Christian Compatibility. A PowerPoint Presentation by Mike Bacon given at the Feast of Sukkot. Also listen to this presentation via MP3 at Sukkot 2012 Messages at: <http://www.sooj.org/Resources.html>

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE

Fossilized Customs by Lew White. 2015. Torah Institute. The history of many church customs and traditions (but it is not error free). Available on Amazon. Older editions may be available in PDF format on the internet free of charge.

Gates of Eden Magazine. P.O. Box 2257, East Peoria, IL 61611-2057 Past issues up to 2006 may be downloaded for free at www.gatesofeden.org The \$10 annual donation is a small price to pay for this bimonthly gem.

HaYesod. First Fruits of Zion.2009. *HaYesod.* DVD Series. The cost varies depending on which Study Module is purchased. <https://hayesod.ffoz.org/>

Hermeneutics. Daniel Botkin. 2018. *Hermeneutics.* Gates of Eden, Peoria, IL

Israel's feasts and their fullness by Batya Wooten. 2008. Expanded Edition. Get it on Amazon.

Jewish New Testament Commentary by David H. Stern. 1992. Jewish New Testament Pub, Clarksville, MD. 925. Written by a Messianic Jew. An important book for your library. Available on Amazon.

The Jewish Book of Why by Alfred Kolatch. 1981. Recommended to understand the nature of many of the Jewish traditions.

Our Father Abraham by Marvin R. Wilson. 1989. William B. Eerdmans Pub. Com., Grand Rapids, MI and Center for Judaic-Christian Studies, Dayton OH. 374p. This book is a *must have* for those in the faith. Written by a Messianic Jew, it gives the Jewish background on many topics. Available on Amazon.

Pagan Christianity: Exploring the Roots of Church Practices by Frank Viola and George Barna. 2008. From church buildings, the order of worship, choir costumes, tithing and more, the authors explore the ancient roots of Christian traditions. George Barna is a noted researcher (the Barna Surveys) and founder of The Barna Group.

Rosh HaShanah and the Messianic Kingdom to Come by Joseph Good. 1998. Hatikva Ministries. Available on Amazon.

The Tribes of Israel. Steve Collins has written five books on the “lost” ten tribes (which, by the way, were never “lost” to God, yet Christ describes them as being “lost”—Matt 10:6; 15:24). Four books comprise a series: 1) ***The Origins and Empire of Ancient Israel***, 2) ***Israel’s Lost Empires***, 3) ***Parthia: The Ancient Forgotten Superpower and its Role in Biblical History***, and 4) ***Israel’s Tribes Today***. His stand alone first book is a summary of the four book series: ***The “Lost” Ten Tribes of Israel...found!*** DISCLAIMER. The gospel message is one of repentance and belief in the gospel of the Kingdom of God and in His God’s son, Yeshua (Jesus), as one’s personal Savior. The gospel is *not* the identity of the whereabouts of the ten tribes today.

Should Christians be Torah Observant? by Carmen Welker. 4th Edition. 2013. Available on Amazon.

The Principle of the Seed by Brad Scott. 2008 “This simple, natural, agricultural principle is found in all of YHVH’s (God’s) creation and even within the cellular structure of our bodies. The Messiah himself categorically stated that all parables, and subsequently all prophecies, are founded upon this natural truth. The Principle of the Seed is a fundamental scriptural truth that lays the foundation for the identity of who the Children of God are from the very beginning.” Available on Amazon. \$10

The Tares Among the Wheat by Brad Scott. 2009. “Using the pictures of ancient Hebrew, Brad traces the restrainer back to the midst of the garden, through the lives of Cain, Ishmael and Esau, and concludes with the agricultural parables of Y’shua’. The restrainer, or he who withholds in 2 Thessalonians 2:6–8, is clearly seen, from the very beginning, holding back the wheat from producing fruit.” Available on Amazon. \$10.

Appendix C: Circumcision Types

*Note: The following discussion is **not** to be taken as medical advice. I am not a medical practitioner. It is the responsibility of the reader to discuss circumcision with medical professionals in order to attain the most current information on the types of circumcision and its advantages and disadvantages.*

The Ancient Ritual of Circumcision

Special Note: This section is a graphic description of the two types of male circumcision both of which are practiced today by the Jewish community and primarily one type in the U.S.

The purpose is to address the history, types and other issues of circumcision—not whether it is required today under the “New Covenant” or to offer a complete discussion of the medical and health issues. Relatively few people know that the prevailing type of circumcision practiced today was changed centuries ago. God is not a prude. This description is of particular importance for those expecting new sons, grandsons, etc.

Circumcision is termed *Brit Milah* by the Jews. *Brit* means covenant and *Milah* by itself means circumcision.⁶⁰⁶ But there is more to the story.

Milah. Only the tail, for lack of a better term, the small snippet of the foreskin below the glans of the penis was removed prior to the 2nd century (c140-150) A.D. If this portion was not long enough to be snipped, then the foreskin covering the glans was just pricked. Michelangelo got it correct: his famous statue of King David of Israel is an example of the *Milah* type. Even *milah* can cause pain with an erection (even non-sexual for men sleeping at night) which can open the wound. When emotions run high, such as anger or fear, pain also occurs when the wound is opened. Circumcision was viewed as mutilation in ancient society among the Greeks and Romans in ancient society since the human body was adored. The Romans outlawed *milah* but exempted the Jewish people.⁶⁰⁷

Peri'ah. All of the fold of skin covering the head of the penis (the prepuce) is removed/amputated. This type to completely remove the skin was instituted by the Rabbis c140-150 A.D. when young men began to uncover the penis glans to look like gentiles in the public baths and games competed in the nude.⁶⁰⁸

Jews were pulling or drawing their foreskins over the glans so that they looked like the Greeks. This is what Paul was talking about in I Cor. 7:17-18, "...Was anyone called having been circumcised (G4059)? Let him not draw over (G1986)." Paul was saying that if you were circumcised, leave it alone. Don't try to pull your foreskin over the glans and pretend that you are not circumcised. And if you are not circumcised, then don't try to appear that you are. —David K. Locke, PhD.⁶⁰⁹

The practice of *meshikhat orlah*—the drawing down of the foreskin (in English, decircumcision or epispasm)—was known between the second century B.C.E. and the second century C.E. By stretching vestigial penile skin tissue to cover the glans penis, a man who desired to pass beyond Jewish communal boundaries to join non-Jewish society could remove the identifying mark of Jewish identity..... the requirement was instituted by the Rabbis following the Bar Kokhba Revolt for the purpose of sealing this breach.—Nissan Rubin, Jewish Scholar⁶¹⁰

There are two OT Hebrew words for circumcision: *namal* (H5243, to clip) and *muwl* (H4135, to cut short—as we do our fingernails). Neither means to cut off completely as is done in *periah*. The *periah* method is a rabbinical fence—a man-devised tradition—instituted by religious leaders of whom people blindly follow either in ignorance or without proving all things (I Thes 5:21). For those in Hebrew Roots it is wise to consider that just because the Jewish people teach *periah* does not make it Scripturally correct.

Males babies subjected to this method can pass out from the extreme pain. Because of convenience, doctors are known to perform circumcision at the time of birth instead of on the eighth day.

Today's Ritual of Circumcision. Periah circumcision was introduced as a practice without any studies in Britain about 1865 and later in the U.S. about 1875 in an attempt to prevent masturbation.⁶¹¹ Only the U.S. practices it routinely among the Western nations.

The rates of circumcision have generally declined over the past 30 years.⁶¹² Rates vary depending upon race, nationality and religion. "Circumcision rates over the last decade reached 91 percent in white men, 76 percent in black men and only 44 percent in Hispanic men."⁶¹³ "91% of boys born in the 1970s, and 83% of boys born in the 1980s were circumcised."⁶¹⁴ In August 2010 the CDC announced that between 2006 and 2009, the newborn male circumcision rate declined from 56% to 33%.⁶¹⁵ "Male circumcision is nearly universal in the Muslim world and in Israel."⁶¹⁶

After 40 years of studies of both circumcised and uncircumcised boys, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 1999 decided circumcision should not be routinely recommended. The AAP concluded:

- Problems can occur with or without circumcision
- There is no difference in hygiene with proper care.⁶¹⁷

Other studies have also come to these above conclusions including that there is no difference in the rates of cervical cancer in women between circumcised and uncircumcised men.⁶¹⁸

Sexual Intimacy. Both women and men claim to have a higher level of satisfaction with uncircumcised intimacy. Men report this after having been *periah* circumcised later in life. In one survey women 89% of women preferred intimacy with the "intact" man.⁶¹⁹

Other Study Results reported. Dennis Prager offers a number of study results which present the positive medical benefits of circumcisions performed today.⁶²⁰ This appears to be the opposite of that which I present above. This includes reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases, penile cancer protection, cervical cancer reduced risk, no evidence for reduced sexual pleasure etc. It is the responsibility of the reader to discuss circumcision with medical professionals in order to attain the most current information on its advantages and disadvantages.

Possible brain/mental impacts. A Canadian study has shown that the extreme trauma causes damage to areas of brain which "would likely never return to its normal baseline configuration."⁶²¹

Today's Conundrum. The Christian acceptance of the prevailing Jewish method of *periah* circumcision starting in the 1860s leads to an incisive conundrum. Circumcision is derided as a Mosaic Law that is not required. Why do it at all, then, to promote an unproven, unstudied theory of 19th century men while denying God's authority to require it a religious ritual? Why do many parents still allow it to be performed today? Churches claim Vitamin K levels on the eighth day⁶²² for circumcision as a proof of God's Creatorship.⁶²³ How many speak out against the rite being performed immediately after childbirth? .

Jewish Circumcision of Converts. Periah circumcised men wishing to convert to Judaism undertake a ceremonial ritual of circumcision that is practiced today by Orthodox and Conservative Jews. This ritual is called in Hebrew *hatafat dam brit* [extracting a drop of blood], where a prick of a sterile hypodermic needle or a lancet from the corona of skin that surrounds the head (or glans) of the penis draws on a single drop of blood in the presence of three witnesses. The Reform branch of Judaism has accepted converts without *milah* or *mikveh* (a ritual immersion in water akin to baptism) since 1892.⁶²⁴

Appendix D: DNA Evidence

DNA Evidence. What about the development of DNA evidence over the last 20+ years which reveals that the present Jewish and Palestinian peoples share a common genetic marker which indicates the Western peoples are not related to them? Author Steven M. Collins, author of five books on the exiled Ten Tribes of Israel addresses the DNA question:

From a reader:

Steve, a source was telling me today that some research indicates DNA does not line up between we folks in America and the Jews. What are your thoughts? Is the DNA evidence against us being descendants of the lost tribes? Roger

My (Steven M. Collins] response:

Dear Roger,

[M]any look to DNA solutions for tracing ancient lineages. The modern Jews are the modern tribe of Judah (see my article, Four Reasons the Jews are Judah)...Judah came from a union of Jacob and Leah (Genesis 29:31-35). Manasseh descended from an original union of Jacob and Rachel who gave birth to Joseph (Genesis 30:22-24). Joseph then married Asenath, an Egyptian princess (Genesis 41:45-50, 46:20), and then Joseph fathered Manasseh via Asenath (Genesis 41:45-51). Even at the very beginning of the two tribes of Judah and Manasseh, they already had very different DNA content even though they were descended from the same man. Judah was Manasseh's uncle (or would it be "half-uncle" as Judah and Joseph had different mothers?). Manasseh was born with half Egyptian blood, but Judah had no Egyptian blood in him. The DNA of Judah and Manasseh at the very beginning would already have varied a lot. Think how their DNA has diverged over the approximately 37 centuries since they were born!

Also, it is vital to recall that God does not even consider DNA when reckoning what tribe a person belongs to. The Bible's narratives record that God reckons tribal affiliation via their patrilineal lineage through time. I realize modern Jews trace lineage via a matrilineal line, and I have no idea where that tradition replaced the biblical record of patrilineal tribal lineages in the Bible. It may have to do with the extreme variations in the racial and ethnic makeup of the Jews because they existed over the millennia without a nation and were mixed with the DNA of all kinds of nations. For example, Esther 8 (compare verse 9 and 17) confirms that gentiles from Africa, the Mideast and the Indian subcontinent who lived throughout the provinces of the widespread Persian Empire in the 5th century BC all merged their disparate DNA bloodlines into the tribe of Judah at that ancient time. Think how varied that made the DNA of the tribe of Judah throughout subsequent centuries, and how divergent it became from the DNA of the other tribes of Israel.

I find DNA-tracing to be interesting, but not determinative. When DNA-tracing companies sample DNA and identify it as coming from various areas of the world, it is unclear what their original data base assumes about the people who come from the traced regions of origin. Since people of very different races and ethnic groups dominated ancient regions at different times in history, are they comparing modern

DNA blood sample to the more-recent DNA blood types of people who live in those regions now or are they comparing it to the DNA found in the graves of the ancient inhabitants from other racial groups that originally lived in those regions in ancient times? There are a lot of variables in DNA assumptions that could skew outcomes of modern DNA testing, in my judgment.—Steven M. Collins⁶²⁵

Appendix E 1: Hanukkah

How Christmas Saved Hanukkah

WHAT: Hanukkah is a minor festival in Judaism that is not Scripturally commanded by God, nor is it listed in Scripture as a festival (*chag* in Hebrew) or an appointment (*moed* in Hebrew). It has become a major Jewish exceeding that of the commanded Biblical festivals..⁶²⁶ In this section we will explore the festival of Hanukkah and its history and celebrations.

The name Hanukkah means “dedication.” The full name of the holiday is *Hanukat Hamizbe'ach*, Dedication of the Altar.⁶²⁷ More about this later.

WHEN: Hanukkah is observed for eight days beginning on the eve of the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. This generally corresponding to the month of December. Because the Jewish calendar is lunar (it uses the moon for its dates), Kislev can happen from late November to late December.⁶²⁸

FESTIVITIES. Hanukkah is also called the “Festival of Lights.”⁶²⁹ It imitates Christmas with lights and placing wrapped gifts in front of the 9 branched lighted Hanukkah lamp (called the *hanukkiah*)⁶³⁰ or the decorated “Hanukkah bushes. This differs from the seven branched menorah of the Temple.

One each of the eight night, one candle is lit on the far right end in the *hanukkiah* along with a blessing until all candles are finally lighted in sequence on the eighth night. In the center of the *hanukkiah* is a special ninth candle. It is called the *shammash* or servant/helper candle and is used to light the others. After lighting the first candle, it is then placed in the center and remains lighted.

Traditions and children have catapulted this once minor Jewish observance of 150 years ago and least important occasions into a major Jewish festival. Hanukkah is observed more than the commanded festivals of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot.⁶³¹ Why is this? Because of its proximity to Christmas and its influence of holiday lights, trees and gift giving upon Jewish children. Jewish historian Diane Ashton, author of *Hanukkah in America* writes:

[Hanukkah's] timing in the midst of the Christmas season offered a way to perform their Jewish commitment through the holiday's rite and, for a moment, to resolve the ambiguity of being an American Jew.—Diane Ashton⁶³²

A Hanukkah bush is not actually a thing, but many Jewish kids get to put up these mini trees anyway because our parents feel bad that all our goy friends get to decorate Christmas trees. It's a very North American thing and generally discouraged by rabbis. That being said, there have been a few mentions of it in popular culture. —Emily Krauser⁶³³

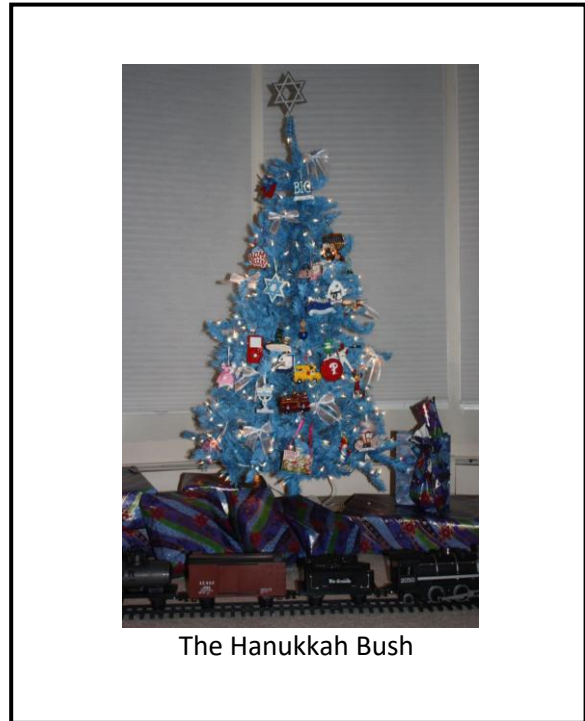


The Hanukkiah

All of these are simply customs and traditions gathered over the years because of the considerable influence of Christmas upon Jewish children and their parents desire to counter this influence. Now we may add the white and blue colors (of the Israeli flag) to the red and green seasonal colors to the month of December?

Notwithstanding the "true meaning" of the holiday (as we shall soon discover), can we see how many make a comparison to the "true meaning" of Christmas when that holiday has been commercialized and is even observed by non-believers?

[T]he rabbis effectively rebranded the holiday so that instead of glorifying Hasmonean [aka Maccabees] military prowess, the holiday instead glorifies the unconditional and miraculous divine light that Jews can depend on, even in the gloomiest of darkness. —Dr. Malka Z. Simkovich, Jewish Theologian⁶³⁴



The Hanukkah Bush

Move over Hanukkah bush, here comes the Menorah Tree.



Photo courtesy Michael Patchen⁶³⁵

Rabbinic Teachings. As many Catholics believe in the inspiration of the Pope to lead them, the general Protestant community in the inspiration of their local minister, and many Jews believe in the decisions and writings of the Rabbis,. we need to examine the rebranding of this day by the Rabbis. There are Rabbinic (Oral Torah) instructions for the holiday: 1) is to light candles; 2) a Rabbinic prayer to be said as the the authority to light them;⁶³⁶ 3) for the 8 nights (Kislev 25 – Tevet); and 4) to be joyous.⁶³⁷

The 2001 National Jewish Population Survey reported that 72% of American Jews light Hanukkah candles. The candles are on a special candelabrum or menorah with nine branches called a hanukkiah. It is not to be confused with the seven branched menorah in the temple. With this all in mind, let's begin to delve into the history of Hanukkah to discover its "true meaning."

WHY and WHERE: The History.⁶³⁸ In 168 BC the Seleucid Greeks desecrated the Jerusalem Temple altar by sacrificing a pig on it to the sun-god Apollo on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev.⁶³⁹

Hanukkah celebrates the cleansing and rededication of the altar in 165 BC to YHVH after the Maccabee's victory in a war that began in 168 BC on the 25th of Kislev. The Maccabees tore down the defiled altar and built a new one. This new altar was dedicated three years to the day after it was desecrated—on the 25th of Kislev. Greeks.

The war was precipitated under the Seleucid Greek Empire Syrian King Antiochus IV who took the title Epiphanes—meaning the "visible god,"⁶⁴⁰ "illustrious one" or "god manifest."⁶⁴¹ In addition to the desecration of the altar, Antiochus IV issued various decrees in order to hellenize (i.e. assimilate—think "Borg" as in *Star Trek*)) the Jewish population into the Greek culture. This would be done, in part, by having the same language and religion. These decrees violated the Jewish practices contained in the Torah. What were some of these decrees? I Maccabees lists them in 1:44-49.

I Macc. 1:44-49 The king sent letters by messenger to Jerusalem and to the cities of Judah, ordering them to follow customs foreign to their land; 45 to prohibit burnt offerings, sacrifices, and libations in the sanctuary, to profane the sabbaths and feast days, 46 to desecrate the sanctuary and the sacred ministers, 47 to build pagan altars and temples and shrines, to sacrifice swine and unclean animals [at the Temple], 48 to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to defile themselves with every kind of impurity and abomination; 49 so that they might forget the law and change all its ordinances.

The prohibition of keeping the Sabbaths, feasts and circumcision ran contrary to Jewish beliefs. Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jewish theologian, explains that there were three main prohibitions plus two requirements: 1) Pronouncing the name, 2) working on the Sabbath, 3) circumcision, plus 1) a public sacrifice of a pig to Apollo or burn incense or *light a candle* 2) on a private altar to be placed at the front of a Jewish property or home. Gordon mentions the historic source document (that I was not able to make out in his audio) stated that Antiochus IV also prohibited the pronunciation of God's Name (YHVH).⁶⁴² (The Rabbi's have replaced the Syrian Greeks and carry on this prohibition against "the name" to this day).

WHO: The revolt and subsequent war with the Greeks began with a Mattathias, a former Jewish Priest, who was forced to make an offering to Zeus in his village. He refused and later killed a Syrian soldier. Mattathias's five sons, including Judah, joined their father and killed the other soldiers in the village. Because Mattathias later died because of old age, the Hasmonean family of Judah, whose nickname was 'Maccabee' (from the Hebrew word for hammer) and his four brothers carried on the fight. They led the wars and victory over the Antiochus IV and Syrian Greeks.⁶⁴³ The temple was then cleansed and rededicated over a period of eight days.

The True Meaning. in 2003 Rabbi Joshua Sherwin stated that the holiday's "true meaning" is the celebration of "strengthening religious freedom in our days, just as the Maccabees did in ancient ones."⁶⁴⁴

Victory! According to Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jewish theologian, the original Hanukkah victory story was similar to one of the small native American Indian tribes rising up

against the might of the United States Army...and winning!⁶⁴⁵ God was on the side of the Maccabee's and they were victorious!

The miracle was *the victory against overwhelming odds*—not oil in a lamp.⁶⁴⁶ And it was a gallant and humongous victory!

Judas, known as Maccabaeus (the Hammerer) and son of Mattathias “whose band of followers was utterly untrained, unequipped and unsupported. Opposed to him were the trained armies of a powerful state...with bronze armor and the best weapons made, let by generals who had acquired skill in world-wide campaigns. On every field the Syrians outnumbered the Jews six to one...{Judas} belief in his own ability to inspire, plan and execute and an underlying faith in God. With these he would do the impossible.”

In an incredibly short time this peasant warrior had won more victories against greater odds than any other leaders in Hebrew history.” David himself controlled hardly more territory.—Albert E. Bailey and Charles F. Kent, *History of the Hebrew Commonwealth*.⁶⁴⁷

I Mac. 4:59 Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication [i.e. Hanukkah] of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy **for eight days**, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

The Word Chanukkah. The Hebrew word *chanukkah* (H2598 aka *hanukkah*) means "dedication" and is found 8 times in the Old Testament. Five of these times it refers to the dedication of the altar. A similar Hebrew word (H2597 *chanukka*) is also translated as "dedication" and drops the final "h." It is found 4 times in Ezra and Daniel. The first word refers to the dedication of the altar at the temple, at the Tent of Meeting or at the wall of Jerusalem except in the two occurrences in Daniel. Here the word refers to the dedication of the image idol of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

...the Temple of Solomon, was dedicated on Sukkot. That's another reason Sukkot, (in addition to the Feast of Booths and the Feast of Tabernacles), is also called the Feast of Dedication.—Messianic Rabbi Jack Zimmerman⁶⁴⁸

Miracles or Myths?⁶⁴⁹ The miracle of the oil, the lamps and the lights, and the 8 days of celebration all appear to be a mixture of prior Scriptural and secular historical events. These events may have evolved into myths that have been handed down over 2000 years. Gordon explains that today's Hanukkah's observances cannot be historically verified. With the exception of the Maccabean War victory and the eight days *none of the events* associated with today's observances appear in five historical sources of the day:

- 1) I Maccabees, c150 BC
 - 2) II Maccabees, c130 BC
- Two Rabbinical sources:
- 3) the Scroll of Fasting, prior to 70 AD; and
 - 4) the Commentary on the Scroll of Fasting, after 70 AD; and
 - 5) Josephus, a Jewish historian in the first century.

The Eight Days refer to Sukkot. The original observance of Hanukkah was apparently a delayed observance of Sukkot.⁶⁵⁰ I Maccabees 4:52-54 states that the rededication observance is to last 8 days beginning on Chislev 25 "on the very day that the Gentiles had

profaned it" when they had sacrificed a pig on the temple's altar. Kislev (or Chrislev) is the name of the 10th month of the Jewish calendar. Since Sukkot had already passed, they applied the rededication as one would observe the second Passover (Num 9).

I Mac. 4:59 Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication [i.e. Hanukkah] of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

The eight days included the appointment of the "Eighth Day" (i.e. *Shemini Atzeret* aka *Simchat Torah*) which is even today combined by Jews with the feast of Sukkot. We have another reference to Sukkot in 2 Maccabees:

II Mac. 10:6 And they **kept the eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles**, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals.

Kislev 25 corresponded to the shortest day of the year when the Greeks observed the lunar calendar and the solstice winter festival which was a universal pagan holiday. After 3 days of the same sunset length, the 25th is the first day that the days becomes longer and the sun is reborn as the Day of the Sun. The Romans celebrated the Saturnalia with its 8 days of lights. The Zoroastrians in Babylon also celebrated a similar festival and still do with lighting lamps and bonfires. The Egyptian festival was called the "Festival of Fire" / the "Festival of Lamps." All these pagan festivals involved ceremonial lighted fires to help the sun come back after the winter solstice.

The Miracle of the Oil. Hannukkah is associated today foremost with the miracle of the oil than with rededication.⁶⁵¹

According to the story, the Maccabees only found a single vial of oil with the seal intact and immediately lit the Menorah with this single dose of oil. Ritual purification from the dead is a seven-day process (Numbers 19) so they could not work on producing a new batch of pure oil until the eighth day. The miracle, we are told, was that the single vial of oil burned for eight days instead of one, giving the Maccabees time to prepare a new batch of ritually pure oil.—Nehemia Gordon⁶⁵²

The miracle of oil as we know it has no known source to make it into such prominence.⁶⁵³ It is not mentioned in I Maccabees or any of the other four sources listed above. The miracle is first mentioned in the Babylonian Talmud Sabbath 21B about 200 AD—some 350 years after the Maccabean war. It is here where the lighting of the candles is compared to the sacrifices of the bulls on the 7 days of Sukkot (13 bulls on the first day, 12 bulls on the second day, 11 bulls on the third day, etc to total 70 bulls—the number of nations according to Scripture). The story of the miracle of the oil appears to be only that—a fanciful tale. Furthermore, the miracle is *not* mentioned in *any* extra-Biblical source.

The oil was mentioned later in the Gemara (the commentary on the Talmud) which was written about 500 AD.⁶⁵⁴

The first mention of the miracle. The *Scroll of Antiochus* (or *Scroll of the Hasmoneans*) describes the Hasmonean war and also the origin of Hanukkah. It was written about 500 AD after the Talmud was recorded in writing. The story of the oil is also told in Meg. Ta'an. 9; Shab 21b.⁶⁵⁵

Nehemia Gordon explains that the "light" (or fire) story came from the adoption of the three times in the OT that fire came down from heaven and devoured these sacrifices. These are 1) Moses (Lev 9:24); 2) Elijah calling down fire from heaven to devour his sacrifice (I Kings

18:38); and 3) the original dedication of the first temple by Solomon (II Chron 7:9-10, I Kings 8:2 65-66) at the time of Sukkot.

Nothing is mentioned about the miracle of the oil and the menorah (the 7 branched lamp on the lampstand) except for lighting the lamp in I Maccabees 4:51.

II Maccabees 10:1-8 records that "striking fire out of flint they offered sacrifices" or "striking stones they took fire out of them" (as the Brenton translation reads) for the altar. Why would flint be mentioned unless God did not send fire from heaven? Think about that.

There was no fire from heaven to devour the sacrifices at the rededication by the Maccabees in 162 BC. A feast "of fire" is recorded in II Maccabees 1:18, however, there is no explanation of this fire in this book or any of the other four above referenced historic books. The word for "thick water" in verse 20 and the sun's heat shined upon it and it spontaneously ignited. Gordon goes on to explain this "thick water" in 2 Maccabees 1:36 where it states "And Neemias called this thing Naphtha." Naptha (and similar sounding words) is a word for petroleum in most languages. The word "neft" in Hebrew means petroleum.⁶⁵⁶

2 Maccabees 1:32,36. When this was done, a flame blazed up; but when the light from the altar shone back, it went out. (36) Nehemia and his associates called this "nephthar,..." but by most people it is called Naphtha."⁶⁵⁷

Josephus stated in his Book *Antiquities of the Jews* 12:7 (written c94 AD) that even he did not know the meaning or history of the "Lights" 250+ years after the Maccabee's victory:

7. Now Judas celebrated the festival of the restoration of the sacrifices of the temple for eight days, and omitted no sort of pleasures thereon; but he feasted them upon very rich and splendid sacrifices; and he honored God, and delighted them by hymns and psalms. Nay, they were so very glad at the revival of their customs, when, after a long time of intermission, they unexpectedly had regained the freedom of their worship, that they made it a law for their posterity, that they should keep a festival, on account of the restoration of their temple worship, for eight days. And from that time to this we celebrate this festival, and call it Lights. **I suppose** the reason was, [He did not know the real reason of the miracle of oil?] because this liberty beyond our hopes appeared to us; and that thence was the name given to that festival. Josephus. *Antiquities of the Jews* 12:7⁶⁵⁸ (Emphasis and commentary is mine.)

In the words of Dr. Simkovich, the absence of the lights is "telling."

Josephus' reference to Chanuka as the holiday of Lights, coupled with his lack of awareness regarding any sort of light-related miracle is striking, and it is likely that the title "Lights" had nothing to do with a miracle of oil. Perhaps the rabbis knew of this title, and it served as the basis of their understanding of the holiday's origin and significance. Alternatively, the practice of the rabbis may go back to an earlier period, reflecting an earlier tradition. In either case, the tradition of the miracle of the oil was not prominent enough that Josephus was aware of it. Given Josephus' intimate familiarity with Jewish tradition and culture, this absence is telling.—Dr. Malka Z. Simkovich, Jewish Theologian⁶⁵⁹

Josephus only "supposes"? There is yet more. Today, the nine branched hanukkiah candle lamp (not the 7 branched menorah) is placed inside the front windows of home. The Rabbis teach that it should be placed outside and in front of the house so everyone can see it. Whether inside or outside the window, is it just a coincidence that this is similar to the Greek requirement of a street side pagan altar?⁶⁶⁰

So we see that past remembrances 350 years after the war are mixing the war, rededication, 8 days of celebration. lamps with and petroleum (not olive oil),⁶⁶¹ plus today's adopted traditions combine into a "miracle" celebrated as Hanukkah.

The Example of Yeshua

There are no recorded observances of the holiday in the Old Testament. The New Testament does mention the holiday just once. in which Yeshua walked in the Temple (John 10:22-23). After all, Jesus was a Jew. There are no recorded miracles or teachings when He did was there at this time.

John 10:22-23 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

As previously discussed under **Christmas**, Christ was conceived in the month of December six months after John's conception. (That is, if one does not consider Rabbi Jonathan Cahn's teaching that Christ was born in the Passover season).

Should We Celebrate Hannukah Today?

Is it wrong to celebrate Hannukah as a military victory in the same vein that Americans joyfully celebrate July 4th? No. New legal immigrants to our nations pledge to support our Constitution. As they assimilate into the American culture they learn even more about the meaning of Independence Day in the lives of Americans.

Should HR/Messianic believers adopt the similar Christmas customs for Hannukah? Even if Yeshua was conceived in December and He is the "Light of the world" (John 8:12) when believers are also compared as a light (Matt 5:14)?

Absolutely not.

Both the Jewish people and Christianity have the Torah that teaches to avoid the adoption of secular/pagan methods of worship (Deut 18:9, 12:29, Jer 10:2).The pulls of the secular world with its Christmas influences have caught them in a snare.

Although there is no Scriptural requirement to keep this festival, when one considers that Gentiles are "grafted in" (Romans 11) as a part of the spiritual nation of Israel, should we not, at the minimum, acknowledge the holiday and its true meaning to inspire us today? I think so. We should be reminded of the Maccabees' courageous and dedication to stand up to keep His word, His appointments and His festivals in light of any significant oppression and persecution. It would be most appropriate to draw examples from Scripture to encourage us at this time of year, such as:

- Joshua Chapter 1 "Be strong and of a good courage"
- Ephesians 6: The Armor of God
- Hebrews 11: The Faith Chapter. "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets."(Heb 11:32)
- Believers are also called upon to be a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1), to be commandment keepers (Rev 12:17 etc) and a spiritual temple:
1 Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

An Historic Comparison

How well do American's today remember the meaning of the 4th of July? It has become a joke on late night television that Americans are forgetful about the basic history of our nation. *The Tonight Show* television program with Jay Leno's street interviews asking history

questions is revealing. The interviewees could not correctly answer simple history and current event questions including the *meaning of the 4th of July*.⁶⁶² The unfortunate joke appears to have become the reality for far too many people some 230 years after its original declaration. With many schools not teaching cursive writing in today's ages of technological keyboards and touch screens, perhaps another 210 years from now many might not be able to read the original copy of the declaration or any of the associated historic documents by the framers.

Rededicate Oneself to the Celebration of God's Feasts!

An alternative to the marginal feast of Hanukkah is a *rededication* to the commanded feast of Sukkot. Celebrate Sukkot with *dedication* and enthusiasm!

At Sukkot we are commanded to rejoice and feast with food and even strong drink (Deut 14:26)! It is a harvest festival. It is a time to share the fruits of our year's labors with others and the profound meanings of the days. This can be done by fellowshiping and worshipping together, communal eating, camping out, recreational activities, gift giving, sending cards, lighting home-built sukkas, etc.

The lighting of the Temple in Jerusalem at night at Sukkot was a grand experience to behold. There were four great menorah candelabra 75 feet (50 cubits) in height in the Court of the Women (Talmud Sukkah 525) also called the treasury (John 8:20). These lights were lit during the water drawing ceremony at the close of the first day of the feast.⁶⁶³

[T]here was no courtyard in Jerusalem that was not lit up with the light [of the candelabras].—Sukkah 5:3

Priests kindled fires on great candelabra, lighting up Jerusalem as if it were the middle of the day. Throughout the night pious men danced holding torches, scholars juggled and Levites played music while the lay people watched with excitement." —Rabbi Menachem Posner.⁶⁶⁴

A Levite orchestra of flutes, trumpets, harps, and cymbals accompanied torchlight processions, and men who had earned the capacity for real spiritual joy through their purity, character and scholarship danced ecstatically to the hand-clapping, foot-stomping, and hymn singing crowds.—James Tabor⁶⁶⁵

Why not give gifts at Sukkot?! Children need to learn and experience the joy of *eight* days of celebration that God provides for us rather than just one day of Christmas. Sukka building should become the routine family activity. It can abound with decorative lights and decorations. Outside menorahs (not hunukkias) can also be built with plastic PVC pipes and topped with inexpensive solar lights. I know of believers who play *appropriate* Christmas type recorded songs during Sukkot. Sukkot is also a time of thanksgiving of which our American holiday is most probably based upon. So bring out the appropriate fall decorations for the home as well!

It is not a time to be alone. Why not travel and observe it with others as part of your vacation time? There are 225+ Sukkot sites of various COGs, Messianic/Hebrew Roots, etc., just in the United States that observe the festival. Children can learn to look forward to this wonderful fall festival with their like-minded peers and also share it with their secular school friends.

Questions to Ask Today

Some questions should be addressed when we teach our children and other new believers to keep this holiday..

- What is one's primary impetus for keeping Hanukkah?

- Does one keep the other Scriptural appointed days with more or less exuberance than Hanukkah? If less...it is time to rethink Hanukkah.

- Does one keep the occasion out of sincerity or is it merely a facade in attempting to proselyte Jews to Christ?

- What have the Jewish people learned from the Maccabees of 2100 years ago? Did the Maccabees return the Temple back to the Greeks and sign a agreement not to profane the temple again and then retreat back into the mountains after they had taken Jerusalem? No. The point is that Israel did not take claim the Temple Mount as their own and rededicate any altar in the 1967 and 1973 wars.

- Is there a point to celebrating the past rededication of the altar when the majority of people in the state of Israel have given into contemporary society—not by profaning any altar—but refusing to even have one? Is it just about feeling good and lighting some candles each year without obedience to God...and the Torah? Maybe it is?

Rabbis teach that the Messiah will build the next temple. Are they correct? Then why does the book of Daniel indicate that the Jews will yet not only build a future altar, but perhaps also a Third Temple?

Notwithstanding Israel's past decisions regarding the Temple Mount, everything is indeed in God's Hands. He places men in authority and He unfolds the future in His plan of salvation for not only the Jewish people, but all mankind. Watch as Christ commands in the Gospel accounts.

- Will you rededicate yourself as a living sacrifice yourself on a spiritual alter to joyously keeping God's Feast's?

The fruit of the Spirit is includes qualities such as gentleness, kindness, patience and longsuffering. It also does *not* mean that one become divisive by setting oneself up as a proponent of truth on the history of Hanukkah to individuals attending a congregation under another's leadership. Many attending HR/MJ fellowships are relatively new to the faith and are already handling much new information and can gravitate to many Jewish Rabbinic traditions unless taught otherwise. Hanukkah is one of the twigs or small branches compared to other main and larger branch Torah points. But that does not mean a seasoned believer must keep his silence forever when asked.

Appendix E2: Christmas

How Christmas Saved Mithra's Birthday⁶⁶⁶

First of all, let me state that the world—as we know it—needs Christmas.

You may ask why?

Because there is nothing to replace it in their eyes. Their eyes are blinded to the truth unless God opens them. When children are taught the Christmas song (or is it a jingle?) *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, it usurps the character of Christ and the parent's and media's negligence in teaching the message of Christ:

*He's making a list
And checking it twice;
He's gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is comin' to town*

*(He sees you when you're sleeping)
(He knows when you're awake)
He knows if you've been bad or good
{So be good for goodness sake}!⁶⁶⁷*

A world without Christmas is now where the world is headed as many are turning away from any belief in religion and God. Many believers know that will lead to people who know even less about the Bible and God. Will this ultimately result in persecution of believers as we see happening today in this nation's politics, web sites, educational institutions and the mass media? I think so.

Others have documented⁶⁶⁸ in detail the many non-Biblical traditions (Christ's birthdate,⁶⁶⁹ Christ's birth in a cave,⁶⁷⁰ Christmas holly, mistletoe and trees, Santa Claus, "three" wise men,⁶⁷¹ yule logs, etc) that surround the holiday—of which I will not repeat in detail here.⁶⁷²

The essential facts are that the Romans' primary god, the Sun and the popular Persian sun god, Mithras, are said to be born on the same day of December 25.

Catholics freely admit that pagan practices were adopted from paganism, where it be Christmas, Easter with its bunnies and eggs, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Sunday worship, etc.⁶⁷³ Syncretism is defined as "the combination of different forms of belief and practice" (Websters).

...to facilitate the acceptance of the faith by the pagan masses, the Church of Rome found it convenient to institute the 25th of December as the feast of the birth of Messiah to divert them from the pagan feast, celebrated on the same day in honor of the 'Invincible Sun' Mithras, the conqueror of darkness.—Roman Catholic Mario Righetti, *Manual of Liturgical History*, 1955, Vol. 2, p. 67.⁶⁷⁴

December 25 was made popular by Pope Liberius in 354. In 435, Pope Sixtus III officiated the first "Christ mass" and it became the rule in the West. The *Encyclopedia Americana* makes this clear:

In the fifth century, the Western Church ordered it [Messiah's birth] to be observed forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol [the sun god], as no certain knowledge of the day of Messiah's birth existed.—Encyclopedia Americana, 1944 edition, "Christmas"⁶⁷⁵

God in the OT gave an the admonition against following other gods and syncretism.⁶⁷⁶

Deut 12:29-35 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou go to possess them, and thou succeed them, and dwell in their land; 30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, **How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.** 31 **Thou shall not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hates have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.** 32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: **thou shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**

Rom 12:2 And be **not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Each year TV and newspaper reporters interview those who state that no one really knows the season or date of Christ's birth. If pastors happen to really know the season when Christ was born, would they really want to acknowledge or teach it? They may reply that "it does not matter which day it is"; i.e. **truth does not matter.**

The season is noted right there in the Gospel of Luke chapter one which precedes chapter two that many read each year at Christmas and put into song describing Christ's birth.

¹⁰ Chapter one describes the temple priesthood courses. Simple calculations of the temple courses reveal that Christ was conceived in December six months after John's conception.⁶⁷⁷

Nine months later Christ was born in the Biblical 7th month of the year. (Some believe it was Passover, but that is another topic.⁶⁷⁸). A sharing of one's discovery in Luke chapter one may offers a better course of action that insulting that the holiday is pagan. The underlying presumption is that the historical record of the courses have been correctly handed down to us by the Jewish people

The Jewish people celebrate Hannukah at this time of year. Hannukah means "dedication." I would think rededication to the truth and His word would be paramount, however, even the meaning of Hannukah itself has been swallowed up by the influence of Christmas.

Christmas observance was prohibited in the colonies. Church leaders later gave in to the people's embrace of the celebration. It was slowly accepted beginning in the 1840s when waves of new German immigrants carried their winter traditions with them.

A warning from Scripture is that God does allow a lying spirit to deceive people who will not acknowledge truth when it is presented to them (II Chron 18:21-22, I Kings 22:22-23. I Thess 2:10).

¹⁰ Many in HR deduce that His birth is Sukkot or Yom Teruah/Trumpets or Sukkot. The Scriptural pattern of the lamb reveals that His birth *could* be in the first month of Nisan.

Nearly two centuries later, Christmas is now fully accepted and the "Blue Laws" which prohibited retail sales on Sunday have been abolished. It is both the people and church giving in to a secular government which wishes to replace if not eliminate the "traditional" religious aspects of the day and the word Christmas. Even the word "Bible" on commercial billboards has been deemed offensive.⁶⁷⁹ Have we really progressed or has Christianity further apostatized?

Informing people that Christ being born at Christmas is a myth (which it is) can make people feel guilty, ashamed or enraged when they feel safely entrenched in Christ and their church teachings. After all, they may ask "Who are you to say it is a myth?" "Did you attend a seminary and are an ordained minister?" Does it make friends, influence people or edify? Maybe, maybe not. Paradigms and traditions of men can be ingrained among Christians as they are and were among the first century Jewish people and their priesthood. Paul writes about these traditions in Colossians 2:8.

People discover the tremendous meaning (and the joy) behind each Biblical festival, when one can "party" to use a secular word (in a good sense) three times a year (not just once). However, the connection to Judaism raises a barrier once we learn the historic aspects of why people did not wish to identify with the Jewish religion in the first several centuries after Christ.

When asked why one does not observe Christmas, it is my opinion that believers should be positive by sharing their joy in observing Sukkot in its season with others *first*, (when asked) rather being negative by attacking Christmas and its pagan origins. Yes, people need to repent. On the other hand, people are blinded. So why be an affront to one's family unless one wishes to divide it with an "us" vs. "them" attitude rather than a loving attitude. Let others divide from us with their "us vs. them" attitudes. (Probably easier said than done.)

Christians will be persecuted, one's families can be divided (Matt 10:34-36) because of truth and we should not shrink from affirming our beliefs, but it is better to consider our battles, be harmless as doves and as wise as serpents (Matt 10:16).

Messianic/HR adherents making Christmas an affront should also be prepared to answer for their observance and the rituals of minor Jewish holidays (Hanukkah and Purim), some Passover Seder rituals which are not Scriptural (e.g. such as a roasted egg, the hidden piece of matzah bread called the afikomen, a bowl of salt water representing tears of Hebrew slaves and the Red Sea, an extra seat for Elijah, four cups of wine instead of the two cups that were drunk in the first century), and even calling a Hebrew month by the name of a pagan god (Tammuz) when Scripture warns against using the names of other gods.

There are no descriptions of the Seder or the Haggadah—the text that guides the Seder ritual now—from major historical authors or works detailing Passover observance during the time of the Second Temple, such as Philo of Alexandria, Josephus, the Book of Jubilees or the Elephantine "Passover Papyrus." We first see mention of them in early Rabbinic texts like the Mishnah and the Tosefta, which can be tricky to date, as they originated as oral traditions. Parts of the seder may have begun to take root during Jesus' lifetime, but there's no evidence that they were widespread or developed enough that he would have participated in them.—Danya Ruttenberg.⁶⁸⁰

Appendix F: M, HR and COG Differences

I preface by stating that this section is not just a listing of difference. It includes many personal observations as well as experiences that I have had, primarily in the WCG.

Messianics/Hebrew Roots® and the various Churches of God that separated from the Worldwide Church of God have many affinities. The COGs may be viewed by others as having Hebraic Roots⁶⁸¹ since they keep the Sabbath, Holy Days, and many other Old Testament “Laws.”

1) Perceptions

COGs wish to otherwise avoid the appearance of anything else Jewish such as wearing Jewish apparel⁶⁸² As I remember, the WCG did *not* teach Replacement Theology. The Sabbath and festival keeping COGs, Messianics, Hebrew Roots and Sacred Namers are brothers and sisters in the faith and within the Body of Christ. Yet there are several significant differences that exist among them. Plus, a number of them may think that Messianics and Hebrew Roots are Jewish wanna-bees. The unfortunate answer may be yes, because, as previously mentioned, at least 50% of Messianics convert to Judaism.

Any relationship between the COGs and HR rests on their ability and willingness to reach unity through common ground. This is questionable at the present time due to the number of spin-offs from the former WCG and the continuing disarray in the HR Movement. At the present time the COGs cannot find unity among themselves, even though WCG members were taught the blessings of unity and sang Psalm 133.

Paul mentions a warning about “seditions” in Galatians 5:20. The Greek word carries the meaning of disunion and dissensions among the body of Christ/Yeshua.

Notwithstanding the ego, personal sins, issues, if not hypocrisy of Herbert Armstrong, he did take a stand up for many of the basic teachings of the Torah, the Sabbath, feasts, unclean meats, and his persistence in establishing collegiate institutions. Many men of his day (and even today?) accomplished through ego and an authoritarian hand. Nevertheless, his weaknesses created doctrinal and ethical issues with his ministry and membership.⁶⁸³ Men were either dismissed from his ministry for disagreeing with him or resigned because of ethics and conscience issues. Members were disfellowshipped because of apparently minor offenses even though both ministry and member wished to remain in the church.⁶⁸⁴

A particular COG may have significant reputation issues with the actions, decisions and sins of some of the past and present ministers; nevertheless the corporate COGs are still excellent teachers and communicators of the Sabbath and Feasts. Their mistakes do not nullify the truth that they teach, the good works that they do and have done or their fruit. As Norman Edwards explains: “On the other hand, the good works do not nullify the error that was taught or remove the hurt from those who suffered wrongfully.”⁶⁸⁵

I and others know of well-meaning and ethical ministers in both the WCG and its splinter COGs. I will leave it to the individual's decision as to whether they wish to attend a COG. Do your due diligence and consider the following caveats, if not warnings.

2) *The True Church*

Many COG members may believe they have all the answers. But then, many with a strong religious faith think they have all the answers.

3) *Hierarchical church government*

Truth #4 of 18 restored truths by Herbert Armstrong was church government.⁶⁸⁶ Some, not all, COGs have such a system.⁶⁸⁷ Personally I do not believe in the heirarchical form. (Jim Rector, a former WCG member, believed that the form of government was circular. All the creation as the circle and the center being God.)

Many COGs, if not all, teach that one should "prove all things" (I Thes 5:21)—and rightfully so. This may change in a number (but not all) COGs when one becomes a member and then is strongly instructed to obey "church government" (right or wrong) and follow administrative polices and the headquarters decision making—especially in the larger COGs. Authority and control varies. If one does not agree on a particular subject, such as the date of the Passover observance, *he could be asked to leave even when the person does not create division!* (Ouch!) Check out the paper about Church Government written by Norman Scott Edwards, a former member of the WCG.⁶⁸⁸

I was taught the WCG hierarchical (pyramidal) church government sometime early in my association with the WCG. Even at that time I thought it istrange that it would adopt the Catholic position of government (especially when I no longer considered myself Catholic) when *all* humans and their leadership are subject to error. Among Protestant Christianity, Messianics, Hebrew Roots, etc are numerous mini-popes. Each wishing to exert their authority. The question: Is a one man in charge government the most efficient? Why of course. Can it lead to abuses, problems and ethical issues which are not addressed? Especially when men are paid to support doctrinal teachings? Yes. It happened in the WCG.

Years later after I formally departed the WCG, learned that many people did treat Armstrong somewhat as a pope who could do no wrong, yet at the same time expressing that he was human and could make mistakes. I had already discerned that myself, but kept it to myself while in the WCG. When HWA's wife died, the reports are that his wife was not there as his counselor when things later went downhill in the WCG. One is left to question whether Armstrong had any trusted friends to turn to after his wife died.

To call oneself an apostle, as others called HWA, one does the works of an apostle as Paul stated:

2 Cor 12:11-12 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. 12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

HWA was not known to meet the qualifications stated by Paul. HOne may change the definition of an apostle over the past 100 years, but should we not use the Biblical example? John the Baptist did no miracles and was not called an apostle. Other TV ministers are known to also call themselves "apostles."

4) *Tithing.*

Truth #15 of 18 restored truths by Herbert Armstrong was tithing.⁶⁸⁹ Dr. Robert Theil (who departed from the LCG to form yet another split-off COG) has written a detailed paper on it.⁶⁹⁰ Like many leaders, who wish to begin ministries and duplicate the efforts of their former leaders, tithing provides and income for the ministry.

Based upon Matthew 23:23, WCG members paid two tithes on their income every year (one to the church and one to themselves to observe the "feasts" with leftovers going back to the church) plus a third tithe every three years (for widows and orphans) also to be paid to the church (or perhaps others in need). This is in addition to feast day offerings nine times a year for the benefit of "the work" (i.e. the costs of preaching the gospel). All need to ask themselves "What is a Biblical 'offering?'"

The WCG had an emphasis on financially giving *beyond* 1st, 2nd and 3rd tithing including tithe of tithe, excess 2nd tithe to be sent to the church, holy day offerings (9 of them) building fund, special offerings requested if not begged for in WCG member letters, special offerings from co-worker letters, YOU donations, first fruit offerings and of course emergency offerings. All from among people whom the leadership admitted among were not among the many wise and noble (and well-off) called.⁶⁹¹

In the years of my WCG membership, there was no detailed financial accounting of the 2nd and 3rd tithes to inform the membership of their proper allocation.⁶⁹² Reports reveal that only 40% of 3rd tithe reached the widows and orphans. It appears that that 60% was directed to the ministry and the "Work" which already received the first tithe of gross income from its members.⁶⁹³

The WCG Board of Directors and Council of Elders failed to act on correcting the financial mismanagement, misuse of church assets and expense accounts and other misrepresentations when directly and legally advised to do so.⁶⁹⁴ A noted and respected national accounting firm annually reported that everything was being accomplished by the WCG was in accordance with accepted accounting principles. This accounting firm was blinded by such misrepresentations.

They relied, as they were entitled, on numerous representations both from management and from myself, which now appear to have been based on incomplete information.—Jack Kessler⁶⁹⁵

During my time in the WCG I naturally considered bad reports emanating from others as part of an attack from Satan and not to be believed. How many others think the same about their religious leadership...and are later proved wrong?

Christians pooled and shared their possessions equally (Acts 4:32-37). There is no mention of this as a commandment for tithe for believers to follow today. The apostles wrote that believers were to give according to their means (II Cor. 8:2-15; 9:6-12; I John 3:17-18).

When Matthew recorded Christ's statement in Matthew 23:23 in the first century, both the Temple and Levitical priesthood were in existence in the first century. The bottom line is that neither one are here today. The Temple and the Levitical priesthood are the key requirements for tithing and the reasons why the Jewish people do **not** tithe today. Yet the Jewish people today are very giving people! Furthermore, Paul was a Benjamite not a Levite.

We are not to add or take away from the Law (Deut 4:2; 12:32). Tithing has *not* been transferred to the Melchizek priesthood. Today's ministers of any denomination are *not* the Levitical priests. As Peter states, the believer is the royal priesthood.

Tithing is a wonderful budget builder to teach one how to manage their finances. And yes, it does teach dependancy to God to provide. I do give to charities and churches; however, I personally do not believe that tithing is required *today* Iso because I believe in of the definition of tithing (Lev 27:30). It does not say of the "hand." One must remember that there were carpenters, stone cutters, candlestick makers, pottery makers, bakers, etc in the first century. If one is interested on my thoughts on tithing please refer to the Appendix B: Recommended Reading.

I am unaware of how many Messianics teach tithing. You see, I learned the "rest of the story" about tithing years after I left the WCG.

5A) *Set-Apart.*

Truth #18 of 18 restored truths by Herbert Armstrong a believer is to be set-apart (i.e. holy) from others.⁶⁹⁶

Please note these *important* caveats! This "truth" is taken to the extreme by the Philadelphia COG as it revolves among relationships with unconverted family members. They are instructed to cease fellowship with their unbelieving families and relatives of whatever faith. It is reported that they also must sign a will giving the inheritance to that church.⁶⁹⁷ This is not Biblical.⁶⁹⁸ In the Restored Church of God a newly baptized member is expected to give over his/her belongings to the church (preposterous!), most probably in following the common ownership revealed in Acts 2.⁶⁹⁹

Gal 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Ezekiel 34:1-10 Read for yourself the "woes" to the sheperds who do not conduct themselves properly.

Again I write this to warn others that although one may advocate the Sabbaths and feasts, that does *not* equate to being a good shepherd.

5B) *Set-apart single men and women*

Singles were expected to travel long distances (even on the Sabbath day) to other church areas to meet other singles *by chance* at church services or at singles' functions. God's Holy days took all of a two week vacation granted by many employers—if the younger singles even had a two week vacation benefit. Singles otherwise had wait for the occasional (a few per year in scattered parts of the country) regional weekend singles' conference and/or be told to wait until the Feast of Tabernacles to hopefully find that someone at the one and only single's event that was allowed to be held during the 8 days. A number of women considered this singular event a "meat market" and declined to attend. Finding someone among the thousands of people attending a particular feast site, otherwise, is chancy.

College educated women were not plentiful in the WCG. Women were not expected to go to college (except, of course Ambassador College) where they were *not* permitted to date non-Ambassador College (AC) singles in the WCG. Some of the splinter COGs (such as the Living Church of God) still headed by former AC graduates do not wish to have their singles date other COG singles outside of their COG organization. (Sad if not sick to any dedicated person who seeks to keep the Sabbaths and the feasts—key

requirements for repentance towards God, not man's manufactured administrative policies (like the *takanot* of the Pharisees).

Those attending Ambassador College lived in a sheltered world unlike the scattered brethren who provided the tithe money to further their "protected oasis." Many of these men went on to become ordained ministers.

However, most of these men were administrators, and often found it hard to relate to the problems of local brethren when they left the protective oasis of the Headquarters campus.—David Pack⁷⁰⁰

Married ministers who later became single (for whatever reason) later learned by their experience and described the difficulty in finding a mate to date and marry. While they thought and taught that singles in WCG church locations just had to try harder (as if singles were not doing so), now they learned what the average church single person had to experience. I am unaware of whether that changed policies later in the post 1995 split-off COGs

I know of a 40 year man who asked non-doctrinal questions and sought answers from his local church ministry on how to tackle his singleness based on what the church had taught in their "policies," the mistakes they had made in counseling him, and his future options. He was ignored *three times* by three ministers. He was told by one that he had a good attitude and got no other comments or answers. So the man reduced the non-doctrinal questions to three and asked another elder in his church. The lower ranking elder did not take it to the other 4-5 elders in the local church. Instead he took it to the WCG "headquarters" and responded that no answers were to be provided. to this man. No further comments by his "local elder." Perhaps the ministry wished to ignore this man by burying their mistakes to protect the "corporation" from legalities. He also spoke to a few members o deal with his frustraoin and anger and basically there offered no help other than to be a listening ear.

So...reader...based upon this and many other painful experiences recorded by others on the internet, one can really wonder the reasons for the demise of the WCG.

While the COGs embrace modern technology is spreading the gospel and drilling their members for more money to do so, they still think it is satisfactory for singles to locate other singles on their own dime by the horse and buggy methods mentioned right above.

A number of single men, as the one described above, adhering to the WCG and its splinter COGs have not married due to not being able to meet and find women (or the right woman) in the faith. Are they then told that this is "God's will" when some will not lift their finger to help? (Luke 11:46). Yes. I know of such a man. Christ knows what He is doing when He states:

Matt 10:34-36 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

The LCG, PCG, RCG and COGWA are exclusive and restrict registration to current and prospective members.⁷⁰¹ I would conjecture that each one probably maintains they are the 144,000.

1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Members can quote John 10:37 to maintain their separateness from one to another COG and to people not in their faith:

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

As mentioned in the Appendix on the Law of Christ, the sheep must also hear His voice of the 99 and 1, the Good Samaritan and Matthew 7 and 25. They cannot leave it up for the paid ministry to solely do this.

There is no need for this book to report on the many other failings of the WCG and the split-off COGs and the lack of many apologies for past errors (although some have apologized). Others have already documented them.

5) *Counseling Training was lacking.*

Ministers were not given and training in counseling techniques. I am unaware if this has changed or not. Psychology was not held in high esteem and considered secular. Training to draw out and ask questions of a prospective or current member in the faith who may be experiencing problems and may not be able to ask questions (in ignorance or whatever) is not satanic.

As of January 2022 I am most happy to report that the UCG has now established the “Light of Hope” Helpline for members and “supported by Church members who are licensed social workers, counselors and other clinical professionals”.

6) *Aging and Graying Membership.* Simply be aware that many teenagers left the WCG when reaching adulthood even though teen programs were instituted in the mid 1970s. Probably 90 or 95 percent of those under 25 years of age left.⁷⁰² I do not know the current statistics, yet the graying appears to continue.⁷⁰³

Young people are leaving the church en masse and we don't know why. Many suspect they know why, but nothing definitive.—2020 COG Survey⁷⁰⁴

I personally found the above statement amazing! One is left to question the survey methods used. Herbert Armstrong was trained in market surveys. What happened?! Didn't the ministry learn anything about surveys? I wrote to one independent COG ministry in 2021 and offered my service in conducted a profession survey and received no reply.

6) *Ezekiel Warning*

The fragmented M/HR communities are geared to teaching the Torah as evidenced by their adherence to either the annual cycle or three year cycle of Jewish Torah readings. The attendee wish to learn from either one of these cycles because they have received so little of OT teaching in Christian churches. M/HR groups supplement the Torah reading by the relevant NT scriptures. COGs must remember that these small groups to not have all the free resources from their M/He ministries as the COGs offer.

Any preaching of the gospel to the nations is accomplished in these small groups and by the media presence, as previously discussed elsewhere in this book

Belief in the identity of Israel (Truth #13 of 18 restored truths)⁷⁰⁵ invoked the WCG/COGs warning from Ezekiel 33:1 & 6 that had to be taken to the nation and nations.⁷⁰⁶ This is a laudable goal, but should we also need to consider the warning by Christ as explained in Appendix I: The Law of Christ?

Gal 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

When Christian denominational church pastors report that the "Moral values of a Christian are no different than those who consider themselves as non-Christians."⁷⁰⁷, there are other more major issues to address for people to repent of than primarily announcing the United States as the descendents of Israel. Being grafted-into the olive tree (Rom 11) should carry gravity.

10) A defining and positive difference with many COGs is that they still sing the Psalms. They were composed by Herbert Armstrong's brother. Written in a traditional churchy or religious melody, about half (by my count) of the hymns in the WCG hymnal are written more so in an upbeat tone (in my opinion). Many in the HRM should be singing more Psalms (again my opinion). The words of God will carry them through life. A caveat: I have since learned that the words do not exactly follow the Psalms.

One will quickly become familiar with the standard church service by attending once or more. It is more on the message than on ritual prayers and observances. Any other questions about differences can be gained by asking the church ministry or reading their free literature.

11) The COGs rely much upon logic. This can appeal to many men. Logic is cold. The heart is emotional. A balance is needed.

Appendix G: HR, MJ, and Jewish Differences

According to Stan Telchin, a Messianic Jewish believer. "Many Jewish people who I have brought to such [Messianic Jewish] synagogues have told me they felt as though they were looking at a caricature—an imitation and not the real thing."—Stan Telchin⁷⁰⁸

Messianic Judaism and Hebrew Roots® have many affinities;⁷⁰⁹ however, there are significant differences. This appendix is prepared separately and not included within the seven core differences with Christianity.

Liturgy

Liturgy may play an important role in larger MJ congregations as contrasted with smaller HR home fellowships.

Torah. See Distinctive Core Difference #4: Messianic Jewish Two Law Theology

Replacement Theology. This is covered in Appendix C: Two House Controversy.

Two House Theology. This is covered in Appendix C: Two House Controversy

"Provoke Jews to Jealousy"

This is a phrase that I first heard mentioned among Messianic Jews. The phrase is taken from Romans 10:19 and 11:11. Is it happening—*today*?

Gimme Back My Messiah! Let's understand what it means to make them jealous for Messiah. As God is jealous when something takes His people away from Him, so Israel is to be made jealous by Gentile believers enjoying Israel's blessings. But we only get jealous about what is ours to begin with. If someone kisses his own wife, it doesn't bother me one bit. But if someone tries that with my wife, look out, I get jealous! As Jewish people, we don't get jealous over Easter eggs, Santa Claus, etc. But when we see Gentiles praying to the God of Israel, speaking personally of Messiah, enjoying the blessings of His promises, that which we once rejected... this gets us jealous!—Sam Nadar.⁷¹⁰

A local Messianic-Jewish leader mentioned a main reason why he does not wish to use the "Lord's Prayer" in his weekly Sabbath services. It is because it was a model outline (which it is) when it should come from the heart. The same ritual Messianic Jewish prayers, however, are offered each week at the same congregation. Why this contradiction? The explanation given was to make any new Jewish person coming in to feel at home and not perceive the service as a Christian service⁷¹¹ so as to "provoke them to jealousy." Hmm.

The Hebrew Roots Messianics apparently do not have the same zeal, or much for that matter, to take the gospel to the Jewish people. It should be taken to everyone—oy one specific group.

More. Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky offers a fine overview of the Messianic Jewish and the [former] Messianic Israel [i.e. Hebrew Roots] Movements at this web link: http://www.hebroots.org/hebrootsarchive/9911/991126_d.html It's worth your time.

Conclusion

At the conclusion of this present age, HR adherents with their Torah observant beliefs will probably be labeled as "Jewish" and an unknown number will suffer persecution for being categorized with the Jewish community. Perhaps only then will the Jewish community, as a whole, recognize the sacrifice that is being made by those who wish to be Torah observant.

Appendix H: Law of Christ

This appendix topic does *not* refute or “do away” with the Torah as many Christians believe when they mention the “law of Christ.” This appendix is written to present an interesting viewpoint which I learned from a 2018 article by Tim McHyde.⁷¹² It is something everyone, including myself, must consider in their spiritual journey of their walk of faith.

A bit of review. The Greek mindset is of right beliefs. The Hebrew mindset is of right actions. Do the 41,000 denominations of Christianity and 70% of professing Christians in the U.S. (including 88% of Congress ⁷¹³) attest to the primacy of right doctrinal beliefs or right loving actions? I just ask the question. Why would there be so many denominations today if it were not right beliefs? How “many” believe they are the “little flock” and the “chosen few” with “the” correct doctrines which either guarantees only their salvation and/or special rewards as the “true church”?

Consider Christ’s words in Matthew Chapter 7. It contains at least three distinct warning messages that need to be seriously considered. After the disciples had been teaching through the cities and villages with ostensibly little results, Christ is directly asked by the disciples after on whether few will be saved. Here is Christ’s response:

1) The Few.

Matt 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.

Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Luke 13:22-30 adds that there are those who also had eaten and drank in Christ’s presence and heard Him teach in their streets as Matthew similarly states.

Luke 13:27-28 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Plus, there is an indirect allusion to Lazarus and the Rich Man in verse 28:

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when **ye shall see Abraham**, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, **in the kingdom of God**, and you yourselves thrust out.

Then Peter also adds a warning:

1 Peter 4:18 And **if the righteous scarcely be saved**, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Only the few will make it? Huh? The righteous scarcely be saved? What does that mean? Christ is here speaking to his fellow Judeans who are apparently Torah observant—as many Hebrew Roots adherents.. Considering that about 1/3 of the world’s population (2.3 billion) identify with the Christian religion, how much of that “many” would that calculate to? Or do we calculate on the total world’s population?

Let’s jump to verse 28.

Matt 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were **astonished** at his doctrine:

What was that doctrine that *astonished* the apparently Torah observant Jewish people? Read the entire context of that chapter which includes:

2) The lawbreaking believer.

Matt 7:21-23 Not every one that says unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **does the will** of my Father which is in heaven.

What is God's will? I believe it is keeping His Torah in the spiritually expanded mode (Matt 5:28) of having it written on our hearts and minds and loving our neighbor as ourselves in addition to forgiving others (Matt 6:12) –“The Law of Christ”. This is not a new concept. It already was mentioned in Lev 19:18. (Recall that it was Christ who wrote inspired Moses to write the entire Torah).

God does indeed forgive us of our sins daily through Christ. Do we move on from there as believers and become doers/overcomers and not merely hearers of the Word?

3) Beware bad fruit from false prophets.

Matt 7:19-20 Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **20** Wherefore by their **fruits** ye shall know them.

Matthew 21:43 reports that Christ spoke to the Jewish/Levitical chief priest and elders of that day. Could this be a spiritual parallel to Christian believers of today?

Matt 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you [the chief priest and elders see v23] and given to a nation bringing forth the **fruits** thereof.

What is the definition of bad fruit? Read Galatians 5:19-21 and the good fruit in verses 22-23. The content and context of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 reveals the presence or lack of good works in preparing oneself for the kingdom. It is about being doers and not just hears of the word (Rom 2:13; James 1:22).

Matt 25:34-40 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. **37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? **38** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? **39** Or **when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?** **40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**

It is not just about “doctrine” which apparently was a primary issue in the first century as it is today among many including the 41,000 denominations. *It is also about relationships*. Christ spoke at least 6-9 of his 33 parables on our relationships with each other (e.g. Good Samaritan, Two Debtors, Unforgiving Servant, Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Prodigal (Lost Son), Friend at Night, Unjust Judge, Pharisee & Publican)

Mark 3:33-35 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? **34** And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! **35** For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Could this be a spiritual parallel to today's believers?

Matt 5:39-42 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40** And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. **41** And

whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that asks thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Do believers love their neighbor as themselves (Matt 19:19=Lev 19:18) as the Golden Rule requires to fulfill “the Law” (Matt 7:12=Gal 5:14)? It is about doing His Word—including loving your neighbor—not just hearing it (Matt 7:21=Rom.2:13).

Can believers still meet with other believers on the Sabbath day even if there are other different calendar issues?

Can believers still attend the same feast site even if when their leaders are divisive?

Can believers still be hospitable to others who hold to some different Biblical beliefs?

Matt 25:22-23 **Many** will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.¹¹

The *believer* may know Christ, but notice...it states that *Christ* does *not* know the believer. There is a difference.

Lord, Lord: One Interpretation

Using Scripture to interpret Scripture, we find that it is the believers who are calling Y’shua/Jesus “Lord, Lord”:

Luke 6:46 Why do you call Me '**Lord, Lord**,' and don't do the things I say?

Luke 13:24-25 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.25 When once the master of the house is risen up, **and hath shut to the door**, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are

Mat 25:10-12 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the **door was shut**.11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

1 Cor 12:3 ,, no man can say that Jesus is the **Lord**, but by the Holy Ghost.

How many of us are deceived? Of course, that could not include you or I. *Right?* Satan has deceived the entire world (Rev 12:9). Some may believe that the whole world is deceived after the rapture, but one must consider that this only an interpretation. How does one interpret the below Scripture in consideration of Matt 7:13?

Matt 7:13 and **few** there be that find it.

Luke adds more to the label of false prophets

Luke 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for **many** shall come in my name, **saying**, I am Christ; and the time draws near: go ye not therefore after them.

¹¹ *Special Note:* The Good News is that those Christ calls out as never knowing them (Matt 25:23) do *not* lose their salvation! Why? The explanation is contained in the meaning of God’s Festivals and Appointments—which is beyond the scope of this book. Read about this Good News in my forthcoming book: *The Future and Hope: Hidden Messages from God’s Festivals*.

Does deceiving (even out of ignorance) others make one a false prophet? A person could state that that person is “the Christ” ¹² OR that many people would proclaim that Christ is the Messiah as churches do today. Which is it?

Tim McHyde writes it so well in explaining the “many”:

The “many” group is easily confirmed as Christians:

- Only Christians call Jesus "Lord" (and emphatically at that, hence the doubled title).
- Only Christians do things "in Jesus' name" (literally and figuratively)
- Only Christians would be surprised at being rejected by Jesus from the kingdom "on that day." (Atheists and other religious groups don't recognize Jesus or expect to receive anything from him. Only Christians.)...

Therefore we imagine Matt 7:22 refers to some subset of Christianity who is not us. For example:

- "It's the Catholics!" (say the Protestants) "Because they follow the Pope!"
- "It's the Protestants!" (say the Catholics) "Because they have left the true church led by the Pope!"
- "It's the Charismatics!" (say non-charismatics) "Because they focus too much on prophesying, demons and miracles" (Mt 7:22).
- "It's those who aren't baptized in the spirit/speaking in tongues!" (say the Charismatics who do this) "Because if you don't have the spirit that way you're not 'born again' and saved."
- "It's Sabbath breakers!" (say the Sabbatarians) "Because it clearly says they are committing lawlessness like Sabbath-breaking!" (Mt 7:23)
- "It's the Christians keeping Christmas and Easter" (say the Hebrew Roots/ Messianic folks who keep the Leviticus 23 festivals) "Because they are doing pagan idol worship and neglecting God's law." (Mt 7:23)—Tim McHyde ⁷¹⁴

Lord, Lord: A Second Interpretation

In his book *Don't be Denied God's Power*, author Stan Riley offers his interpretation based upon Ezekiel 3:30, 18:24 and 33:13.

Eze 18:24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? **All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned (remembered-ESV, ISV, JPS, TLV, YLT)** : in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. 25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and dies in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

The righteous that they had previously done, once they turned from it and committed iniquity is not remembered. That is why Jesus could say to those in Matthew 7, *'I never knew you.'* This doesn't mean He didn't know them at ONE time because the Scriptures says that no man can do these things (miracles) except God be with Him (John 3:2).—Stan Riley ⁷¹⁵

¹² Jonas Bendiksen. 2017, August. Meet Five Men Who All Think They're The Messiah. *National Geographic*. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/08/new-messiahs-jesus-christ-second-coming-photos/>

Lord, Lord.: A Third Interpretation

I offer a third interpretation. At the White Throne Judgment all the dead will rise and be judged at the White Throne. At that time they will all recognize that there is a Creator of the Universe and that he indeed reigns over all of Creation. Will these dead then call Him, Lord, Lord? Yes they will.

This is a subject beyond the scope of this paper. I address the subject in my free- e-book ***The Future and the Hope***.

* * *

The Believer's spiritual journey is not always easy. Life is hard for all of us:

“The rain? It raineth every day
Upon the just and unjust fella;
But more upon the just, because
The unjust hath the just's umbrella.”—Anonymous ⁷¹⁶

Selah. (Hebrew for ‘think about that’).

A SPIRITUAL HEART ASSESSMENT

Excuses Anyone?

“Never ruin an apology with an excuse” – Benjamin Franklin

AM I...

- Apologetic? (James 5:16; Matt 5:23-23)
- Approachable? (Gal 5:22-23)
- Bearing another's burden (Gal 6:2) with the same care (I Cor 12:25)
- Backbiting and Devouring? (Gal 5:15)
- Blessing those who curse me? (Matt 5:44)
- Forbearing? (Col 3:13) and allowing other to grow in grace and knowledge without being an overbearing Torah policeman? (Matt 7:2)
- Confidentiality keeping? (Prov 16:28; 18:8; 26:20; II Cor 12:20)
- Doing? (James 2:16; 1:25)
- Esteeming others? (Philp 2:3)
- Family? providing for the (I Tim 5:8)
- Forgiving? (Matt 6:12; Luke 6:37)
- Giver—not a Taker (Rom 12:13)
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33+; Rom 12:20)
- Hospitality lover? (Titus 1:8 etc)
- Joyful? (Gal 5:22)
- Lost Sheep Gatherer? (Luke 15:4)
- Preferring one another? (Rom 12:10)
- Promise keeper? (Ex 20:16)
- Proving all things (I Thes 5:21)
- Seeing Christ and/or a potential believer in anyone I meet? (Luke 10:33+)
- Speaker and Sharer of the Word? (Mal 3:16)
- Sociable? (Heb 10:25; Prov 18:1)
- Visitor/Inviter of the Needy, Orphans & Widows? (Matt 25: 31-46; I Tim 5:3; James 1:27)
- Volunteering? (I Peter 4:10, Acts 20:35)

The Power of One The Welcoming Committee

The angels rejoice over one person that repents (Luke 15:10).

Do you warmly welcome new people in your church or do you expect another to do it for you?

Heb 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

First impressions do count.

You and your church may only received one opportunity to show you love.

Appendix I: Name of God

Remembering the Name

The word “god” is *not* a name. When used with a small “g” it can refer to any spirit being or group of spirit beings in ancient or modern religions. Neither is the name of god a title, such as “Creator” and “Holy One” in Isaiah 43:15. Because there are other sons of God (Job 1:6, etc), the Creator sets Himself apart above all His sons with the terms such as, “Almighty” God (Gen 17:1), “most high God,” (Dan 3:26), “most High” (Dan 7:18), “God most high (Psalm 57:2), etc.

The name of God (also referred to as the Sacred Name) has been hidden in some translations such as the King James Version which substitutes the capital lettered word “LORD” for YHVH.

God’s name (YHVH) is written in Hebrew with four letters known as the Tetragrammaton—a Greek word meaning four (*tetra*) letters (*grammaton*). YHVH is written in capital letters “LORD” in the King James Version instead of using the four letters of the Tetragrammaton with the exception of four instances where it written as “JEVOVAH” in capital letters. This was just one of the 15 requirements given to the translators by King James to follow the Jewish tradition of using the word “LORD” in capital letters.⁷¹⁷

YHVH is used 6,521 times in the Old Testament.⁷¹⁸ Surely, if it was not to be mentioned, why is it so many times? Scripture simply states:

Deut 4:2a Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, **neither shall ye diminish** ought from it (see also 12:32).

Exo 3:14-15 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shall thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you 15... this is my name for ever, and this is my **memorial** (#2143) unto all generations.

Exo 20:8 Remember (#2142) the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Zehcher (#2143) is simply the noun form of the verb *zahchar* (#2142) meaning to mention, make known. Abraham and Isaac “called upon the Name of YHVH.” (Gen. 12:8, 13:4, 21:33) as well as David, Daniel and others.⁷¹⁹ Scripture does not prohibit mentioning the Sabbath word as well.

The Old Testament refers to the blessing, swearing, calling and declaring His name (Deut 10:8, 20; Ps 22:22; 102:21; Isa 12:4; Jer 12:16, etc).

The volatile situation in the Mideast has seen the enemies of Israel wishing to wipe out the name Israel off the map, as Scripture “mentions.”

Psa 83:4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in **remembrance** (H2142).

The Jewish people will fight to prevent verse 4 from occurring, but yet they bury the name of their God because of ancient Rabbinic traditions. Jews use the Hebrew words *haShem* (the name) and *Adonai* (Lord) as substitutes for saying YHVH.

In conflict with just the above above Scriptures, the Sopherim (Scribes) replaced the Tetragrammaton in a total of 134 passages with the word *Adonai* (Hebrew for “Lord”)

according to their traditions. These substitutions are termed “emendations” (meaning “alteration intended to improve.”)⁷²⁰

Should His name be hollowed (i.e. sanctified / set apart) by placing it in the same category of pagan names not to be mentioned (Ex 23:13)? Selah.

Exo 23:13 And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention (H2142) of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Some posit that the name should not be mentioned because Yeshua did not mention it—including probably its most noted omission in the Our Father’s Prayer. Messianic-Jewish and many Christians observe the Orthodox Jewish interpretation by using substitutes.⁷²¹

Did Yeshua/Jesus communicate the name to the apostles? Let Him answer:

John 17:6 I have **manifested** (G5319 -to render apparent) **thy name** unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

John 17:26 And I have **declared** (G1107-to make known) unto them **thy name**, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

On the other hand Scripture does not focus solely on the word and name of YHVH. It also utilizes the English word God from *Elohim* (Hebrew) and *Theos* (Greek).

Why G-D and L-RD?

In the last few decades, a new practice has come into vogue: that of not writing out in full the *English* names "God" or "Lord." Most authorities consider this to be without foundation and no more than a passing fad.—Alfred J. Kolatch in 1981.⁷²²

Here it is 2020 and apparently this “fad” has continued!

The Pronunciation of the Name *Yehovah*

With the Jewish prohibition on pronouncing the name for fear of profaning it in some way, the actual pronunciation is said to have become lost. Scripture does not prohibit pronouncing the name, but how does one pronounce it?

Consider that today’s Hebrew language was revived in the late 19th century by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda⁷²³ Whatever impact this has had, if any, on vowels and pronunciation, I will leave to the linguistic experts. God’s name is written in Hebrew as four letters YHVH—commonly termed the Tetragrammaton

There are an assorted number of ways to pronounce YHVH over the many years because there are no vowels in the Hebrew language; it is only written in consonants. (As an aside there are also at least three different ways to pronounce the name of Jesus in Hebrew). Honest questions exist among scholars and ministries on the pronunciation of both names. Be sure to watch the short, yet excellent video by Jeff Benner on *The Pronunciation of the Name* on You Tube.⁷²⁴ Dr. Michael Brown posts another excellent comment about pronunciation and spelling on his web page.⁷²⁵ Other Hebrew Roots and Messianic teachers also recognize that the spelling is Yeshua (*not* Yahshua). One does not take the English Yah and make it into Yahsua without understanding Hebrew grammar. Do to the ongoing debates among sincere and educated theologian, I think it is important that we simply acknowledge the name

however anyone may wish to pronounce it. We should not ostracize any who prefer to use it and/or pronounce it differently than what we do.

Recent Research. This appendix will present the findings of Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite (KAH-rah-ahyt = people of the scripture) Jewish theologian who has conducted significant research into the historic pronunciation of YHWH.⁷²⁶ He is the only person ever to be permitted to see, handle and inspect four of the six (or five of the seven as some count them) oldest ancient manuscripts now located in museums around the world or in private hands. This includes the Aleppo Codex and the Leningrad Codex.⁷²⁷ (Gordon descriptions of his efforts were mesmerizing to listen in the sourced two videos in the end notes).

Scholars are bringing every conceivable source to try to reconstruct what God's holy name is, everything but the Jewish sources. —Nehemia Gordon

His conclusion is that God's name is pronounced **Yehovah** (Yeh Hoe VAH). His research reveals that the names of 16 rabbis of the Middle ages who knew how to pronounce the name.⁷²⁸ (Refer to Wikipedia for a good discussion on the name Yehovah).⁷²⁹

Gordon explains that the differences between the “a” in Yahovah and “e” in Yehovah are Hebrew language basics taught in early Jewish childhood. Wow. I know in the past I thought it would be a “yah” based upon the usage in Psalms 68:4, but does that reveal how me (and others) display our ignorance when we are not trained thoroughly in the rules of the revived Hebrew language?

YHWH is written with the full vowels in the Aleppo Codex and over 150 Masoretic Bible manuscripts including the below six which are considered by most scholars to be the top six manuscripts of the Bible.

- 1) Aleppo Codex (c924-930).
- 2) Leningrad Codex (c1008) with about 50 instances.
- 3) British Library Oriental 4445 (c920-950) which is considered the third most important manuscript of the Bible with vowels, from around the Year 920 to 950. British Leviticus 22:9, it says, “ani Yehovah me’kadsham,” “I am Yehovah who sanctifies them.
- 4) Cairo Codex of the Prophets (c895). Cairo Codex of the Prophets, Ezekiel 7:4, **"And you shall know that I am Yehovah."**
- 5) Sassoon Crown (also known as Sassoon 507; c10th century). The full name is included in place such as Deuteronomy 6:4. *“Shema Yisrael, Yehovah elohenu, Yehovah echad, ve’ahavtah et Yehovah elohecha.”* And it says, “Hear O Israel. Yehovah is our God. Yehovah is one and you shall love Yehovah your God with all your heart.” That's three times in a row it has the full vowels.
- 6) Sassoon 1053 (c10th century) two places. Exodus 10:9, and Pharaoh says, “Who's going to go?” And he's saying, we're going go with our sons and our daughters and our flocks and our cattle; “ki chag Yehovah lanu,” “for it is a feast of Yehovah for us.”

Plus. Gordon further discovers that the rabbinical ban on the name was never intended for the rabbis as it is explained in the Babylonian Talmud, Kidushin 71a.

The minority opinion of Rabbi bar Bar Chanah (c250-300 AD) reads: “Sages transmit the four-letter name to their disciples once in a seven-year period.” However the other rabbis state “No, it's not once in a seven-year period. It's twice in a seven-year period.”

This reveals that by the third century the tradition of hiding the vowels of the name and transmitting the name from rabbi to disciple has changed from once (the minority opinion) to twice (the majority opinion) every seven years. The Jewish rabbis know how to pronounce the name today. The pronunciation is not meant for the masses.

Furthermore. A book of the Talmud called the *Sefer Hashem*—the “Book of the Divine Name” explains an elaborate ceremony for the tradition of transmitting the name once (or twice) every seven years. The book was written in 1225 by Rabbi Eleazar Roke'ach or Eleazar of Worms--an important Jewish community. The book was preserved in manuscript form, kept secret and not published and made available to the general public until 800 years later in 2004.

This ceremony is written about by Joseph Dan in Volume 6, page 561, of his *History of Jewish Mysticism and Esotericism* in Hebrew. He writes about this ceremony “In this description Rabbi Eleazar presented a tradition that was practiced in his surroundings and family, and that he may have participated in it himself both as a disciple and a rabbi.” Joseph Dan is a winner of the Israeli Prize the State of Israel’s highest prize—for Judaic studies and given out by the President and Prime Minister on Independence Day. *The Footnote* is a movie about this prize.

And Yet More. In an unpublished book titled *Responsa* which is written in Hebrew, Rabbis have recorded answers to questions asked of them. Jerusalem Rabbi Yoseph Ibn Tzayach (c1450 A.D.) answers question #43 regarding a Jewish sage who is speaking the name. Nehemia Gordon offers this as yet another proof that the Jewish Rabbis have not forgotten the pronunciation of the name.⁷³⁰

Gordon has researched 14,000+ manuscripts and found the name YeHoVaH with full vowel pointing in 2000 of them. He has not discovered any manuscripts that support the pronouncing of the name as Yahweh.⁷³¹

The Name *Yahweh*

The Assemblies of Yahweh use the name Yahweh and Yahshua because the Hebrew vowel points were only introduced between 600 and 900 C.E.⁷³²

In this section as the above, I am primarily relying on Nehemia Gordon’s research. Gordon has found no Jewish pronunciation of “Yah-way” in a computer search of a database of 100,000 Jewish books in Hebrew and Aramaic. Nor has he found it in 14,000+ manuscripts that were examined. But he has found the name with the Hebrew vowel points indicating the pronunciation of “Yehovah” in 2000 of them.⁷³³

Catholic archbishop Gilbert Générard’s *Chronographiae* (1599, p77, written in Latin) has the first recorded use of the name “Yahweh” based on:

- 1) The YaH in HalleluYaH;
- 2) The Samaritan pronunciation of the name based on the testimony of the 5th century Church Father Theodoret of Cyrus.⁷³⁴

Wilhelm Gesenius, a Hebrew Grammarian, is usually cited as the scholarly authority behind pronouncing the name as Yahweh. In his *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures* (1846, pp CCCXXXVII-VIII), Gesenius wrote that the main source for this pronunciation is a Samaritan tradition.⁷³⁵

Jacob D. Meyer in his book *The Memorial Name - YAHWEH* (p83) teaches that name is spelled Yahweh and pronounced as Yah-way. He founded the Assemblies of Yahweh

in 1966 and later incorporated in 1969 to unify the various Sacred Name churches that used the name. He is widely regarded as the promoter of the name Yahweh.⁷³⁶

Among the thirteen ancient books containing over fifty texts in the Nag Hammadi Library is *Coptic-language Gnostic Apocryphon of John*. This book does contain “Yahweh” (?) as the name of a demon, who is described as “unrighteous” with a “bear face.”^{737 738} The library was discovered in 1945 near the Upper Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi and is currently housed in the Coptic Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

According to Gordon, Josephus (*Antiquities* 12.5.5) writes that the Samaritans worshiped a God with “no name” in a letter to Antiochus IV about 168 BCE. Samaritans do not pronounce the name today and use a substitute word “shema”(?) Nor did they pronounce the word in ancient times.

The Name Jesus Christ

The English name Jesus Christ come from two Greek words: 1) *lēsous*, pronounced either “yay-sus”⁷³⁹ or “ee-YaY-soos.” We pronounce the word today as “Jesus” which has no linguistic meaning. 2) *cristos* means “anointed one.

The “alleged connection between the name Jesus (Greek *lēsous*) and Zeus? This is one of the most ridiculous claims..”. You might as well argue that Tiger Woods is the name of a tiger-infested jungle in India as try to connect the name Jesus to the pagan god Zeus.—Dr. Michael Brown⁷⁴⁰

Hebrew experts have noted that the name “Jesus” follows a linguistic path of transliteration from the Hebrew to the Greek to the Latin and ultimately into English.⁷⁴¹ It was *not* a pagan path as some sloppy scholarship portrays.

Transliteration. Not all languages carry the same letters with the same sounds. Transliteration is substituting the equivalent letters of one word from one alphabet to another alphabet. The 1611 version of the KJV did not even have the letter “J” in the English language at that time. It used the letter “I.”

There is no reason to *transliterate* His name. In transliteration the name loses its meaning and phonetic pronunciation. Let’s look at these two examples: Coca-Cola® is not translated into the native Japanese language, nor the name of the former Chinese leader Mao-Tse-Tung into English. Get it?

Transcription. In contrast to transliteration, transcription transfers the sounds but not the letters for the original word.

The Greek word *Cristos*, or Christ, in Greek means “anointed one.”

So today we use the English word Moses instead of saying his Hebrew pronunciation of *mo-sheh*. We use Michael instead of *mi-kha-el*.

When people use the name of Jesus and accept Him as Savior they *are saved!* Why would anyone think otherwise? God looks upon the heart. Do we need a Ph.D in linguistics before we are saved? I think not. None of us know as much as the next person sitting to us. OK? As one continues to grow in grace and knowledge, one is to continue to prove all things (I Thes 5:21) and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

The Name Yeshua Hamashiach

The Hebrew words *Yeshua Hamashiach* means “Jesus the Messiah.” *Yeshua* means salvation and is the shortened form of the name *Yehoshua* (Zech 3:3) and moreso as

yeshu'a (Ezra 3:2).⁷⁴² Five different men in the OT had that name. Dr. Michael Brown, Messianic Jewish scholar, states:

[It is] not Yahshua and not Yahushua⁷⁴³ There is absolutely no support for this pronunciation—none at all—and I say this as someone holding a Ph.D. in Semitic languages. —Dr. Michael Brown⁷⁴⁴

The original Hebrew-Aramaic name of Jesus is yeshu'a, which is short for yehōshu'a (Joshua), just as Mike is short for Michael. The name yeshu'a occurs 27 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, primarily referring to the high priest after the Babylonian exile, called both yehōshu'a (see, e.g., Zechariah 3:3) and, more frequently, yeshu'a (see, e.g., Ezra 3:2). —Dr. Michael Brown⁷⁴⁵

The Hebrew word *Mashiach* also means “anointed one” and is Messiah in English. The Hebrew *ha* means “the.” So we have *Yeshua* the Messiah. Now that I have learned the Hebrew conveys meanings I prefer to use His Hebrew name primarily in the company of Messianic and Hebrew Roots adherents. Otherwise, others may think am I referring to a cultic or pagan god—or something worse. <smile>

The Name Conveys Character

The more important thing to recognize is that a name conveys character. It is more important to reflect the character of our God in one's life than to be mired into the correct pronunciation and ignorance.

Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that **take his name in vain.** (H7723= shav(H7722, H722 destruction, uselessness).

The Hebrew word *shav* (H7723) means desolating, evil and uselessness. comes from *shoa* (H7722) is translated “desolation” and “destruction” many other places in scripture. According to Dennis Prager, the Hebrew word for take (*tisa*) is a verb that means “carry” which translates into “Do not carry God's name in vain.”⁷⁴⁶

Issues of Speaking, Baptism, Ordinations and Prayer. I have had prayers answered in the name of Jesus before I began using his Hebrew name. What does this mean? It means that He heard me and knew my heart! It does not mean I do *not* have the Holy Spirit and am *not* saved. It is a personal decision of whether one uses the Hebrew name. I do not make it a doctrinal point to be enforced upon others and vice-versa.

Some ministers come from previous denominations and were ordained in the name of "Jesus." Are their ordinations valid when they are given in the name of "Jesus." I would think so. If not, who today has the authority to subsequently ordain them as HR or MJ ministers with credentials to teach others?

Are baptisms valid in the name of Jesus? Yes! If one believes they need to be rebaptized in a Hebrew name because they feel they need to, I have no objection to a conscience issue. That is a personal decision. It is about faith and the fruit of the Spirit. A rebaptism in the Hebrew name can be viewed an affirmation or rededication of their prior baptism, similar to a married couple renewing their marriage vows at one of their wedding anniversaries. I know of some in HR who ceremonially dip themselves in a flowing stream as a *mikvah* on Shavuot/Pentecost.

I prefer to use His Hebrew name Yeshua now that I have grown in the faith. In my opinion, we do not need to Anglicize His name once we know better unless there are others who are not aware of His Hebrew name. Personally I then use both Hebrew and English names.

Appendix J: Sojourner

As a Hebrew Bible scholar, I would agree that 'immigrant' is just as good a translation of the word *ger* as the NRSV's 'resident alien.'

Let's correct one common misunderstanding. The *ger* was not a full citizen. There is no evidence that the *ger* could hold land in Israel, or participate in jurisprudence. The *ger* and the citizen remain rigidly distinguished. A *ger* can become a citizen only by conversion, i.e. circumcision. The *ger* has neither the right nor the obligation to celebrate Passover.

But the *ger* was obligated to avoid offenses that would bring down God's wrath on the whole community. —Tom Hobson⁷⁴⁷

[Jer 7:6-7](#) *If ye oppress not the stranger [A concern expressed elsewhere in Scripture] , the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: 7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.*

A ***ger*** is a non-Hebrew who lives among Israel and has agreed to be part of the Hebrew community and (for the most part) honors the God of the Hebrews and the Laws of Moses.

However, a ***ger*** is also a person who has not gone so far as to join one of the Israelite tribes in an official capacity. A ***nokri*** is one who does not dwell among the Hebrews; rather, he dwells alongside the Hebrews and outside of their camp. He does not necessarily honor Yehoveh. If a Hebrew's animal dies, the Hebrew is therefore to either offer it as a gift to the ***ger*** or is also just as free to sell it for money to the ***nokri***.—Tom Bradford.⁷⁴⁸

The Torah speaks of several different classes of people:

a. **The Jew** - those who are the sons of Israel. These are the ones who entered the covenant with HaShem at Mt. Sinai with circumcision, immersion, and oath...

b. **The stranger** – Gentiles, non-Jews. These are the people who have not entered into a covenantal relationship with HaShem, yet they live among the Jews.

c. **The Ger Toshav** – *The stranger or alien living among you.* A stranger who is in the process of converting and has accepted the seven laws of Noah. These people have entered a covenantal relationship with HaShem, on a beginning level, by agreeing to obey the Hakhamim and by oath.

d. **The Ger Tzaddik** – A convert who has joined himself to the children of Israel. He is treated as a Jew in every way. These people have entered a covenantal relationship with HaShem on an advanced level with circumcision, immersion, and oath.—Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian)⁷⁴⁹

The alien/sojourner (Hebrew=H1616=*ger* which is listed 93 times in the OT) was expected to follow the Torah requirements while living in Israel (Num 15:15-16).⁷⁵⁰ however, the *ger* could not keep Passover unless he undertook circumcision.⁷⁵¹

- Observe the Sabbath (Ex. 20:10; Deut. 5:14) (*Targumim* translates 'within your gates' as 'in your cities/towns')
- Observe Pesach (Ex.12:48-49)
- Observe Feast of Unleavened/Chag HaMotzot (Ex 12:19) or be 'cut off.'
- Observe Shavuot (Deut. 16:10-11)
- Observe Yom Kippur (Lev. 16:29)
- Observe Sukkot (Deut. 16:13-14; Same note as above on Targumim)
- Observe and Participate in sacrifices (Lev. 17:8-9; 22:17-18, 31; Num. 15:14-16)
- Observe all laws of purity (Lev. 17:12, 15; 18:26; Num. 19:10; (Proper observance of sacrifices and festivals required ritual purity)
- Observe the moral laws (Lev. 24:16; Num. 15:14-16, 26, 29-30)

The assembly of Israel was not to neglect stranger from being one of them. The stranger has equality in their relationship with the God of Israel.

Isa 56:3 Neither let the son of the stranger [H5236, *ben nekar*, "son of a foreigner] that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated [H914 *badal*, "divide, separate"] me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.

Isa 56:3 Do not let a son of a foreigner who has joined himself to Adonai say, 'Adonai will surely exclude me from His people.' Nor let the eunuch say, 'Behold, I am a dry tree.'—TLV

Isaiah affirms the law set in Leviticus 19:33-36

Lev 19:33 And if a stranger [H1616 *gêr*] sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. **34** But the stranger [H1616 *gêr*] that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers [H1616 *gêr*] in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.**35** Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. **36** Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Appendix K: Two House Controversy

I have learned that a number of people do not even know what the phrase “Two-House” is or the controversy surrounding it.

First of all let me preface this section with three statements: 1) A reason for its length is that I have delved into the positions of some Orthodox Jewish writers on the subject. 2) I do not see this controversy as a subject to bring up in congregations where it is not taught. It is not wise or recommended, therefore, to discuss and/or promote this topic with others in a Messianic Jewish Congregation where it is regarded as heretical. You may be considered a divisive influence and asked to leave. 3) I think this controversy is blown out of proportion. Why? The gospel message is to repent of sin, believe in Yeshua, be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The result is to be grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel (Eph 2-11-12). Significant others in theological circles do not agree with me.

. Nor have I seen Two House brought up as a teaching in my area among the small groups that I have met with. There is no need to. They already believe it! But that does not mean it would not be taught.

Apparently, unfortunately and erroneously, the term Two House may be somewhat associated with the White Supremacy Movement. I can understand why some object to the Two House teaching merely because of this negative association.

The Hebrew Roots, some in Orthodox Judaism (how many is unclear to me—it could be few or otherwise) and the MIA [renamed the Alliance for Redeemed Israel (ARI) in 2013] are on opposite poles in their beliefs on Two House Theology with the MJAA, IAMCS, UMJC, Christianity in general and other Orthodox Jews. These organizations believe the only the Jewish people alone represent all of the ancient tribes of Israel. This means that there is no future restoration of the Two Houses of Israel.⁷⁵² This dispute evolves into a separate issue on One Law Theology as to who should keep the Torah and the definition and name of Israel.

I cannot take the time to read and analyze *all* of the Messianic writings of Wootten, Koniuchowsky, Silberling, and others as they attempt to rebut each other’s past writings in this controversy.⁷⁵³ A number of points in the IAMCS paper are on the mark, however, and I found the Hebrew Roots history sections worthy of my time to read. Wootten responds to each of the pertinent false claims made in that paper and the silence (ouch!) she has received from MJ leaders in attempting to reconcile and correct the errors in the IAMCS paper.

Although I disagree with a number of points the authors of the IAMCS paper raise, I will not address them all since Wootten addresses a number of them.⁷⁵⁴ The Sabbath and Feast keeping Churches of God also address these points. My points will not change any minds in any of the MJ organizations. That is the nature of religious controversies and Biblical interpretation. First let me offer the conclusions on the matter regarding the matter by Messianic Judaism as represented by the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America and Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations who have opposed the Two House teaching:

1. One Law teaching eventually results in the heretic teaching of Two House.⁷⁵⁵
2. The migration of the Ten Tribes is a bogus, unprovable theory.
Christians also generally hold to the MJ position.

Many probably wonder what is Two-House? So let's now explore the answer.

Ancient History of Two-House

A civil war erupted in Israel after the death of Solomon which split the nation of Israel into two (2) nations (called "houses" or kingdoms). Ten Tribes rebelled against God's commandments and formed their own government—the House of Israel took the original name of "Israel" under the leading tribe of Ephraim. The remaining tribes Levi and Benjamin were closed aligned (I Chron 11:1,4)⁷⁵⁶ and allied under the leading tribe of Judah—the House of Judah.

Many Christians are either are not taught this in the churches or are historically challenged and *unaware* of this simple fact of history. Many mistakenly think that only Jews comprised the entire ancient nation of Israel. Perhaps this is due, in part, to the Jewish people/Tribe of Judah taking the name of "Israel" in 1948.

The ten tribes of the Kingdom of Israel had a complete line of unrighteous kings. The tribes were consequently punished for their rebellion against God by being later scattered among all the nations beginning about 718 BC. They did not keep the Sabbath day and lost their characteristic "sign" (Ex 31:13, 17). As they were assimilated into the Assyrian nation and culture and, later, over the centuries these tribes lost their identity and heritage. They were not "annihilated" as it has been inferred.⁷⁵⁷ When the ten tribes were scattered it was because of their idolatry and not keeping the Sabbath; hence, they become "lost" or scattered among the Gentile nations when they forsook their identifying Sabbath sign (Ex 31:13). Are the Ten Tribes "lost" in God's eyes? Absolutely not!

The Kingdom of Judah had a number of both righteous and unrighteous kings. Judah was also punished for their rebellion by being deported to Babylon about 585 BC. Unlike the Kingdom of Israel, the Jewish people were allowed to return to their homeland after seventy years of exile in Babylon, because of God's promises to David. In contrast to the Kingdom of Israel which discarded following God, they retained the Sabbath day (and festivals) as a sign as God's people. They and others called their homeland "Judea" and later the Romans renamed it "Palestine."⁷⁵⁸

After Shimon Bar Kokhba's rebellion about 132-135 A.D, the Jewish people were scattered (termed the Diaspora) and persecuted throughout the nations for 2,000 years Unlike the Kingdom of Israel, the Jews (House of Judah) retained their identity by keeping the Sabbath day and Torah and have been commonly known as Jews throughout the subsequent centuries until even today.

The ancient House of Judah and the orthodox Jewish population, today, have been noted for keeping God's commandments (as they interpret them) and have not lost their identities. Noted radio political commentator Dennis Prager writes "...more than any other Jewish ritual, the Shabbat preserved the Jewish people. As one major Jewish writer of the twentieth century, Ahad Ha'am (1856-1927), put it, 'More than the Jews have kept the Sabbath, the Shabbat has kept the Jews.' "⁷⁵⁹ This is where the

commonality of beliefs generally separate Christian and Jew, Messianic Jew and Hebrew Roots adherents (including some churches of God)

Two-House. Moshe Koniuchowsky coined the term "Two house" ⁷⁶⁰ (He left the MIA and began his own ministry in 2000). Batya Wootten, a found of the MIA, on the other hand, has described her dislike of the term "Two house." ⁷⁶¹ MJs can combine the term Hebrew Roots with the term Two House. ⁷⁶²

The Denominations of Judaism

First some background on Judaism before I proceed further. ⁷⁶³ There are three major divisions of Judaism: Reformed, Conservative and Orthodox (composed of several groups similar in beliefs of which a most conservative and stringent is Hasidic Judaism). Smaller sects of Judaism are Karaite, Reconstructionist, and Torah Judaism. Plus there are the non-religious secular and humanistic Jews.

The ultra-Orthodox Jews have had a presence in Palestine since ancient times and were the majority Jewish population when the State of Israel was founded in 1948. The majority of practicing Jewish adherents in the world today are Orthodox except for the U.S. and portions of Europe. Conservative is most common in the U.S and does not separate genders during worship services.

RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION ⁷⁶⁴						
	Israel			United States		
Orthodox	22%			10%		
Non-Orthodox	78%	Secular (Hiloni)	49%	90%	Reform	35%
		Traditional (Masorti)	29%		No denomination	30%
					Conservative	18%
					Other	6%
Israel is a secular nation today comprised of 70% atheists or agnostics. ⁷⁶⁵ "When you say that you are secular, you still haven't said that you rule out Judaism or Jewish culture, but when you say that you are an atheist, there's an inference of something that is distant from Judaism." –Shahar Ilan, the vice president of Hidush – For Religious Freedom and Equality. ⁷⁶⁶ Only 16% of Jews in Israel disdain any religious traditions (Kiddush, Passover Seder, etc). ⁷⁶⁷						

Orthodox Judaism treats both the Pentateuch (i.e. Torah) law and the Talmud as inspired. They view Scriptural history as correct and accept the Rabbis interpretations of the laws in the Talmud.

Conservative arose in the 1880s as a middle ground between Orthodox and Reformed. Adherents generally do not accept the interpretations in theory or practice in living and do not consider Scripture to be inspired or inerrant. ⁷⁶⁸ Both Conservative and Orthodox are viewed as being traditional, while Reform, Reconstructionist (and at times even Conservative) can be labeled as "liberal" or "modern." ⁷⁶⁹

Reformed Judaism regards the Pentateuch laws as sacred but not the Talmud. They are considered to be the least observant of the Pentateuch. They believe that the laws

may be interpreted figuratively or allegorically and do not regard the Pentateuch as correct history. Plus they may applied in a changeable way according to the times.

According to GorQuestions.Org, neither Conservative nor Reformed view Scripture as being inspired or inerrant.⁷⁷⁰ Karaite Judaism does regard the Pentateuch as inspired, but not the Talmud. The laws are interpreted literally with their strict observance.

Jewish scholars very rarely identify their specific attachment to any sect. A reader can examine their writings for biases and can usually decide if it appears to favor the Orthodox position.⁷⁷¹

Messianic Judaism adherents who are ethnically Jews, believe in Christ and may consider themselves a sect of Judaism. However, they are considered a form of Christianity by Jewish organizations including the Supreme Court of Israel (as related to the Law of Return).⁷⁷²

Two-House Theology

Orthodox Jewish Opinion

Do the Orthodox Jews believe in “Two House”? Yes and no. I do not know how many do or do not. But they may or may not call it that term. Mark Byrd of Torah One Man Global Ministries who knows Orthodox Rabbis in Israel who believe in Two House, has stated that the majority of Orthodox Jews in Israel do not believe in the return of the tribes. Further exploration on my part is needed to confirm or deny the general belief of the Orthodox Jewish population.⁷⁷³

According to the strict Orthodox Jewish beliefs, only someone from the line of David can have government authority. That can only occur when the Messiah’s comes as Ezekiel 37 prophesies.⁷⁷⁴

Eddie Chumney, a Hebrew Roots teacher, states that some Orthodox Jews beliefs about the lost tribes are far different from Christianity and the evangelist outreach of Messianic Judaism to the Jewish people.

The Ingathering of the Exiles and the reuniting of Ephraim (Ten Lost Tribes) with Judah and Ephraim returning to *Torah* is a fundamental and foundational belief of Orthodox Judaism. It is one of the 13 articles of Jewish faith and a prayer for the Messianic Redemption / Restoration of both houses of Israel and is prayed THREE times a day by Orthodox Jews...—Eddie Chumney⁷⁷⁵

The Amidah (or Standing Prayer), a set of Jewish Prayers of 18 benedictions originally, but today contains 19. The tenth of the benedictions is called “Kibbutz Galuyot” (Regather of the Exiles). In it the Jewish people are calling for the return of the exiles back to God.

Sound the great shofar for our freedom, raise the ensign to gather our exiles, and gather us from the four corners of the earth. Blessed are you, O Lord, who gathers the dispersed of his people Israel. —Tim Kelley, Hebrew Roots teacher⁷⁷⁶

Messianic/Hebrew Roots Eddie Chumney writes that a Talmudic view of the Ten Lost Tribes is that they would have the status of Gentiles in the end of days] according

to the Talmud (Yebamoth 16b).⁷⁷⁷ Some also believe that the disperse Ten Tribes are *not* Jewish and have been assimilated into the world as Gentiles and will embrace the Sabbaths, Festivals and Torah in the last days. They call this the “Messianic Redemption” and the “Ingathering of the Exiles” in reference to Ezk 37:15-28.

It is the Orthodox Jewish view (and also the view of the *Torah* and the Prophets) that the future Messianic redemption (restoration and reunification of both houses of Israel at the advent of the Messianic Era—Ezekiel 37:15-28) will be a parallel of the historical Egyptian redemption but on a GLOBAL scale....

In popular literature and also in popular Orthodox Jewish Literature you may sometimes come across references to all of the Israelites as "Jews" but this is obvious in its meaning. The present day Jewish people consists mainly of people from the Tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi with many from Simeon and some minority representation of the other tribes. It is recognized that most of the northern Ten Tribes were exiled and "lost" their identity but in the future will return. Abarbanel in "Mashmia Yishua" says that belief in the return of the Lost Ten Tribes is the same as belief in the Bible: if you deny one you deny the other."—Eddie Chumney.⁷⁷⁸

Art Scroll Tanach Series says of the noted Rambam (Moshe Ben Nachman), in his comments on Ezra: “Rambam maintains that the Ten Tribes did not return to the Land...The Jewish settlers in Jerusalem consisted only of members of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and a few representatives of other tribes.—[Ezra, Mesorah, 1984, p 151.]

Belief in the continued existence of the ten tribes was regarded as an incontrovertible fact during the whole period of the Second Temple and of the Talmud. —Encyclopedia Judaica, Ten Lost Tribes⁷⁷⁹

“Many rabbis have long believed that great will be the day when the exiles of Israel are reassembled. They believe that The Ten Tribes shall return and have a share in the “World-to-Come.” — Rev. Dr. A. Cohen, Everyman’s Talmud, New American Edition⁷⁸⁰

James Scott Trimm writes that he has known that "a number" of Rabbinic Jewish teachers have been teaching the doctrine of "United Israel" for decades which is the "Two House Theology" but under a different name. David Horowitz, a prominent Rabbinic Jew, founded the “United Israel World Union” in 1944 which continues on today (www.unitedisrael.org) . Its mission statement read in part:

Central to this mission is the conviction that scattered among the Gentiles are untold numbers of descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel who are discovering their identity and their kinship to the Jewish people. —United Israel World Union⁷⁸¹

Trimm then expresses the surprise that Two House is at “odds with Judaism!”

Being that I personally have roots in Rabbinic Judaism and my contact with this theology was originally in context of Rabbinic Judaism, and being that I

personally knew David Horowitz who was teaching United Israel theology in Rabbinic Judaism well before World War II, it is going to be my role to stand up for the Jewish roots of this teaching. As part of this role, I am returning to the term “United Israel” rather than “Two House.” The term “Two House” by its very nature implies division and separation of the Two Houses, while the term “United Israel” implies unity.”

So when Batya Wootten published her book “Who Is Israel? And Why You Need to Know” back in 1998 starting the “Two House” movement... so called “Two House” Theology” to me was just a recasting of “United Israel” theology. To me this was not a new theology, this was an old theology that I knew well from Rabbinic Judaism!.—James Scott Trimm⁷⁸²

Yair Davidy, another Orthodox Jew, leads Brit-Am Israel (an Orthodox Jewish organization). He has written several books on the “lost ten tribes”(as they are commonly referred) and their migrations into Western Europe. His thinking on the subject is similar to the defunct Worldwide Church of God and perhaps many of its current splinters. Yet he answers:

Brit-Am is NOT British-Israel especially not in the negative sense the term is often applied. Brit-Am derives its Knowledge from the Bible, Rabbinical Commentary on the Bible, Science, History, and Related Sources! —Yair Davidy⁷⁸³

Other Orthodox Jewish Rabbis have established the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute which have among their writings an extensive multi-part series entitled *A Historical Research of the Ten Tribes Scattered Into the Nations*.⁷⁸⁴ Both the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute (of which Davidy is associated) and United Israel teach that the ten tribes are scattered among the Gentile nations.

Please refer to the internet articles “What do authentically Jewish sources say about the Lost Ten Tribes?”⁷⁸⁵ and “What Is the Second Exodus & When Does It Occur?” for yet other Jewish sources for this belief.⁷⁸⁶

Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki indicates, the prophet Jeremiah did not gather all the ten tribes in the time of Josiah, he gathered only some people of them that escaped while being led into exile.⁷⁸⁷ Both Ezra and Nehemia reveal that only portions of of the Kingdom of Judahs associated tribes (ie. Judah, Benjamin and Levi) returned to the Promised Land. In other word the Israel and Judah that Israel and Judah never reunited. By the time of Josephus, a Jewish historian (37-c100), the Ten Tribes were still a distinct and numerous people who had not yet lost their identity nor were they considered as the tribe of Judah:

...wherefore there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans; while the ten tribes are beyond Euphrates till now; and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers.—Josephus. c94 AD. *Antiquities of the Jews*, 11.5.2

Note that Josephus’ writing is hundreds of years after those who cite I Chron 30:9-12, (Hezekiah reigned c716-687 BC); I Chron 34:9; II Chron 35:17-18, Ezra 6:16, etc. as the evidence that Judah had assimilated the entire ten tribes by the first century. James 1:1 also confirms the fact that the twelve tribes were I ”**scattered abroad.**”

Note that the Passover of II Chronicles 30:11 is in Hezekiah's second month of the first year of his reign (c716 BC) which occurred before the fourth year of his reign (II Kings 18:6,9-10 and 17:18) when Samaria in the Kingdom of Israel was besieged for three years before being taken by the King of Assyria). Although the remainder of the Kingdom of Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians about 721 B.C., six years (give or take) is too short of a time for the Israelites to lose their tribal identities and become "lost" to the world as some write and inexplicably offer as valid criticism.⁷⁸⁸

.The Jews returned to their land from Babylon with governors over them—not a king from the line of David which was to be established "forever" as the Ezekiel 37 prophecy reveals. Comparing Ezk 37:12-14 with 39:27-29 we discover that God's Spirit has not yet been poured out "in you" or "upon the house of Israel." Neither does Israel today dwell safely in the land when comparing Ezk 28:25-26 and 34:27-28.

The 3C's of interpretation are content, context and compare. One of the primary tools of hermeneutics is context, context, context. The context reveals that the time setting of this prophecy is the second coming of the Messiah. In other words, the prophecy has *not* yet been fulfilled or even totally fulfilled. Other Christians are in agreement with the latter, i.e. it has not been totally fulfilled.⁷⁸⁹ The Talmud (Sanhedrin 92b and Gemara) indicates that Ezekiel 37 is to be taken as a parable or literally.⁷⁹⁰

Dennis Jones, Hope of Israel Ministries, has researched Rabbinic writings. Among his discoveries are that Rabbis from the first century believed that the ten tribes had not yet returned. Here is just one of his examples:

So important was this question, that its discussion is recorded in a very early (pre-Hadrianic, 117-138 C.E.) section of the Mishnah. The setting is a debate between the famous Rabbi Akiva and his opponent, Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus:

The Ten Tribes shall not return again, for it is written [Deuteronomy 29:27], "and He cast them into another land like as this day." As this day goes and returns not, so do they go and return not. So R. Akiva says. But R. Eliezer says, "Like as this day": as the day grows dark and then becomes light, so also with the Ten Tribes; now they are in darkness, but in the future there shall be light for them. —Dennis Jones⁷⁹¹

Jones further adds:

Rabbi Moshe Maimon (Maimondes, 1135-1204) another renowned scholar who authored the Mishneh Torah wrote: "I believe that the Ten Tribes to be in various parts of West Europe."⁷⁹²

**Shall We Agree to
Disagree and Move On
while in Fellowship
Together? Or Not?**

Steve Shermett is correct when he states the difficulty in communicating with Two House Adherents (and vice versa I might add). Is that not the same with other denominational issues as well (such as Sabbath keeping)? This is due in part to the differences in definitions from accumulated traditional Christian paradigms. Dr. Walter Martin also discusses the differences in definitions among religious group in his book *The Kingdom of the Cults*.

These Rabbinic interpretations are truly exciting for the many individuals from non-Jewish backgrounds who have a strong drawing toward the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, especially for those who identify positively with the Lost Tribes concept. Is this strong inner attraction to the Torah, Israel, and the Jewish people, which many thousands of us are experiencing merely a psychological coincidence? Or is it the fulfillment of prophecies contained in the Torah, Hebrew Prophets, and Writings? There is definitely adequate support in the writings of the Rabbis and Sages of Israel to determine it to be the latter. —Dennis Jones⁷⁹³

Alexander Zepher summarizes the writing of Rabbi Moses Ben Nachmanides (aka Ramban 1194-1270) in the "Sefer HaGeulah" (Book of Redemption) to address this question:

Those from the Tribes of Ephraim and Shimeon from Israel that were present (2-Chronicles 35;18) with Judah were they who dwelt in the Land of Judah or perhaps to some degree also those who had dwelt in their own territories adjoining Judah and had fled to Judah. They are referred to in a general sense as "from Israel" (in 2-Chronicles 35;18) and not by their specific tribes since they represented only a small portion of their tribe. These are they who returned under Ezra with the Jews from Babylon. They were not expressly mentioned by their tribes since they were attached to Judah. They all settled in the cities of Judah. There was no Redemption for the Ten Tribes who remained in exile.—Alexander Zepher⁷⁹⁴

Zepher also writes:

The Ten Tribes, he [Nachmanides] said in 1260 a.c, were still in Tserefath (France and its neighborhood and 'at the ends of the north,' meaning at that time the northern areas of Europe. —Alexander Zephyr⁷⁹⁵

Rabbi Yehuda Shurpin presents three opinions from three Jewish Rabbis's:⁷⁹⁶

- 1) The tribes are not coming back according to Rabbi Akiva based upon Deut 29:27.
- 2) The tribes are coming back according to Rabbi Eliezer;
Rabbi Eliezer stated, "Just like a day is followed by darkness, and the light later returns, so too, although it will become 'dark' for the ten tribes, G-d will ultimately take them out of their darkness."—Talmud, Sanhedrin 110b.⁷⁹⁷
- 3) The tribes will come back if they repent according to Rabbi Shimon ben Yehuda.
Lev 26:33 And I will **scatter you among the heathen**, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.
Lev 26:40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

What we find is disagreement, according to Rabbi Shurpin, as to whether the lost tribes have totally returned, not returned, will ever return and be reunited with the Israel.

However, there are those who do rule [in Jewish Law], and say that we follow Rabbi Eliezer's opinion that the ten tribes will ultimately be reunited with the rest

of Israel at the time of the redemption with the coming of the Moshiach. See Yeshuot Meshicho and Netzach Yisrael loc. cit. —Rabbi Yehuda Shurpin⁷⁹⁸

Jeff Booth indicates two beliefs on the lost ten tribes among Jews today:

(1) They're lost and will some day be reunited with Judah (The minority point-of-view): ...

(2) They intermarried and were absorbed into surrounding nations and races. They'll never return (The majority point-of-view):..”.

That being said, why all the confusion and debate over the 10 tribes amongst certain Christian groups? My guess is that some have preconceived interpretations of scripture and will hold to these beliefs no matter what evidence to the contrary is presented. Also, popular books dealing with the subject of eschatology have been written with the premise that the Jews represent “all Israel” and have influenced millions. Hal Lindsey’s book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, has sold 30,000,000 copies and is based on the premise that the Jews represent all Israel.

At the same time there’s absolutely no confusion or debate in Jewish academia on this issue. They all agree that the 10 tribes are still lost. This belief that the Jews represent all 12 tribes is an erroneous Christian doctrine -- it’s a “Christian” invention. —Jeff Booth⁷⁹⁹

An invention? Yes, based in part on the establishment of Christianity as a new religion which shunned the Torah.

One House Theology

It becomes apparent that many Christians and Messianic Jews are ignorant of the Jewish Orthodox position on the Ten Tribes.

One-House Theology

Messianic Jewish, Jewish and Christian Opinions. These may be summarized as follows:

1. The nation of Israel *today*, comprises *all* of the Twelve Tribes; hence, the term “One-House.”

According to Ezra, Israel and Judah were joined together in the return from the captivity.—Steve Shermett, AMC President⁸⁰⁰

2. Two House theology is derived or a form of British-Israelism most widely popularized by Herbert W. Armstrong and his Worldwide Church of God in the latter half of the 20th century.
3. Racist and demonic. Two House has been branded as a lie and racist by some in the MJAA. The MJAA takes the position that stating that Ten Lost Tribes are not Jewish is a “doctrine of demons” and Replacement Theology.⁸⁰¹

Many scholars, including, Dr. Walter Martin (in his book *The Kingdom of the Cults*, p517, 2003 edition) and Messianic Jews, believe that the “Two-Sticks prophecy was

fulfilled upon the Jews return to Palestine after the 70 year Babylonian captivity. The problem with this position is that David, or Jesus for that matter, or even a descendant of David is not ruling over the state of Israel today. The Persian still ruled Palestine after the captivity and allowed the Jewish people to have governors over the land. The throne of David was not established even though Ezekiel writes that David shall rule over them "forever." How can this prophecy be fulfilled, by David, Jesus, or any descendants of David, then or now? This and other issues will be explored later.

2 Chronicles 35:17-18 (also Ezra and Nehemia) are quoted as evidence as evidence that present day Israel constitutes all 12 tribes upon return from the Babylonia captivity. Both Steven Collins and Yair Davidy provides information (in the end notes) which offers a different side to this story.⁸⁰²

A number of Jewish and Christian leaders believe the return to the promised land occurred formally in 1948 with the establishment of the State of Israel.

Ezekiel 37 has been fulfilled, and the nation Israel is hearing the footsteps of the Messiah." —Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, 1950s.⁸⁰³

[T]hey [the MJAA, IAMCS, and UMJC] consider the "dry bones" prophecy (Ezekiel 37:1-14) to be part of modern Israel today but that Ezekiel 37:15-28 was fulfilled in ancient times. Interpreting Ezekiel 37 in this fashion is patently absurd.—Monte Judah⁸⁰⁴

We have returned to our homeland . . . from every corner of the earth . . . The Jewish people rose from ashes . . . Dry bones became covered with flesh, a spirit filled them, and they lived and stood on their own feet.—Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2010, in Auschwitz, Poland.⁸⁰⁵

"It is not a prophecy of the resurrection of individual Israelites who have perished. The bones are "the whole house of Israel" now in exile; they are alive as individuals, but as members of a nation they are dead and hopeless of revival. This is made clear by the explanation of the vision given in Eze 37:11-14.

But the grave is no more to be understood literally than the dry bones of the vision itself; both are symbols of the gloomy and despairing view which the exiles take of their own condition...

It would appear therefore that in the order of revelation the hope of the resurrection is first presented in the promise of a resurrection of the dead nation of Israel, and only in the second instance as the resurrection of individual Israelites who should have passed away without sharing in the glory of the latter days.— *Expositors Bible*, Ezekiel 37:1-28, *E-Sword*®

The Two House movement holds that the church has replaced Israel physically: The ten "lost tribes" are the Gentile believers of today!—Steve Shermett, President AMC⁸⁰⁶

Shermett also describes other "dangers" on the above referenced and below footnoted web sites which I will not take the time to address since my summary of the Two House position is lengthy.⁸⁰⁷ A reason for this length is that I have delved into the positions of some Orthodox Jewish writers on the subject.

Hebrew Roots Opinion. One achieves salvation through repentance from sin (I John 3:4) and though belief in Yeshua/Jesus as a gift—first! One does *not* achieve salvation by either believing or disbelieving One House or Two House or by keeping a law which cannot save anyone! Shall we keep such matters in balance and stop condemning? God condemns sins according to His definition and will be judging all nations for their sins. As for prophecy, how many times have prophetic interpretations by Christian ministries been in error?

Hebrew Roots adherents share the common opinion with some Orthodox Jews (how many is unknown at this time) on Two House.

It appears seems there are variants of the definitions of Two House from the Christian Identity Movement to British-Israelism and more. They are not all the same. These variants are representative of the many hyper-independent grass-roots HR groups. Who can know what they all specifically think? Yet there appears to be commonalities.

Hebrew Roots believe that there are two "houses" of Israel (Israel & Judah), that God/YHVH has a use for both houses, and that Jesus came to begin the restoration of both. They also believe that Yeshua's teachings were for the purpose of unifying these two groups.

For HR ministries listed later in this book, Two-House (or termed by the lesser known label as "Ephramite Movement") is not the major issue MJAA and others make it to be because Gentiles are grafted into the tree and keep the Sabbath, festivals and the applicable parts of the Torah. Of course MJs disagree. That is the subject of their 60 page position paper on the subject as quoted elsewhere in this paper.

It is my opinion that "One-House" reestablishes the "middle wall of partition" between Jew and Gentile that Paul describes in Ephesians 2:14.

Prior to the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, the Jewish people have been historically referred to as Jews from the Tribe of Judah which were scattered from the land of Judea after the destruction of the Temple. They were *not* referred to as "Israelites" by the Romans and subsequent others through the centuries. MJ simply would answer this issue as the Judah was Israel.

Some 130 years after their captivity, the tribes of Israel still knew who they were as Ezekiel relates.⁸⁰⁸ Even later into the first century, Both Josephus and James indicate that the whereabouts of the Ten Tribes were still known. Obviously these tribes still retained some knowledge of their heritage.

Matt10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

How long did it take for these tribes to lose the knowledge of their heritage? As a comparison, let's look at our own United States today. How long has it taken for people to forget the meaning of the 4th of July, to name a famous President, to recall why a former war was fought, to understand the difference between the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression, etc. A generation? Two generations? Note that these changes have occurred since the late 1960s. I have lived through them.

If this is the case, one must consider the first verse of the Book of James addressed "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" and Paul noting the twelve tribes in Acts 26:7. The apostles and tribes still knew their identities in the first century. Sometime after that the tribes lost their identities due to their idolatrous practices in forsaking the Torah.

Ask any Jewish person what tribe he is from. Do any Jews returning to Israel, today, know their ancient original tribal association in Israel today since it was founded in 1948? No...according to Steve Shermett.⁸⁰⁹

The present State of Israel may contain remnants of some of the other tribes—but that is not the same as being a reunited nation of 12 different governing tribes or states (to use the contemporary term) which can be likened to the 50 states comprising the United States of America. This would be akin to stating that Texans are Americans, albeit Texans are just one state in the Union and not all Americans are Texans. There are no 12 tribal states—or counties—in the State of Israel today where people claim their ancient tribal affiliations. There is no United States of Israel and no United Tribes / Kingdom of Israel. There is only the Tribe of Judah which took the name the State (singular) of Israel in 1949.

The HR ministries are not associated with the Church of God (COG), nor do they adhere to COG teachings. In the vast majority of instances I have found that HR / Messianic adherents are not familiar with the Armstrong name. Furthermore, the beliefs of some adherents regarding the “Lost Ten Tribes” are at variance with Armstrong’s teachings—which confuses the issue for everyone involved—including myself.

British-Israelism. To state that the wanderings, migrations and assimilation of the commonly termed "Lost Ten Tribes" into Gentile nations is controversial would be an understatement. The tribes may be lost in the eyes of secularists, but were never “lost” in God’s eyes. He knows.

The Bible is very clear that none of the tribes will “die out” or become “lost.—Stephen M. Collins. 2002 *The Origins and Empire of Ancient Israel*. 280p; p91

British-Israelism (BI) (aka Anglo-Israelism) teaches that the migrations of ancient Israel took the Lost Ten Tribes into western Europe with many physical descendents becoming individual nations of western Europe, America, Australia, Britain and Canada and eventually fulfilling the prophetic blessing of Genesis 48 and 49

BI began as a distinct movement in the 1880s with tracings back to 1794 where it originated in England. The origin is attributed to an English man named Richard Brothers (1757-1824). John Harden Allen’s (J.H. Allen 1847–1930) book *Judah’s Sceptre and Joseph’s Birthright* was published in 1902. This book was apparently the inspiration for Herbert W. Armstrong’s / Worldwide Church of God book entitled *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy* which was distributed freely and widely.⁸¹⁰

BI originally taught that the British Empire is the Kingdom of God and was comprised by actual physical, genetic, ethnical direct descendents of the Ten Tribes of Israel with the British monarchy being the literal descendents of King David. It also taught that the Empire replaced Israel as the chosen people. Variations of the definition of BI has variations apparently changed over years depending on who is teaching or believes in it. One change is that it no longer defines the British Empire as the Kingdom. This is because the belief waned in the ensuing years that the empire would not become the millennial kingdom of God.

Those that taught BI in the past apparently have relied on folklore, legends, genealogies and other material which were handed down without much confirmation or

any citation of sources. It is some of this undocumented material which created issues with 20th century writers who quoted this material as being prime evidence of the theory without the application of scientific disciplines for confirmation. No bibliography was provided in the *The U.S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. At the time I read it some 50 years ago I thought its omission was to save space and money because the book was distributed free of charge.

In contrast, some authors have performed extensive research, such as Steven M. Collins, an American, and Jewish people such as Yair Davidy and the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute in order to document an accurate historical footing in describing the ancient migrations.

The 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia has this to say about Anglo-Israelism—which is another name for British-Israelism:

The theory of Anglo-Israelism is based upon an extremely literal interpretation of the Old Testament, as represented by King James's version and by an application of texts brought together from the prophecies about Israel; and its advocates attempt to bring their readers into the dilemma that England and its colonies must be the Israel to whom the promises were made in the Bible, or that these promises have been unfulfilled. At the start, distinction is made between the ultimate fates of Israel and Judah. For the former all the blessings of the Bible are reserved; whereas the latter, represented in modern times by the Jews, are to experience all the curses threatened to the backsliding people in the prophecies.—Jewish Encyclopedia⁸¹¹

When it states an “extremely literal interpretation” of Scripture, how would a believer respond to a Muslim who would state that too many Christians take an “extremely literal interpretation” of Acts 4:12?

Ephramites. Dan Juster of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) coined the term “The Ephraimite movement.”⁸¹² Those who believe that Gentile believers are the literal blood descendents of the “lost” Ten Tribes of Israel may be called “Ephramites.” Prophets such as Isaiah used Ephraim’s name for the ten tribes because the tribe of Ephraim was the leading tribe of the Kingdom of Israel. Ephraim is often the name given to non-Jewish believers by the Redeemed Israel Alliance. The name Ephraim is also used in conjunction with Judah in Ezekiel 37:16-19 and 47:23.

The Hebrew Roots Movement may be unfortunately labeled with the White Supremacy Movement. This is not always the case. Perhaps this is yet another reason why different labels are being chosen—such as Hebrew Heritage, etc

Rebuttals to One House

The following discussion is not intended to be a detailed apologetic of Two House Theology. Other authors have addressed the topic, pro and con, through books and papers.

Racist. The HRM has even been labeled “racist.”⁸¹³ Note the term racism has had the historical definition expanded by some to include ethnicity and not just race. In my journeys I have not found racism with the HR main stream teachers (Appendix A) and

groups that I have attended. We all have to be cognizant that we do not harbor “us vs them” attitudes.

Two House theology has also been called “racist” and “identity theft.”⁸¹⁴ When I first heard that, I was taken back. Doesn’t racism refer to another “race”? Both Jews and Western Gentiles are Caucasian. What am I missing in this definition that the term racist is applied?

Racism means a very specific thing, it means a belief in the superiority of one race over another. And it is taboo in the United States as well as it should be.—
Brit Hume⁸¹⁵

There are only three “races.” Whether it be Wooten, Koniuchowsky, Silberling, or other.⁸¹⁶ I posit that the term racial should be properly used and not as a term distinguishing culture or society—whether it be the Irish, German, Italian, American, Japanese, Nigerian or whatever. What about terms such as prejudice, bias, etc.? What about the term “anti-Semitic”? Are not both Caucasians and Jews also descendents of Shem?

Unfortunately, the Hebrew Roots Movement can also be labeled with the White Supremacy Movement which shares some of the same overall doctrinal viewpoints. We need to be cautious not to carelessly label people. Perhaps this is yet another reason why HR adherents have chosen different labels—such as Hebrew Heritage.

There is a religious group called “Christian Identity” that may also incorporate facets of Hebrew Roots theology. They do believe that white Anglo-Saxons will rule over other people in the world to come. Hebrew Roots of itself, though, is *not* “Christian Identity.” Like Christianity’s 1500 denominations in the U.S. it is not wise to label all Hebrew Roots and Two-House adherents as “racist.”

The gospel is preached to everyone and God desires all races to be “grafted” into the olive tree (Rom 11).

Replacement Theology.

The Christian definition is commonly defined as the teaching that the Gentile Christian Church and/or that those called today to the Hebraic (HR) walk, have *replaced* Israel as the “chosen” people, the Original Biblical format as maintained by Judah, the ownership of Zion, itself as being the fulfillment of the Ingathering, and that the New Covenant replaces or supercedes (called supersessionism) the Old Covenant. Therefore there is no longer any place for the Jewish people.^{817 818}

Replacement Theology “holds that the Christian Church has succeeded the Israelites as the definitive people of God or that the New Covenant has replaced or superseded the Mosaic covenant.—Wikipedia⁸¹⁹

According to Replacement Theology...The term "Israel" now refers to the church."...[t]herefore the Jewish people are no longer a "chosen people" and "have no future, no hope, and no calling in the plan of God. —Ron Matsen⁸²⁰

In other words, the Christian church has superceded the Jewish people in claiming the promises of God because the Jewish people have failed to repent and accept Christ as their Savior.

Therefore, many of the promises that God made to Israel must be spiritualized. For example, when it speaks of Israel being restored to the land, this really means that the Christian church will be blessed. Also, covenants made with Israel are fulfilled in the Christian church so, for example,

1. The Jewish people are no longer God's chosen people. Instead, the Christian Church now makes up God's chosen people.
2. In the New Testament after Pentecost, the term "Israel" refers to the church.
3. The Mosaic covenant (Exodus 20) is replaced by the new covenant (Luke 22:20).
4. Actual circumcision is replaced by a circumcision of the heart (Rom. 2:29). So, in replacement theology, the church has replaced Israel as the primary means by which the world is blessed by God's work. Though it is true that the church does replace Israel in some areas such as properly representing God on earth, acknowledging the promise of the Messiah, etc., it is not biblical to say that God is completely done with Israel and that the Christian church is its complete replacement.—Matt Slick⁸²¹

Replacement theology challenges the nature and even the integrity of God.

This is an issue concerning the integrity of God. God is a promise keeper. And when we say that God made promises but he didn't really mean them or that he changed his mind, we are literally challenging the very integrity of God, we are accusing God of being a promise breaker. That's really what it boils down to. That is a dangerous thing.—Joel Richardson⁸²²

Even the Jewish Pesach Seder is replaced by the Eucharist.

31. ...every eucharistic celebration sacramentally accomplishes the eschatological gathering of the People of God.--Pope Benedict XVI: The Eucharist and Eschatology, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Sacrament of Charity, 30-31.⁸²³

Six out of ten churches in North America believe this theological doctrine of the Christians replacing the Jews which Paul clearly refutes this in Romans 11:1.⁸²⁴ Some in Messianic Judaism believe that this is no longer the case.⁸²⁵ What is it then? In the Epistle of Barnabas, written around 135 CE, this Replacement Theology is clearly stated. Referring to the Mosaic Covenant, Barnabas writes:

Indeed it is ours; for Moses had hardly received it when they (the Jews) forfeited it forever.—Epistle of Barnabas, c135 BC

It is easier to understand the paradox that if God broke his word and rejected his people (the Jews and Israel) then He has broken His Word and changed. By this we know that God cannot be trusted to do it again by rejecting Christianity. God cannot

change.⁸²⁶ Replacement Theology is **not** taught by the noted HR and Sabbath keeping COGs. HR teaches that Gentiles become grafted into Israel as Paul teaches:

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The Messianic Jewish and Jewish definition of Replacement Theology is broader than the Christian definition. Replacement Theology is *those that teach and accept obedience to Torah other than the Jewish people*:

...their [Hebrew Roots®] “Israel-obsession” is driven by the common idea, whether stated or implied, that they ARE Israel. The idea is based on replacing the Jews as the true Israel, through the keeping of the law given at Sinai.—IAMCS⁸²⁷

The leadership of the MJAA, UMJC and Tikkum Ministries do not believe that the Torah is for everyone. The Torah is only for the Jewish people.⁸²⁸ Judaism considers the *Torah* as their heritage belonging to no one else. **Should a person wish to keep the Torah, it can be considered a form of Replacement Theology.** It teaches that Gentiles are not obligated to observe the Torah. (This is similar to Christian teachings). Gentiles only need to observe the Noahide Laws.⁸²⁹ In other words, Christians *should not even keep* all of the Ten Commandments or are obligated to adhere to any of the Torah teachings. Christians are only obligated to keep the Noahide Laws and Jews are obligated to keep the Torah (Two Law Theology).

So there we have a major difference in definitions with Christianity. As previously discussed this is the Messianic “Two Law” Theology (Torah is for the Jews, Noahide Laws are for the Gentiles) vs Hebrew Roots “One Law” Theology (Torah is for everyone).

This difference in law keeping theological positions is nothing more than an attempt by Messianic-Jews to modify and adopt the Catholic and Christian positions of allowing people to work on the Sabbath days and eat unclean foods without incurring any guilt. It is my opinion that “One-House” reestablishes the “middle wall of partition” between Jew and Gentile that Paul describes in Ephesians 2:14.

The wider Jewish community which encompasses the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations(UMJC),the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America(MJAA)and the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues(IAMCS) does not believe that Gentile need to keep the Torah. As David Rudolph, PhD., Director of Messianic Jewish Studies at The King’s University writes:

Gentile believers do not have a covenantal responsibility to keep those aspects of Torah that were given by God to serve as boundary markers of identity for the Jewish people. This relates to the last point on the list of purposes of the Torah—to preserve Israel as a distinct nation by God’s design.Consider that if all Gentile believers lived as Jews, the Jewish people would cease to exist as “a certain people who keep themselves separate; their customs are different from those of all other people”(Esther 3:8). Certainly it is not God’s will for the Jewish people to cease to exist!—David Rudolph⁸³⁰

The MJAA also teaches that Replacement Theology is defined as the belief in the “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel and label such a belief as a “doctrine of demons”--

notwithstanding that there are those of the Jewish Orthodox belief who do believe in the “Lost Ten Tribes” (as commonly termed).

A question that naturally results is what Jewish position (Reformed, Conservative, Orthodox, Karaite, etc) does the MJAA represent? Consider that Paul states that graced in gentiles become part of the commonwealth of Israel and are no longer considered Gentiles (1 Cor 12:2 “Ye know that ye **were** Gentiles...” See also Eph 2:11; Rom 2:28-29; Gal 6:15-16). As a comparison, legalized immigrants to America are no longer referred to their former nationalities, but are legally termed “Americans.” They may preface their heritage as African-American, German-Americans, Italian-Americans, etc.; but they are no longer considered as citizens of a foreign nation. *They are now Americans!*

Perhaps this is as good a place as any to ask the question, “Who is Israel?” I will let Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian) answer this question.⁸³¹

The Torah speaks of several different classes of people:

- a. **The Jew** - those who are the sons of Israel. These are the ones who entered the covenant with HaShem at Mt. Sinai with circumcision, immersion, and oath...
- b. **The stranger** – Gentiles, non-Jews. These are the people who have not entered into a covenantal relationship with HaShem, yet they live among the Jews.
- c. **The Ger Toshav** – *The stranger or alien living among you.* A stranger who is in the process of converting and has accepted the seven laws of Noah. These people have entered a covenantal relationship with HaShem, on a beginning level, by agreeing to obey the Hakhamim and by oath.
- d. The **Ger Tzaddik** – A convert who has joined himself to the children of Israel. He is treated as a Jew in every way. These people have entered a covenantal relationship with HaShem on an advanced level with circumcision, immersion, and oath.

With the above in mind, I bring up the subject of the ethnicity of Elijah:

Elijah was known by several names. He was called Elijah the Gileadite because he lived in Transjordan Gilead. But he was not a citizen of the area. He belonged to the class of tolerated half-citizens call *toshavim*, “dwellers.” Hence, the name “Tishbi” or “Tisbite” was applied to him. —Alfred J. Kolatch⁸³²

What does *Tishbi* mean in Hebrew?⁸³³

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite (H8664), who was of the inhabitants (H8453) of Gilead, H8864 = יְהִיָּבִי = the *Tishbite*

Ignore the ה=hey which means “the”

tav sheme bet yud are the Hebrew letters that spell *ha'tishbi*

H8453 = מְתוֹשָׁבִי = resident *alien*, - foreigner-inhabitant, sojourner, stranger

Ignore the מ=mem which means “of” or “from”

same Hebrew letters which spell *m'toshavi* that is related to the word

tshuve = to return.

One can now simply see that the letters in both of the above Hebrew words are the same. Elijah was *not* born Jewish! He was a resident alien who joined himself to Joseph through Gilead.

Eze 47:23 And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourns, there shall ye give him his inheritance, says the Lord GOD.

When we sing the song “Days of Elijah” let us consider the deep meanings of the song as it relates to the message of Elijah is to bring:

Matt 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Mal 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The scholar Jan Joosten reviewed the Holiness Code (Lev. 17-26), and found the sacrifices are not obligatory on the Gentiles in Israel -- the sojourners, but the Law provided if they wanted to participate, they had to abide by the same legal standard as applied to "sons of Israel" as their obligation. Jan Joosten explains in *People and Land in the Holiness Code: An Exegetical Study of the Ideational Framework of the Law in Leviticus 17-26*, Volume 67 (Brill 1996) at page 68:

Here [in Lev. 22:18], as in [Lev.] 17:8, the ger [sojourner / Gentile] is seen to bring sacrifices which could lead one to think of a proselyte. However, the priestly laws nowhere limit the bringing of sacrifices exclusively to the Israelites. [FN. Cf. the sacrifice brought by the foreigner in 22:25, and Numbers 15:14 where both gerim and 'whoever else is living among you' are permitted to bring sacrifices.] Also note that the present law does not require that the ger offer sacrifices to YHWH, but merely regulates for that eventuality. The picture which is emerging is of an alien residing among the Israelites in their land to whom the possibility of sacrificing at the Israelite shrine is open. Should he wish to bring sacrifice, then his sacrifice must meet all the usual requirements.—Doug V.⁸³⁴

What does a “multitude of nations” mean? The Hebrew for this phrase only once in the OT in Genesis 48:19 when Joseph was laying his hand upon Ephraim (H669 = 'ephrayim = double fruit). Paul may have well been referring to this phrase in Romans 11:25.⁸³⁵

Gen 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: howbeit his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a **multitude**. [H4393 *melô* mel-o' from H4390 (to be full of); fullness] **of nations** (H1471 *goy* = a froegin nations, hence a Gentile).

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceits, that a hardening in part hath befallen Israel, until the **fulness** (G4138 = plērōma **fulness repletion or completion, what is filled is put in to fill up**) **of the Gentiles** be come in. (My emphasis)

Ephraim is going to produce a fullness of nations or gentiles. Those grafted in are more specifically related to Ephraim, the son of Joseph, who was half-Egyptian.

What does the New Testament indicate? Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to “go the lost sheep of the House of Israel” (Matt 10:6, 15:24). The Apostle James recognizes the existence of the twelve tribes that were “scattered abroad” in his own day.

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

The New Testament can use the terms Israel and Jew interchangeably. In Romans 11:1 Paul correctly calls himself an Israelite of which the tribe of Benjamin (and also Judah) was one of the 12 tribes. Benjamin later aligned itself with the Kingdom of Judah

when its Civil War occurred. So Paul is also be correct when he calls himself a Jew (Acts 21:39) because he was a national citizen of the political region called Judea as well as a Roman citizen. He had dual citizenship of which people, even today, may have.

It is not all black and white as we would like it to be. There were no other God fearers at the time except for the Jewish people. The ten tribes had originally forsaken their God and adopted the pagan gods of heathen nations.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "LOST" TEN TRIBES

Is it a Matter of Faith?

The importance of the Gospel message takes precedence over the teaching of the "lost" ten tribes. The "Lost Ten Tribes" is not a major point in my belief system. It has also been noted that it is not the major point in some HR ministries. The below questions are not intended to further a doctrinal point as to who or what comprises Israel today, however, I just ask whether we all have appropriate answers.

■ Can one simply believe/have faith in the promises to Jacob's descendents for the "last days" (Gen 49:1). Notable Christian ministries do not seem to wish to address this prophecy of the "last days."⁸³⁶

Special note: The "sand of the sea" (as well as "stars of the sky, "dust of the earth") can be a rhetorical device (2 Chron 1:9; Isa 10:22) but it is also a prophecy relating to the relative size of the people of Israel at the end time. The Jewish global population only numbers some 13 million (0.0017%) out of the world's population of 7.6 billion people. Is this really the prophesized "sand of the sea"? Hosea 1:10 reveals that after the *after* Israel's tribes are exiled from the Promised Land that He will make...

...the number of the children of Israel...as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered...

Ishmael's descendents were also prophesied to blessed and become a "great nation" bringing forth "twelve princes." (Gen 17:20-21). The Ishmaelites are among today's Arab populations with a blessing of oil reserves. Not all Arabs are Ishmaelites. Neither are all Arabs Muslim, even though many are. How many Ishmaelite Arabs are there today? It has been estimated at over 100,000,000⁸³⁷ within the worldwide population of Arab League of 400+ million.⁸³⁸ One must also be aware that "Arab identity is defined independently of religious identity, and pre-dates the spread of Islam."⁸³⁹ Not all Arabs are Muslims. Not all Muslims are Arabs.

Obviously it would appear that the blessings of the "sand of the sea" for descendents befits Ishmael—not the total worldwide Israel and total Jewish population of 13 million. This is of course, unless one takes into account the population of the other "ten tribes"!

When you read the promises in Genesis 48 and 49 and Deuteronomy 33 they must be fulfilled BEFORE the Messiah returns. They're not Millennial promises and they're unconditional. Books dealing with eschatology written today NEVER discuss this subject -- and for good reason -- these best selling authors can't explain it. They and other ministries don't have the answers.

If you doubt the veracity of what I'm saying, choose the 10 best selling books dealing with the subject of eschatology today and see if you can find any mention of the birthrights being fulfilled as a prerequisite before the Messiah returns. The silence is deafening.—Jeff Booth, Hope of Israel Ministries⁸⁴⁰

It must be remembered that the regathering of the "exiles of Israel," including the Lost Ten Tribes, is considered to be a distinguishing task of the Messiah, in both Biblical and Rabbinic texts.—Dennis Jones⁸⁴¹

- Is context important whenever one studies Scripture? For example: Ezekiel 37:26 describes the reuniting of the two houses under King David at a time of resurrection when God will have His sanctuary “in the midst of them fore evermore.” Is King David or the Messiah here today? No. Note Jer 30:9.
- Have the Jewish people, as a nation, repented? Restoration is based upon repentance and a new heart according to Deuteronomy 30:1-10.
- Has the present State of Israel ever dwelled safely within her borders since 1948? No. Ezekiel 38:11-12 states that "Israel" dwells safely at the end times.
- Especially note that in latter-day Biblical prophecies, the Jews called “Judah” (Zephaniah 2, Zechariah 12 and 14). The term “Judah” is mentioned nowhere in Ezekiel 38-39 is the term Judah mentioned; therefore, the present State of Israel is not the nation in this prophecy.
- Does Israel today meet Ezekiel reference that Israel would be a nation(s) known for its "cattle and goods"? Israel ranks 36 among the top 60 nations in beef production.⁸⁴²
- White people are classified as Caucasian. Ever wonder why? Mass migrations occurred through the Caucasus Mountains in the upper Middle East between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Who addresses the 5 W's (who, what , why, when, where) of these migrations?

* * *

I would be remiss to omit a few opposing opinions on the subject particularly one from Tim Hegg and Batya Wootten’s corresponding response, plus another statement from Ron Matsen of

Tim Hegg. 2002. The Two-House Theory. Three Fatal Flaws. <https://www.torahresource.com/EnglishArticles/Two%20House%20Fatal%20Errors.pdf> and Batya Wootten’s response to Tim Hegg <http://www.redeemedisrael.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/1Hegg-Response-for-PDF-2013.pdf>

Ron Matsen. 2020, Jan 1. The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology

<https://www.khouse.org/articles/2020/1372/>

Replacement Theology produces “Aberration from sound Biblical exegesis. It produces historic errors like British Israelism where the people of Western European, particularly those in Great Britain, are the direct lineal descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.”—Ron Matsen⁸⁴³

Prove all things!

Who Is Israel? In the 1880s the New York Times published a number of articles promoting a Jewish state in Palestine. Other articles speculated on the migration of the ten tribes.⁸⁴⁴ The people were called Jewish—not Israelite. In 1896 Theodor Herzl, a Jew, made a case for a Jewish state when he wrote the pamphlet *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State).⁸⁴⁵ The Nazi’s used the phrase “the Final Solution” to the “Jewish Question”—not the “Israeli” Question. OK...this may seem superficial.

A primary facet of the BI belief may be retained by the various Herbert Armstrong derived Churches of Gods (COGs) and others in their preaching that the United States and Great Britain fulfill the national prophecies given to the two tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. The COGs believe that their membership are grafted into a spiritual Israel—as do Hebrew Roots®—of whose members *may* or *may not* be actual physical descendents. I do not know since I am no longer connected with any of the WCG split-off groups.

Steven Collins, a former Worldwide Church of God member, decided to investigate and research the claims of his former church. He has published five books on the topic of the exile and dispersion of the ten tribes. It is unknown what impact he has had in the

HR Awakening. To reiterate, I have not heard the subject discussed in the many HR meetings I have attended. Neither do I bring the subject up.

Grafted-In. It is *important* to note that not all adherents of Two House Theology believe they are blood line descendents because it cannot be proven. Instead, they correctly believe that they have been “grafted in” into the Commonwealth of Israel. How can something be grafted into the same tree and not take part in its nourishment? It can’t. Messianic Jewish published sources (internet and paper) commonly report that Hebrew Roots adherents believe they are blood-line descendents. That could be, but that is not always the case.

Within Messianic Judaism, Batya Wootten's 1998 book *Who Is Israel* apparently was an influence among some of the Gentile MJ membership. The book, in conjunction with her teaching on the subject since 1983, her earlier 1988 book, plus hosting conferences since 1990, may have been the genesis of a shift within MJ which helped create the fledging Hebraic Roots Awakening. James Scott Trimm (above) confirms my analysis. Unlike others who describe various individual western nations as the possible descendents of the lost 10 tribes, Wootten writes little about the ten tribes’ migration into specific nations. She simply points the reader in a direction substantiated by Scripture, not BI, that the twelve tribe descendents could be anywhere and probably are dispersed “in the west”⁸⁴⁶

....because an "east wind" was sent against Ephraime, and the east winds carry toward the west. So it is that the Father says that in the last days, Ephraim "will come trembling from the west." (Hosea 13:15; 11:9-10). —Batya Wootten⁸⁴⁷

In her 2008 book *Israel's feasts and their fulfillment*, Batya writes no one can know for certain whether people can be blood-line descendents:

Are the [gentile] people who are now turning to Israel's feasts returning virgin Israel? [Jer 31:21 ...Return, O virgin of Israel, return to your cities"]. Are they actually physical Israelites? Only the Almighty can know for certain whether they are or are not...⁸⁴⁸

Wootten also writes in her book *Passover in all its Fullness*:

[M]any non-Jewish Believers now feel sovereignly called to honor these ancient feasts...Could they actually be of Israel?...our assumption is that the majority (not necessarily all) are sons of Jacob and are indeed Israelites.⁸⁴⁹

Daniel Botkin, a Messianic leader, affirms my past and current belief in being “grafted in” as he explains:

This does **not** mean that every single Gentile Christian who has any interest in Hebrew Roots is a biological descendent of one of the northern tribes of Israel. But because both Paul and Peter connect the fulfillment of Hosea’s prophecy [Hosea Chapter 1] to Gentiles coming to faith in Israel’s Messiah (see Romans 9:24-26 & I Peter 2:9), it means *some* of the Gentiles coming to faith in Israel’s Messiah are descendents of those Israelites who assimilated and lost their tribal identities centuries ago. Whether that “some” is 1% or 99% is irrelevant. The

relevant thing is that according to the prophecies, **some of the descendants of the tribes of Israel have to be someday reclaimed** and be called the sons of God and be reunited with the tribes of Judah as one united people.⁸⁵⁰ (Emphasis is mine)

It does not matter whether one espouses his belief in being a physical descendent or not. *The bottom line* is that believers are grafted in through our Savior Y'shua haMaschiach /Jesus the Christ/Anointed. Jim Staley has had personal issues in being sentenced to prison, nevertheless. he previously gave an informative video series on "Identity Crisis" on You-Tube which I recommend.⁸⁵¹

HR adherents believe that they are grafted into the one olive tree (Romans 11) of the yet future reunited entire spiritual House of Israel (which will again include the tribe of Judah). The grafting does *not* make a person Jewish. When one repents of their sins accepts Christ as Savior he becomes a *spiritual* Israelite. This is consistent with the *Torah* teaching of Exodus and Numbers whereby a stranger may become a citizen of Israel.⁸⁵²

You were Gentiles. We need to read how Paul addresses the Gentiles. Note the use of the past tense English word "were":

1 Cor 12:2 "Ye know that **ye were** Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as you were led."

Gentiles once without Christ are now made part of the Commonwealth of Israel:

Eph 2:11-13 Because of this, remember that you, the nations, were then in the flesh (those having been called Uncircumcision by those having been called Circumcision in the flesh made by hands). 12 that at that time **you were without Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel** and strangers of the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now, in Christ Jesus** you who then were afar off, **came to be near by the blood of Christ**

A Gentile is not a Jew outwardly but inwardly. A Gentile does not replace the Jew, nor does the "church" replace the Jew. This is not replacement theology. The believing Christian Gentiles (or church) is fitted into Israel. Not the other way around.

Rom 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew that is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that outwardly in flesh; 29 but he is a Jew that is one inwardly, and circumcision is of heart, in spirit, not in letter; of whom the praise is not from men, but from God.

To whom is Peter addressing his first letter?

1 Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to the strangers** scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1 Pet 2:9-10 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light::10 Which in time past **were not** a people, but **are now** the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, **but now** have obtained mercy.

What's it all about Alfie? Does this mean that a believing Torah pursuant Gentile becomes a physical descendent of the House of Israel because he is grafted in? No. How God works this out in His coming Kingdom remains to be seen. There are only twelve gates in the New Jerusalem. There is no Gentile gate. Gentile turned believers

must enter one of the gates by identifying with one of the twelve tribes of Israel—inasmuch as Elijah did. So...let us leave it at that...in His Hands...and go about growing in grace and knowledge and the fruit of the Spirit. OK?

According to Daniel Juster, past president of the UMJC, writes that the primary error of the Jewish Roots movement is that "true Christians are the lost tribes of Israel."⁸⁵³ And I agree with Juster. I do and did not believe this even when I was a member of the Worldwide Church of God; nor was I personally taught this as a member of that church (as much as I can recall since this happened so long ago in my life). Others of the former WCG would probably agree with me. No one can know if they are a member of a lost tribe of Israel, Christian or not. Does this mean that Christians and non-Christians could possibly be descendants? Why of course. Can this be proven? No! I still find it interesting as to why some Church of God and HR/MJ adherents claiming to be grafted in still seek DNA testing confirmation.

I concur with John P. Parsons of *Hebrew 4 Christians* who writes:

Lastly, the question must be made regarding the *relevance* of this teaching. What practical difference does it make for the follower of the Messiah to believe that he/she is part of ethnic Israel? Will such a belief help you in your daily walk of faith with the LORD?⁸⁵⁴

My answer is ...

A stranger/Gentile wishing to accept the blood of the lamb at the Passover acknowledges YHVH as His God. God in the *Torah* teaches against mixing different seeds. One is not allowed to graft a different species, such as an apple tree branch, into an olive tree.⁸⁵⁵ (We are warned of a similar mixed seed tree called the Tree of Good and Evil). A Gentile, pictured as a *wild* olive branch, does not remain a Gentile once he is grafted into the *cared for* olive tree. But this does *not* make Him a physical Israelite who has the same right of return to Israel, today, as the Jewish people.

When one repents and accepts Y'shua/Jesus as Savior and the Gentile becomes as part of the natural olive tree bearing the same life-giving force from the root and the same fruit. (Interestingly, Bill Cloud has stated that it takes 3 days for a graft to begin to bind its fibers with the trunk of the tree. The graft is called a *scion* p(ronounced *si-en*) in botanical terminology. This is very similar to Zion: *zi-en*).⁸⁵⁶ As Paul further clarifies:

Gal 3:28-29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

In 2003, Dan Juster met with two noted HR evangelists/teachers to discuss these differences and clarifies a relationship reached in 2003 regarding Two House theology:

My concern with some of the Two House views had to do with their being border line heresy or even actual heresy because the N. T. emphasis on the Gospel being offered to all peoples was down played and the N. T. was interpreted to mean that the preaching of the Gospel today is mostly an offer of salvation to Judah and the lost northern tribes of Israel. In addition, it was of concern that there was teaching that Christians should claim their part in the land of Israel, which could be understood in a way of displacement.

Monty [Judah] and Eddie [Chumney] do not hold these views and **should be treated as brothers with whom we are in fellowship**. This does not mean that I agree with all their emphases, but that is a different matter than heresy..." "Monty and Eddie hold that the Body of Believers is gathering people who are physical descendants from the lost tribes in significant numbers. They do not claim to know the numbers. They embrace that the Body includes multitudes from all nations as well. However, they see the Body of Believers as having an "Israeliteish" character. While I do not agree with the emphasis on the lost tribes, I do not see this as heresy."⁸⁵⁷ (Emphasis is the author's)

However, the brethren in the MJAA and the IAMCS proceeded to threaten Dr. Juster using the same bully tactics. Sadly, he backed down and withdrew his public statement.—Monte Judah⁸⁵⁸

Ancestry/Genealogy. A number of HR *and* MJ adherents are interested in whether they have a Jewish ancestry. This is probably natural due to their interest in Scripture and the *Torah*, inasmuch as some WCG members had an interest in their genealogies to determine if they had Israelite ancestry. It is a natural human inclination to investigate ones roots. (I also looked into my own genealogy due to my grandmothers maiden name which came, in part, from Scripture.) In my WCG experience, I was *not* taught that I was actually a physical descendent of any of the 10 tribes because it did *not* matter spiritually. I was a believer and grafted into the tree (as HR also teaches). This does *not* mean that the COGs and HR "replace" Israel.

Boaz Michaels, a Gentile, explains the Jewish perspective of Two House in that Jews would become extinct since they would no longer be a the unique and special distinction between Jew and Gentile⁸⁵⁹

Batya Wootten emphatically counterpoints that if one does not have to be of a genealogical line of the patriarchs to be saved. If a person believes that they might be a biological descendant of Israel, she could defend this unprovable, yet very provable claim through Scriptures.⁸⁶⁰

I personally do not think feelings have much to do with this although I know others may disagree. Batya explains:

The true ekklesia/church/congregation/called-out ones of the New Covenant belong to Messiah Y'shua's Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-22). That Commonwealth consists of saved Jews and saved Israelites from the lost ten tribes, as well as all of their saved companions – regardless of genetic background.⁸⁶¹

However, the exact percentage that has done so is unknown. Their percentage within the entire body of Messiah is also unknown.⁸⁶²

Wootten's attempt's to correct the erroneous statements of others made of her in a conciliatory manner consistent with Matthew 18 has met with resistance from other MJ leaders.⁸⁶³ Despite Koniuchowsky (a Jew) denials that he is anti-Jewish, there are those who state otherwise.⁸⁶⁴ I suppose we can all go looking for an agenda to substantiate one's claims.

How many HR adherents believe that they actually are the actual blood-line descendents of the Lost Ten Tribes? I don't know. The controversy still continues as of this writing as Alan Lee wrote in 2015:

In a nutshell, the Ephraimite theology, that is being propagated around this hot-bed [Kansas City, KS] states that everyone who comes to Messiah through faith is in the bloodline of Israel and the only ones who can come to Messiah are those who are direct descendents in the royal bloodline of Abraham. By focusing on controversial statements as though there are emphatic and dogmatic answers, they ignore some of the most fundamental issues to our faith. Namely the gentiles have been grafted into the Olive Tree. Specifically, that we are no longer strangers and foreigners to the covenants and promises given to Israel, but are now a part of them as the one new man.—Alan Lee, Lighthenup Ministries⁸⁶⁵

The Name "Israel." In 1948 the Jewish homeland was named Israel after other names, such as Zion, Judah, Judea, and Herzliya were considered. Aharon Reuveni (1886-1972), a Hebrew writer, has claimed it was his idea in a letter dated in 1947, not David Ben-Gurion, to name the Jewish homeland as Israel—not Judea.⁸⁶⁶

Throughout the centuries, the Jewish believers in the land of Judea were called "Jews," the Balfour Declaration sought to create a "national home for the Jewish people" to resolve what had been called by others as the "Jewish Question." The Nazi's later sought a "Final Solution" and used the writings of Martin Luther⁸⁶⁷ to support them to resolve this "question." The declaration did not seek to create an "Israeli homeland" nor resolve the "Israel' Question. It was always about the "Jews" as they were called during these centuries and into the 20th century. Did the name become a genesis for later equivocation? Scripturally there are two houses and two kingdoms.

To the Jew (and many Christians) the terms Israel and Jew (Judah) are synonymous. There is no difference. Boaz Michael writes that the Jewish people *own* the name of Israel and furthers confusion in Jewish identity as an impression of Replacement Theology when the name "Israel" is used by HR adherents. Steve Shermett, President of the Association of Messianic Congregation agrees with Michael regarding the use and name of Israel.⁸⁶⁸

The messages taught by the primary HR ministries, however, is that the term "Israel" is much more encompassing and inclusive than just being Jewish and of the tribe of Judah.

Due to their minority status, Jews in America have had to mount an effort to maintain their identity culture to avoid assimilation into society. One can appreciate and acknowledge the Jewish sensitivity over the use of the name Israel especially since the persecution over the centuries, the Holocaust and that nation's "rebirth" in 1948. The later rise of Messianic Judaism in the turbulent 60s and 70s was viewed as *not* being Jewish and as a threat by Jews to their identity and culture. To counter this impression, Jewish traditions were included as part of the Messianic Jewish worship service with the center being Y'shua and the New Covenant.⁸⁶⁹

Right of Return. As Dan Juster, pastor for 27 years, founding President (1979-1986) of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregation (UMJC) and General Secretary (1996-1998) further explains:

Monty [Judah] and Eddie [Chumney] are not encouraging Christians to move to Israel or claim their inheritance in the present Israel.⁸⁷⁰

Both Boaz Michael and Dan Juster express their disagreement to any Right-of Return by Two-House adherents to the land of Israel.⁸⁷¹ I would disagree as well—that is, in this age prior to the return of the Messiah. My knowledge of the major leaders of the HR Movement thus far indicates they would disagree as well.

Without having any further information, I just offer that this belief could be based upon Ezekiel 47:21-23 where it addresses aliens (*Ger Toshav*).⁸⁷² Nevertheless, based upon the history of Christian Evangelism, today's State of Israel would see internal conflict with Messianics (Jews and/or Gentiles) wishing to claim citizenship and land ownership and wresting control of the government from the Jewish people. The Jewish people know better than to let this happen in today's religio-political climate.

Herbert Armstrong is quoted in a June 1948 *Plain Truth Magazine* that advocates a right of return:

Armstrong's followers had the idea that the right to possess the land of Israel belonged not to the Jews, but to the Gentile nations of Britain and America, under the banner of Ephraim.—IAMCS⁸⁷³

I was in the WCG for 22+ years and was never taught this! I learned about the WCG in 1967 and in my enthusiasm I read every piece of material from the church I could get my hands on. Did the WCG keep this secret all of my years or did Armstrong change his mind? I think the later. Elsewhere I refer to another 1940s quote in which Armstrong is quoted in a publication of the British Commonwealth and the United States in Prophecy which was updated 25 years later and in which he had changed his mind.⁸⁷⁴ Why do not people use the latest source material? Unless it is an attempt to reveal that people cannot change their minds and beliefs as they grow in grace and knowledge?

As I stated previously, HR is a Heinz57® assortment of beliefs among many groups. As one author points out:

The Apostle John uses the apt metaphor "Sodom and Egypt" to describe the spiritual condition of latter-day Jerusalem (Rev. 11:8, cp. Gal. 4:25).[6] Repatriating the holy land when it is filled with iniquity is, in my opinion, foolhardy. Instead, Yshua challenges us to "occupy til I come" (Lk. 19:13), wherever we may reside.⁸⁷⁵

Repentance. It is common knowledge that the Jewish people in the State of Israel are not repentant today or even yesterday, so to speak, when the nation was founded in 1948 by non-religious atheist Jewish leaders. This includes Theodor Herzl (1860-1904) one of the earliest promoters of a Jewish State and David Ben-Gurion the first President

of the present State of Israel.¹³ God used Cyrus and non-Israelite and Jewish Bible personalities to fulfill his will so this is not a new. But it does raise some interesting questions (of which I will not delve into).

Since I invoke Torah so often, let me state that I don't personally believe in the God it postulates ... I am not religious, nor were the majority of the early builders of Israel believers. Yet their passion for this land stemmed from the Book of Books ... [The Bible is] the single most important book in my life.—David Ben-Gurion.⁸⁷⁶

Israel is a secular nation today comprised of 70% atheists or agnostics,⁸⁷⁷ does not observe the *Torah*, nor believes in Christ, and finds the *Talmud* too difficult to follow. Not even the majority of Jewish people can or wish to keep the Torah according to the Rabbinic teachings. When visiting Israel one will discover that only the city of Jerusalem keeps the Sabbath day.⁸⁷⁸

As described previously Rabbi Yehuda Shurpin,⁸⁷⁹ the tribes will come back if they repent according to Rabbi Shimon ben Yehuda. (Lev 26:33-45.

Restoration is based upon repentance and a new heart according to Deuteronomy 30:1-10 (See also Lev 26:33-45).

Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Lev 26:40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

Deu 30:10 if thou shalt obey the voice of Jehovah thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law; if thou turn unto Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul

It is evident that the Millennial prophecies (e.g. Isaiah 11) have not yet been fulfilled in the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel. Israel has not yet repented or fully repented (choose one) according to Scripture (Lev 26:33-45, especially 40,41,45; Deut 30:1-3). Plus similar to the first century, the Jewish people most generally still reject Christ as the Messiah.

The land of the State of Israel has many rocky soils and has desolate desert areas. God stated the land of ancient Israel was to become desolate because of sin (Lev 26:23; Isa 6:11;13:9).

Ezekiel 36:26 is similar to the prophecy in Jeremiah 31:31-34 where it describes a new heart being given

Eze 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

This fact alone reveals that this prophecy of the full return to the land of Israel has not yet been fulfilled completely today. Does this prophecy question the supposition of Israel returning in stages? (Discussed below) I only ask the question.

¹³ Ben-Gurion was an atheist in his youth and irreligious in his later years and had little sympathy for the traditional Judaism. He extensively quoted the Bible in his speeches and writings—more than any other Jewish politician then or since. David Hulme. 2008, Summer. History. Biography. David Ben-Gurion: For the Love of Zion. <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/biography-david-ben-gurion/5810.aspx>

Prophetic Implications. Has Israel really returned to the land as prophesied? There are three positions on this: 1) Yes, 2) partially yes (stages) and 3) no, Judah is not really Judah but Edom and the Ashkenazi Jews who are not really Jews.

Prophetic interpretation differs between Two House and One House adherents. One Law theology, (i.e. Hebrew Roots) is criticized for their “false claims” related to end-time prophecy.”⁸⁸⁰

I will address in detail the second position in two different interpretations:

2A) The return of Israel (whether it be one tribe of Judah or not) will occur in stages. This has Biblical support. Tim LaHaye, a Baptist evangelical Christian minister, offers his interpretation of Ezekiel 37:

EZEKIEL 37: THE STAGES of the RESTORATION OF ISRAEL (from Tim LaHaye)⁸⁸¹	
v1 Scattered bones	Israel in dispersion
v6,8 Sinews connected to bones	Pre-1948 gathering
v8 Flesh and skin on bone	Israel becomes a nation (present state)
v8 Skin covers the body	Israel during the Tribulation
v9,10 Breath from the wind into body	Israel after national conversion

Tim Kelley also teaches that the gathering also may be done in stages.

But just as Israel was gradually dismantled, it will come together in stages, and how we react when God begins to gather his people back may affect how God’s plan is carried out. We’re going to look at an earlier partial fulfillment of the prophecies of return to see how God’s people dealt with those who were returning in their day...—Tim Kelley, Hebrew Roots teacher⁸⁸²

Does Zephaniah 2:1-7 (particularly verse 7) refer to this first stage of the return from the diapsora by Judah mainly to the coast of Israel when the British mandated ended in 1948? It would appear to be so. As does the following reference to Judah in Zechariah:

Zech 14:14 And **Judah also shall fight against Jerusalem**; and the wealth of all the nations round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.

In the later days it is noted in Genesis 49:8-9 that the tribe of Judah/State of Israel will be like a conquering young lion. Consider the three wars that Israel has fought and won and the nation’s strong stance against the Palestinians and Iran. These verses seriously question the theory that the Ashkenazi Jews are not “real” Jews because they were descended from the Khazars. (This was based upon *The Thirteenth Tribe* a 1976 book by Arthur Koestler.)⁸⁸³

2B) The prophecies of the return of Israel is coupled with the prophecies of Edom. Consider Dr. Stephen E. Jones teaching on the role of Edom in the end times.

Unfortunately, many Christians do not know the history of Edom and how it was conquered and absorbed into Judea in 126 B.C. Hence, they do not understand that **the Jews today have two sets of prophecies to fulfill—Edom and Judah**. Because the law does not allow the people of Judah to return to the land

prior to repenting from their hostility to Jesus Christ (Leviticus 26:40, 41, 42), **the Israeli state was formed under the spiritual authority of Edom, not Judah.**

Most Christians are unaware that the Edomites always coveted the land of Israel and Judah. The modern Zionist movement is a fleshly, Edomite movement disguised as the fulfillment of the prophecies given to Israel. One cannot understand the modern fulfillment of prophecy without knowing the history and prophecies about Esau-Edom.—Dr. Stephen E. Jones⁸⁸⁴ (Emphasis added)

EZEKIEL 37

The PRESENT and/or the FUTURE?

The Messianic and Christian communities may cite the below verses (among others) to support the regathering of the present day State of Israel. When we are careful to follow the 3Cs of Bible interpretation we discover that these cited verses are yet to have a future fulfillment.

[Ezekiel 37:13-14](#); [Isaiah 66:8](#) These two prophecies can also mean that the remainder of the entire nation of Israel from ancient times to the future time will be resurrected in one day by the Messiah at the White Throne Judgment. This is further explored in my book *The Future and Hope: Revealing the Concealed Patterns in God's Festivals*. The Talmud (Sanhedrin 92b and Gemara) indicates that Ezekiel 37 is to be taken as a parable or literally.⁸⁸⁵

[Isaiah 11:11](#) This verse describes the future Davidic Kingdom *under the Messiah* (v 1-10—not a secular government agency) who gathers “the **second** time to recover the remnant of His people” (My emphasis).

[Zephaniah 3:9*](#) This verse with the future Kingdom blessings under the Messiah is preceded by the future judgment of the Gentiles (verse 8).

According to a mainstream Christian web site:

The Israelites residing in the Holy Land today are not the fulfillment of this prophecy. It will be fulfilled when God regathers believing Israelites to the land (Jer 31:33; 33:14-16) and Christ returns to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Matt 24:30-31)—Got Questions.Org⁸⁸⁶

Israel was indeed born in a day in 1948. What does this mean? Can a case be made for duality in prophecy or a partial fulfillment of prophecy by stage? I would think so. Is there a metaphor for this prophecy? I have heard that the word David is a metaphor for David Ben-Gurion, the first president of Israel. Such a metaphor does *not* meet the fulfillment of the remainder of the prophecy. We need to exercise caution with the use of metaphors and also building an interpretation on one Bible verse.

*Take special note that this one verse is the only Bible verse to contain all of the 22 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet plus all of its additional 5 final forms.

The SECOND EXODUS Jeremiah 16:14-15; 23:7-8

Ezekiel 28:25-26, Isaiah 11:11-12, Hosea 11:-8-11

The world's Jewish population still holds the Passover as a memorial* to coming out of Egypt (not all the nations) as it is still widely celebrated today. This fact alone reveals that all of Israel has *not* been regathered into the present State of Israel today. Why? The reestablished State of Israel does not celebrate the return of the Jews from around the world to the Holy Land at its traditional Passover observance, notwithstanding some key events:

The return of almost half (six out of fourteen million) of the global Jewish population to the Land of Israel.

The amazing rescue of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews in an airlift lasting less than 48 hours stirred and inspired people for a few weeks. Subsequently, the difficult problems the newcomers faced (similar to those of the 900,000 recent Soviet immigrants) occupied the Jewish media.

Now both are taken for granted. The miracle has become routine. But if you had told the Jews of Ethiopia two generations ago that they would someday all fly to Israel in a giant silver bird, they could only conceive of this as a Messianic miracle.—Rabbi Allen S. Maller.⁸⁸⁷

This second exodus corresponds with Yeshua's second coming and reigning over this earth and executing judgment (verses 2–5). It appears that Ephraim returns to the land of Israel at or just after the second coming of Yeshua and after he has destroyed Babylon the Great, and not before.⁸⁸⁸

*The Jewish Rabbinic ceremonial details of this famous holiday are detailed in the *Haggadah* (the written guide to the Passover Seder).

Torah Observance. It is my perception that the reaction to BI and Two House among Christians and Messianic Jews revolves around the issue of Torah observance for all believers in Y'shua. Belief in both the Torah and Yeshua is not compatible with mainline MJ and traditional Christian beliefs; therefore, in my opinion, any connection to believers and lost tribes has to be eliminated.

A Special Calling. Ancient Israel was given a special calling by God to be His priests and a holy nation (Ex 19:3-6). The priesthood has passed from the firstborn of Israel, to the tribe of Levi, and lastly to that of Melchizedek. We see that the special calling and relationship will continue into the future with the New Jerusalem and its 12 Gates. All nations will come to it. And yet rulership over cities is also held out to all who serve Christ (Luke 19: 17-19). There will be many nations (at least 70) in His millennial kingdom. Believers need to be more concerned about overcoming and growing in the fruit of the Spirit, rather than who will be chief among people (Mark 10:40). Where rulership and priesthood begins and ends is in His Hands in the New Jerusalem.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

* * *

In Closing

The reactions to Two House Theology can be emotional. It is wise to steer away from this topic when attending MJ fellowships. It appears that some just do not wish to have non-Jewish people following the basic tenets of the Jewish/Hebraic walk of faith.⁸⁸⁹ The Two-House message is recognized by its critics as *not* being highly promoted in HR teachings.⁸⁹⁰ The gospel is the important message. Two House is *not* the gospel.

From what I have been able to gather, Hebraic Roots generally do not find the Two House belief as divisive as Messianic-Judaism. Hebraic Roots does *not* associate *nor* subscribe “to the anti-Semitism commonly espoused by the Christian or Israel Identity groups” as correctly stated in Wikipedia.⁸⁹¹

Another criticism—this one accurate—aimed at British-Israel advocates is that some of their proponents incorporated racism into their beliefs. Prejudicial racist

views have tarnished their reasoning, thus discrediting the historical aspects of their teachings. This is both regrettable and biblically unacceptable. Racial bigotry is most definitely not what the Bible teaches. God is not the author of such a point of view. He loves all people and commands us to do the same. The central issues we need to consider are whether many of the descendants of the 10 tribes of Israel reside in the British-descended nations today and, if so, what God expects of them. —United Church of God⁸⁹²

Unfortunately, the name calling and claim of racism is generally targeted against HR adherents.

I conclude this discussion with comments made by Hebrew Roots leaders that Messianic Judaism wishes the favor of Christian leaders' agenda for exclusive Messianic Judaism. It can be difficult to even find a Christian church top open its doors for the rent of a church building for Sabbath services unless the Christian agenda is met.⁸⁹³

On the other hand it must be noted that Boaz Michael and the FFOZ lost members and financial support when it changed its stance on Torah adherence. Michael states that the MJ congregations do cooperate with Christian organizations and do receive support from them because there is no conflict in their perspectives.⁸⁹⁴

ABOUT the AUTHOR



About the Author

Michael (Mike) G. Bacon has been observing God's festivals for over 50 years. He believes in the building of commonalities among believers. He furthers the message that we will be primarily known *not* by our potentially divisive doctrinal positions and personal evangelizing—but by overcoming in personal commitment of living a dedicated righteous lifestyle, by forgiving others and sharing the *agape* (love) we have for each other (John 13:35, Matt 25:34-45) by bearing the fruit of the Spirit. He asks questions to encourage people to explore their *modus operandi*, prove all things and to further one's responsibility to be an example and make a difference as a light. Mike has had a career as a city, county, and park planner and is a licensed landscape architect.

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The **bold** type in the above index is a word processing glitch that will be rectified in a later update.

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It can be questioned as to what determines a denomination. Conservative estimates range from at least 20,000 to as much as 43,000 denominations. As a comparison, The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary also estimated 34,000 denominations in 2000 and 43,000 in 2012. <https://theway21stcentury.wordpress.com/2012/11/23/how-many-christian-denominations-worldwide/> Retrieved 7/8/17 *Christianity Today* reported 41,000 in 2014:

Mary Fairchild. n.d. *Christianity Today*. <http://christianity.about.com/od/denominations/a/denominations.htm> Retrieved 12/31/14

However, all of that being said, The Way web site reports that:

"These "denominations" are defined in terms of being separate organisations, not necessarily separate beliefs. This is a critical difference, not commonly noted by critics." They also report that 2/3s-3/4's of the total are simply independent churches in Africa with similar doctrinal beliefs. This can be the same with other faiths such as the Lutherans and consequently would reduce the number of the stated denominations globally.

The Way. n.d. How many Christian denominations worldwide? n.d. Retrieved 11/5/19 <https://theway21stcentury.wordpress.com/2012/11/23/how-many-christian-denominations-worldwide/>

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The number of denominations is difficult to determine since there is no one definition of a denomination. Many function as a denominations but do not define themselves as such. There are 217 denominations listed in the 2006 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. Roman Catholicism is the largest denomination in the U.S. with 67 million members in 2005. The largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. is the Southern Baptist Convention, with 16 million members with the United Methodist Church coming in second at 8 million. Third largest is the Mormons (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) at 6 million and in fourth the Church of God in Christ, a predominantly black Pentecostal denomination, with 5.5 million. The 35,000 nondenominational or independent churches would collectively form the second largest Protestant group with 12.2+ million members.

Anderson Cooper. 2006, Dec 14. What is a Christian? ANDERSON COOPER 360 DEGREES. <http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0612/14/acd.02.html> Retrieved 11/15/15 "According to a Baylor University study, about 34 percent of us — fully 100 million Americans are Evangelical. That's an umbrella term covering dozens of denominations, as well as hundreds of independent churches." Twenty-two percent of which belong to mainline Protestant denominations (such as Episcopal and Presbyterian).

Justin J. Evans. n.d. The Facts and Stats on "33,000 Denominations" The 20,000 and 30,000 numbers and David Barrett's statistics Part II. <http://www.philvaz.com/apologetics/a106.htm> Retrieved 7/8/17 Statistics are found in the *World Christian Encyclopedia : a comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world* by David B. Barrett, by George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. 2001, 2nd Ed. Oxford University Press, Oxford, NY. 2 Volumes, 1699p.

..".world Christianity consists of 6 major ecclesiastico-cultural blocs, divided into 300 major ecclesiastical traditions, composed of over 33,000 distinct denominations in 238 countries, these denominations themselves being composed of over 3,400,000 worship centers, churches or congregations." (Barrett et al, volume 1, page 16, Table 1-5) About 97% of the independent churches are Protestants

Independents (22000±)

Protestants (9000±)

"Marginals" (1600±)

Orthodox (781)

Roman Catholics (242)

Anglicans (168)

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The video went viral and became one of the most effective sermons of all time. Washer addressed 3 issues in his "shocking message": 1) No sign of true repentance; 2) No response to a prior Christian testimony; and 3) Rowdy behavior by the youth at the closing of a prior church service

¹⁷⁸ Melissa Barnhart. 2013, June 30. Interview: David Barton on God, Abortion and Why Christians Must Vote. *Christian Post*. <http://www.christianpost.com/news/interview-david-barton-on-god-abortion-and-why-christians-must-vote-99085/> Retrieved 12/31/14 and Christians Anti-Defamation Commission 2010. Oct 10. The Numbers Don't Lie. <http://defendchristians.org/news/the-numbers-dont-lie/> and David Barton 11/2007. Congress, the Culture, and Christian Voting. <http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=3930> Retrieved 1/3/15

¹⁷⁹ Pew Survey. 2019, Jan 3. Faith on the Hill: The Religious Composition of the 116th Congress. <http://www.pewforum.org/2019/01/03/faith-on-the-hill-116/> Retrieved 1/4/2019

¹⁸⁰ <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports> Pew Research Center. 2015, May 15. *America's Changing Religious Landscape* <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>; and, <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports> Between 2007 and 2014 this percentage decreased to 70.6% according to their most recent Pew survey which revealed the declines occurred mainly among Catholics (-3.1%) and mainline Protestants (-3.4%). The drop was most noted to be the most among young adults, yet still declined among all ages. Atheist, agnostic, or "nothing in particular" rose from 16.1% to 22.8% and about 67% of Millennials (18-35) identify with a religious affiliation compared to 75% in 2007. Pew Research Center. 2015, May 15. *America's Changing Religious Landscape* <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

¹⁸¹ Thomas McDaniels. 2019, Dec 21. Church attendance is falling dramatically – Here are 5 things to do about it. <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/thomas-mcdaniels-5-ways-to-stop-the-decline-and-enhance-a-robust-church-revolution> Retrieved 12/25/19

¹⁸² "However, when asked how often they personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible, a similar number respond "Every Day" (19 percent) as respond "Rarely/Never" (18 percent). A quarter indicate they read the Bible a few times a week. Fourteen percent say they read the Bible "Once a Week" and another 22 percent say "Once a Month" or "A Few Times a Month." Russ Rankin. 2012, Sept. Study: Bible Engagement in Churchgoers' Hearts, Not Always Practiced. <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/research-survey-bible-engagement-churchgoers>

¹⁸³ Greg Laurie, TV Evangelist, 2020, Jan 17. What it really means to be 'born again' <https://www.wnd.com/2020/01/really-means-born/> Retrieved 1/19/20

¹⁸⁴ *Persecution*. 2014, Feb. Raising Hostility. "The Church is silent in the face of legal/social attacks." It is not shouting." p6 www.persecution.org. Retrieved 1/9/20

¹⁸⁵ *Persecution*. 2014, Feb. Rising Hostility. "Is the Western Church a Laodicean Church in desperate need of revival?" www.persecution.org. p6.

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¹⁹² Matt 5:17-20

¹⁹³ Dean Wheelock. 2009. *Gentiles and the Law? and*, Eddie Chumney. *Hebrew Roots@ 101*. 20p. p20; <http://www.hebroots.com/101notes.pdf> and, *Why we Believe What we Believe: 12 points of the Hebrew Roots® of Christianity*. House of David Fellowship. <http://houseofdauidfellowship.com/whywebelievewhatwebelieve.htm> and

Brad Scott. Frequently Asked Questions in Lesson Archive. <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/>

¹⁹⁴ ABOMINATIONS: 1. Divination, fortune tellers, witches (Deut 18:10-12); 2. Clothing of the opposite sex (Deut 22:5); 3. "Food" (Lev 11, Lev 20:25, Deut 14:3, Isa 66:1.4); 4. Graven Images (Deut 7:25, 27:15); 5. Heart, Being forward in heart or action (Pro 3:32,, 11:30) and looks (Pro 6:17); 6. Heart of pride (Prov 16:5); 7. Hear devising wicked imaginations (Pro 6:18); 8. Homosexuality (Lev 18:22); 9. Idolatry (Deut 32:16, 12:30); 10. Innocent blood shedding (Prov 6:17); 11. Judgment that is unrighteous (Prov 17:15); 12. Lying (Pro 6:16-17); 13. Offering a prostitutes wage (Deut 23:18); 14. Offering the Selling price of a dog (Deut 23:18); 15. Mischief fast (Pro 6:18); 16. Praying with an unrepentant heart (Pro 28:9); 17. Sacrifices: Eating the peace offering on the 3rd day (Lev 7:18); 18. Sacrifices: Impure animals offered: (Deut 17:1); 19. Sacrifices by the wicked (Pro 15:8, 21:27); 20. Sacrifices: Burning one's children. (Deut 18:10); 21. Scales that are unjust (Deut 25:14-16, Prov 11:1, 20:10); 22. Touching certain things (Lev 7:21); 23. Witnessing falsely (Pro 6:19); 24. Thoughts and ways of the wicked ((Pro 15:9, 26:16:12).

¹⁹⁵ The Ten Commandments.org. 2007. What Did Ellen White Say About the Feast Days? Ellen G. White, GW 119.3. <http://www.the-ten-commandments.org/ellen-white-seventh-day-adventists-feast-days.html> Retrieved 9/2/19.

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¹⁹⁸ Dennis Prager. 2019. *Genesis: The Rational Bible*. Regnery Faith Pub. Wash. D.C. 565p; p386.

¹⁹⁹ Mike Bacon. 2014. *Tithing: Are You Being Taken?* Download the Power Point at http://ourfathersfestival.net/resource_center and listen to the audio presentation at Sukkot 2010 Messages at <http://www.sooj.org/Resources.html> ;and,

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²⁰² United News Editor. Treasure Digest: Question and Answer: Doesn't Colossians 2:14-15 Say the Law Was Nailed to the Cross? <http://www.ucg.org/doctrinal-beliefs/treasure-digest-question-and-answer-doesnt-colossians-214-15-say-law-was-nailed-cr/> Retrieved 1/10/15

²⁰³ United Church of God. I would like some information, please. In Colossians 2:14 Paul speaks of "ordinances" nailed to a cross. What does this mean? <http://www.ucg.org/bible-faq/i-would-some-information-please-colossians-214-paul-speaks-ordinances-nailed-cross-what-do> Retrieved 1/10/15

²⁰⁴ Daniel Botkin. 2018. *Hermeneutics*. Gates of Eden, Peoria, 199p; p159.

²⁰⁵ Daniel Botkin. 2018. *Hermeneutics*. Gates of Eden, Peoria, 199p; p159.

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The Greek-English lexicon by Moulton and Milligan states: "Receipts are often introduced by the phrase [sic] *tetelestai*, usually written in an abbreviated manner..." (p. 630). The connection between receipts and what Christ accomplished would have been quite clear to John's Greek-speaking readership; it would be unmistakable that Jesus Christ had died to pay for their sins. <https://bible.org/question/what-does-greek-word-8216itetelestai%E2%80%99-mean> Retrieved 3/22/22

²⁰⁷ Bill Rieser. 2018, March 8. TETELASTAI. <https://www.thehopeencounter.org/news/2018/3/8/tetelastai> Retrieved 3/22/22

²⁰⁸ Chuck Missler. 1997. *Supplemental Notes: The Book of Acts*. Koinonia House Inc. 63pp; p79.

²⁰⁹ Eddie Chumney. n.d. The Seven Festivals of the Messiah. http://www.hebroots.com/sevenfestivals_chap3.htm

²¹⁰ D. Thomas Lancaster. n.d. Messianic Mythology and Passover

<http://ffoz.org/discover/passover/messianic-mythology-and-passover.html>

²¹¹ Rev. Ronald D. Lesley, Th.M, D.D. 1997. *Facts From History About Our King James Bible*. Fundamental Baptist Institute. <http://www.fbminstitute.com/engbible/1.html> Retrieved 12/2/16

²¹² Dr. Chuck Missler. *The Book of Daniel. A Commentary*. approx. 19 minute mark.

²¹³ D.A.Waite, ThD, PhD. 1996 *Defending The King James Bible*. p231. He also notes that "Hebrew is a simple, agricultural or shepherd-type language, nothing complex." I have chosen to take Dr. Missler's and Rob Skiva's analysis.

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²¹⁵ Rob Skiva. 2016, Feb 12. The Genesis Revelation Part 4: Babylon Rising and the First Shall Be Last. approx. 2:25 time mark <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQYczvHQO6k>

²¹⁶ Dr. Chuck Missler. *The Book of Daniel. A Commentary*. approx. 19 minute mark.

²¹⁷ "Bishop Pearce contends that τα δογματα, the decrees, is a gloss which was not in the text originally; and that the τα κερκιμενα, the judgments or determinations of the apostles, was all that was originally written here. He supports his opinion by a reference to the word κρινω, I judge, used by James, Acts 15:19." —*Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible* on E-Sword ®

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²²⁰ Ian Hodge. n.d. Colossians 2:16: Who was Paul Defending? <http://messianicpublications.com/ian-hodge/colossians-216-who-was-paul-defending/>

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²²⁶ Prof. Doron Bar. 2017. The Destructive Effect of the Partition at the Western Wall on Other Jewish Holy Sites in Israel. <https://schechter.edu/destructive-effect-partition-western-wall-jewish-holy-sites-israel> Retrieved 12/2/19

²²⁷ Kevin Epps. 2005, Feb. "Tear down this Wall." *United News*. <http://www.ucg.org/christian-living/tear-down-wall/>

²²⁸ Jeffrey Spitzer. n.d. The Noahide Laws <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-noahide-laws/> Retrieved 7/16/19

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<http://www.hebroots.org/hebrootsarchive/0404/0404c.html> Be sure to also see the End Note; and,

The Priesthood has changed 3 times since Genesis:

1st Change. Exodus 13:2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn....

2nd Change. Num 8:14-16 Thus shall you separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. ...16 For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel...

3rd Change. Hebrews 7:1 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. What Law? (See 2 above). This was the law that was added to. Mike Bacon. 2014.

Tithing: Are You Being Taken? Download the Power Point at http://ourfathersfestival.net/resource_center and listen to the audio presentation at Sukkot 2010 Messages at <http://www.sooj.org/Resources.html>

²⁶⁴ Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg. 2017, May 10. God's Grace and Law of Moses In Jewish Jesus. <https://israelstudycenter.com/gods-grace-law-moses>.

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²⁶⁶ "This division of the Torah into Ceremonial, Civil, and Moral categories is generally defined this way by Tim Hegg:

- "Moral: those aspects of the Torah that govern one's ethical decisions and actions
 - usually considered to be summed up in the Ten Commandments
 - prohibition against stealing, sexual sins, murder, false witness, rebellion against authority, etc.
- Ceremonial: those aspects of the Torah that deal with modes and methods of worship
 - the sacrificial system in the Tabernacle or Temple
 - ceremonial purities: clean and unclean
 - the Appointed Times (festivals)
 - tzitzit, mezzuzah, tefillin, and other symbols
 - food laws
- Civil: laws governing the Israelite society in general
 - property laws (sabbatical year [*shemitta*]; Jubilee [*yovei*])
 - laws relating to servants; indentured slaves; debts; ownership of property
 - marriage laws; divorce laws
 - laws relating to contracts; oaths"

Tim Hegg. n.d. 10 Persistent Questions. <http://www.torahresource.com/pdf-articles/10-persistent-questions-ch-11.pdf> Retrieved 8/20/16

²⁶⁷ The Ten Commandment.org. 2007. The Ten Commandments and the Ceremonial law (Mosaic Law). <https://www.the-ten-commandments.org/the-ten-commandments-law.html>. Retrieved 9/15/20

²⁶⁸ Brad Scott. 2012, April 6. *The Moral Law and the Ceremonial Law*. Part 5 <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/lesson169.html>

²⁶⁹ Tom Bradford. N.D. Exodus. Lesson 21 Chapter 21. p1.

<http://www.torahclass.com/teacher/author/tom-bradford/old-testament-studies>

²⁷⁰ Source upon request.

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²⁷² R. K. Sepetjian in Fides, Scientia. 2012. June 12. Anticipated Discoveries of the Bible: Circumcision & the 8th Day. <https://sepetjian.wordpress.com/2012/06/12/anticipated-discoveries-of-the-bible-circumcision-the-8th-day/>

²⁷³ Christian Assemblies International. n.d. 1,050 New Testament Commands. <http://www.cai.org/bible-studies/1050-new-testament-commands> Retrieved 6/8/15 See also Finis Jennings Dake's *Annotated Reference Bible* for these commands. These lists wish to leave out Paul's and Peter's commands to "kiss" the brethren (I Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Th 5:26; I Pet 5:14). Who makes this interpretation and why? (HR ministries do **not** think it is commanded to kiss. One must

understand both Hebraic / Jewish and Greek cultural contexts. The similar case for understanding “the law” in first century Judaism and resulting Jewish and, later, Roman persecution).

²⁷⁴ Source upon request.

²⁷⁵ Source upon request.

²⁷⁶ The Watchman. 2017, June 23. Unconditional love - truthaccordingtoscripture.com
<http://www.allaboutgod.net/forum/topics/unconditional-love-truthaccordingtoscripture-com> Retrieved 12/16/20

²⁷⁷ Dennis Prager. 2020, Dec 16 On his radio show on this date in his Male-Female Hour. He stated love is conditional and gave his reasons.

R.C. Sproul: 2018, July 5. Does God love everyone unconditionally?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXPI8GXRW0s> Retrieved 12/16/20

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<https://www.barna.com/research/state-church-2016/> Retrieved 12/1/19

²⁸⁰ Source provided upon request.

²⁸¹ Batya Wootten. 2008. *Israel's feasts and their fullness*. Expanded Edition. 349p. p4

²⁸² Dallas Theological Seminary. 2007, Oct. A life Well Lived. *Veritas*. p9.

²⁸³ Adapted from Charles R. Swindoll, “Pharisaism,” in *Devotions for Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983), 390-93.
<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/insight-for-living/read/articles/pharisaism-14387.html>

²⁸⁴ Andrew Farley. 2009. *the naked Gospel*. Zondervan. 237p; p22.

²⁸⁵ Source upon request.

²⁸⁶ Doug Batchelor, Amazing Facts program on AFTV on Thursday, June 11, 2015. This station runs many of his old and new programs on the same day. Since I only had the TV on for background company, I was not able to determine the exact program title when it came on the air.

²⁸⁷ John Waage. 2019, Jan 14. 'Pastor Stanley's Words Are Dangerous': Messianic Believers Say 2nd Biggest US Church Should NOT Ditch Old Testament.

http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2019/january/pastor-stanleys-words-are-dangerous-messianic-believers-say-2nd-biggest-us-church-should-not-ditch-old-testament?mc_cid=2cae0322a7&mc_eid=2bd088aa7f Retrieved 1/21/19.

Michael Gryboski. 2018, May 9. Christians Must 'Unhitch' Old Testament From Their Faith, Says Andy Stanley. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-must-unhitch-old-testament-from-their-faith-says-andy-stanley-223818/>

²⁸⁸ John Piper. 2010. Aug 7. Are Christians under the Ten Commandments? Retrieved 1/21/19
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/are-christians-under-the-ten-commandments>.

Truth for the World. n.d. Should We Follow the Ten Commandments Today?
<https://truthfortheworld.org/ten-commandments> Retrieved 1/21/19

²⁸⁹ Dallas Theological Seminary. 2007, Oct. A life Well Lived. *Veritas*. p7.

One may hear Romans 6:14 used to support a false grace Romans 6:14 which says “for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Swindoll writes:

"Where do you draw the line between legalism, which is restrictive and counter to grace, and the fact that God's Word does give us clear standards and calls us to live sanctified, set-apart lives? Well, the place to begin is to affirm that anything that is set forth in the Scriptures as a directive is a directive, period. It's not legalism. There are in the Word lists of things God wants us to do and not to do, and they are very clearly set forth. We're to obey every one of them. To fudge on that is to fudge in an area of obedience to God."-Charles Swindoll

²⁹⁰ See "In History" section under [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_\(theology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_(theology))

²⁹¹ GotQuestionn.Org n.d What is Conditional Security? <https://www.gotquestions.org/conditional-security.html> Retrieved 1/26/30

²⁹² Got Questions.org. n.d. What does it mean to have a personal relationship with God? <http://www.gotquestions.org/personal-relationship-with-God.html>

²⁹³ Derek Frank. *Escaping the Great Deception*. 2014. Roaring Lion Productions. 121p, p70.

²⁹⁴ Daniel Botkin. 2014, March-April. "If ...Then": Using Our God Given Common Sense To Think Things Through." *Gates of Eden*. Vol 20. #2. p27.

²⁹⁵ Source upon request.

²⁹⁶ Dr. Ron Moseley. 1993. *The Spirit of the Law*. Chapter One. <http://www.hebroots.com/torahandgrace.htm>

²⁹⁷ Some might even try to explain this as being a type of Dual Covenant Theology. Dual Covenant theology has too many issues associated with it and is outside the scope of this book. It sure gets convoluted when others try to say Luke 16:16 means the "law is done away"—doesn't it?

²⁹⁸ Shem-Tov Ibn Shapnut, a 14th century Jewish rabbi during the time of the Spanish Inquisition, wrote a 1380 treatise (entitled Even Bocan="Test Stone") refuting Catholicism. Included as an appendix was a Hebrew version of the Gospel of Matthew. It has been determined that the gospel was no translation from Greek. One of the defining elements were the use of Hebrew word puns.

"The purpose of a word pun is to beautify the text" (p42)

"A word pun is a play on words that builds on similar sounding Hebrew words used multiple times with different meanings...For example, the first man is named Adam because he is taken out of the earth which in Hebrew is *Adamah*. There is actually and other Hebrew word for "earth" *aretz* which could have been used in Genesis. But the word *Adamah* ("earth") is used repeatedly throughout Genesis 2 as a word pun which contrasts with Adam." —Nehemia Gordon 2006. *The Hebrew Y'shua vs. The Greek Jesus*. Hilkiyah Press. p39. A recommended book.

One example of a a number of word puns is found in Matthew is 18:9

Matt 18:9 And if thine eye causes thee to stumble (*Hebrew=tachshilcha*), pluck it out, and cast it from thee (*tashlicheha*): it is good for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire. (ASV).

And another one in Matthew 16:18 which is notable as it is the same word for stone in Psalm 118:22

Mat 16:18 And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter (*Greek=Petros; Hebrew=even*), and upon this rock (*petrai; 'evneh*) I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Psa 118:22 The stone (*'even*) which the builders rejected Is become the head of the corner.

Mr. Gordon asks the question:

"How did Hebrew word puns get into a book translated from the Greek?"

The telling of Shem-Tov and word puns descriptions are told because the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew 11:13 presents a different translation. The Hebrew words for "until" and "concerning" is only one letter (*'ad* vs. *'al*), unlike the Greek words which are very different. As Gordon continues...

"So, if Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew were just a translation from Greek, then the Greek text on which it was based had a substantially different reading from the Greek Matthew known today"

Matt 11:13 For all the prophets and the Torah spoke concerning John. (*Shem-Tov*)

Matt 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. (ASV)

Mr. Gordon presents other information and provoking questions with the conclusion that the Shem-Tov's Matthew is not the "original" Matthew.

Eusebius, bishop and theologian of the late third century, records in his *Historia Ecclesiastica*, III.39, that a second century disciple named Papias, wrote "Matthew wrote the sayings [of yeshua] in the Hebrew language, and each one translated them as he was able."

"Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their Own dialet" wrote Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Against Heresies 3:1:1, 180 CE

"Matthew compiled the sayings [of the Lord] in the Aramaic languag and evryone translated then as well as he could."--Papias, Biship of eroplolis 130 CS History of the Chruch 3:39.

"They have the Gospel according to Matthew in its entirety in Hebrew. For it is clear that they still preserve this, in the Hebrew alphabet, as it was originally written." —Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis, c. 310–320 – 403, ²⁹⁸ in, *Panarion* 29

I do not have an opinion on whether the NT was originally written in Hebrew because I have not studied it nor am I an expert in languages. I do find the following sources interesting in giving more information on this issue:

..".Revelation was written in a Semitic language, and that the Greek translation...is a remarkably close rendering of the original." - C. C. Torrey; Documents of the Primitive Church 1941; p. 160

"We come to the conclusion, therefore that the Apocalypse as a whole is a translation from Hebrew or Aramaic..." - R. B. Y. Scott; The Original Language of the Apocalypse 1928; p. 6

"When we turn to the New Testament we find that there are reasons for suspecting a Hebrew or Aramaic original for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, John and for the apocrypha." - Hugh J. Schonfield; An Old Hebrew Text of St. Matthew's Gospel; 1927; p. vii

Sakae Kubo. 1963, April. The Original Language of the New Testament. Retrieved 1/16/16.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1963/04/the-original-language-of-the-new-testament>

Aramaic New Testament. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_New_Testament

Hebrew/Aramaic Origin of the Brit Chadash (sn- New Testament). n.d. Retrieved 1/16/16

<http://www.promotethetruth.com/id23.html>

James Scott Trimm. n.d. Hebrew and Aramaic Origin of the New Testament. Retrieved 1/16/16

<http://nazarenespace.com/page/hebrew-and-aramaic-origin-of>

²⁹⁹ Carmen Welker. 2013. *Should Christians be Torah Observant?* 208p; p16+. Recommended for those new to Hebraic Roots. Written by a Jewish woman believer in Y'shua.

³⁰⁰ There is more to the "jot" than being the smallest letter ("iota" in Greek). Jots are signs in the Hebrew Language and include enlarged letter size, a reduced letter size and other special signs. Monte Judah offers a CD teaching on the subject entitled *The Jots and Tittles of Moses*.

Nehemia Gordon also addresses the dots above certain Hebrew words: Scribal dots in ancient times used to erase a word (e.g. Genesis 33:4). When a scribe believed he made a mistake by copied, he then placed dots place above each letter of the word to be erased/deleted. Rabbinical tradition that Ezra added the dots did not wish to remove these dotted words either and left it up to Elijah or the coming Messiah to settle the question. About half a dozen words have these dots appear in the most ancient texts. At least one Hebrew teacher has interpreted these dots as having a spiritual meaning to which Nehemia Gordon states "it is absolutely ridiculous and wrong."-- Nehemia Gordon. 2018, Nov 19. Torah Pearls #8 – Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43). [https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_22_2018_5_52\)&mc_cid=60c812ef46&mc_eid=7595a96cf8](https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_22_2018_5_52)&mc_cid=60c812ef46&mc_eid=7595a96cf8)
[29:10 minute mark 33:4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33:4)

³⁰¹ Alan Lee. 2015, Nov 16, 7:00 am. Fulfilled? Good Morning Studies.

³⁰² David Esau. 2002, Fall. Dry Times for Believer's Baptism?

<https://directionjournal.org/31/2/dry-times-for-believers-baptism.html> Retrieved 11/17/19

³⁰³ Cindy Hicks. 2015,, April 1. 5 Beliefs That Set Quakers Apart From Other Protestant Christians. <https://www.newsmax.com/fastfeatures/quakers-protestant-beliefs-christians/2018/08/13/id/635855/>
Retrieved 11/17/19

³⁰⁴ Carmen Welker. 2013. *Should Christians be Torah Observant?* 208p; p25.

³⁰⁵ Nehemia Gordon. 2006. *The Hebrew Y'shua vs. The Greek Jesus*. Hilkiah Press. p65. A recommended book.

³⁰⁶ Nehemia Gordon. 2006. *The Hebrew Y'shua vs. The Greek Jesus*. Hilkiah Press. p48

³⁰⁷ <http://www.cai.org/bible-studies/1050-new-testament-commands> Retrieved 6/9/15 See also Finis Jennings Dake's *Annotated Reference Bible* for these commands. These lists wish to leave out Paul's and Peter's commands to "kiss" the brethren (I Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Th 5:26; I Pet 5:14). Who makes this interpretation and why? (HR ministries do **not** think it is commanded to kiss. One must understand both Hebraic / Jewish and Greek cultural contexts. The similar case for understanding "the law" in first century Judaism and resulting Jewish and, later, Roman persecution).

³⁰⁸ Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian). n.d. The Oral Law (Torah Shebaal Peh)
Chapter: Y'shua and The Oral Law. http://www.betemunah.org/orallaw.html#_Toc390097244 Retrieved 1/14/15

- ³⁰⁹ Rabbi Shmary Brownstein. n.d. What Is the Significance of the Number of G- d's 613 Commandments? https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1556513/jewish/What-Is-the-Significance-of-the-Number-of-Gds-613-Commandments.htm Retrieved 12/15/19
- ³¹⁰ Wikipedia. n.d. Mitzvah <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzvah> Retrieved 3/11/19; and, "Chapter 31: Are There 613 Biblical Commandments?." Maimonides and the Biblical Prophets. Gefen Publishing House Ltd. in <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzvah> Retrieved 3/11/19
- ³¹¹ Nehemia Gordon. 2018, Nov 19. [https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_22_2018_5_52\)&mc_cid=60c812ef46&mc_eid=7595a96cf8](https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_22_2018_5_52)&mc_cid=60c812ef46&mc_eid=7595a96cf8). Retrieved 11/22/18
- ³¹² Nehemia Gordon. 2019, Dec 9. Torah Pearls #8 – Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43). [https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_12_12_2019_4_7\)&mc_cid=a08a87ce00&mc_eid=7595a96cf8](https://www.nehemiaswall.com/torah-pearls-vayishlach?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_12_12_2019_4_7)&mc_cid=a08a87ce00&mc_eid=7595a96cf8) Retrieved 12/15/19
- ³¹³ Makkoth 24a and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzvah> Retrieved 3/11/19
- ³¹⁴ Gen 49:18 I have waited for your salvation (H3444=Y'shua, Yehusha, etc.) O YHVH (LORD). Y'shua means "YHVH Saves" or YHVH is Salvation"
- ³¹⁵ Rabbi Chafetz Chayim. 1990. Sefer HaMitzvot. *The Concise Book of Mitsvoth* (commandments) in *Christians Keeping Old Testament Commandments* by Daniel Botkin. 2019, March-April. *Gates of Eden*. p28-29.
- ³¹⁶ Joseph Good. 2018, Dec 16. "Was the Temple in the City of David? Truth or Lie?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvv8UJVG1fx8> Time mark 2:00 Retrieved 12/21/19
- ³¹⁷ Dr. Ray Gannon. 2018, June 23. Sabbath Presentation at at Ahava B'Shem Y'shua Messianic Congregation in Prescott, AZ.
- ³¹⁸ Source upon request.
- ³¹⁹ Special Note: Where government laws conflict with Scriptural teachings, believers are sojourners and/or exiled in another's land. We are instructed to submit to that government's authority and its penalties and live in peace with our neighbor. That does not mean changing one's Scriptural beliefs in God to worship another God (physical or spiritual).
- ³²⁰ Jim Rector. n.d. *The Two Trees--Part 2: Applying the Lesson of the Two Trees*. Cornerstone Publications. http://albores.net/csp/cs_pub_display.asp?File=trees_2.htm
- ³²¹ Carmen Welker. 2013. *Should Christians be Torah Observant?* 208p; p25.
- ³²² See also I Tim 1:5, Rom 6:22, I Pet 1:9 where *telos* is also translated as "end." The House of David offers a deeper analysis on their web site: <http://houseofdauidfellowship.com/pdfs/19feb2011.pdf>
- ³²³ Professor Graetz'. *History of the Jews*. Vol. 2 p635 in Stephen E. Jones. 2002. *The Struggle for the Birthright*. Chapter 13. The Land War. <http://gods-kingdom-ministries.net/teachings/books/the-struggle-for-the-birthright/chapter-13-the-land-war/>
- ³²⁴ Daniel Mann. 2018. Nov 7. The Jewish Talmud And Its Use For Christian Apologetics. <https://www.equip.org/article/the-jewish-talmud-and-its-use-for-christian-apologetics/> Retrieved 5/18/18.
- ³²⁵ Exodus Rabbah §47:1
- ³²⁶ Exodus Rabbah §47:1
- ³²⁷ Daniel Mann. 2018. Nov 7. The Jewish Talmud And Its Use For Christian Apologetics. <https://www.equip.org/article/the-jewish-talmud-and-its-use-for-christian-apologetics/> Retrieved 5/18/18.
- ³²⁸ Stephen E. Jones. 2002. *The Struggle for the Birthright*. Chapter 13. The Land War. <http://gods-kingdom-ministries.net/teachings/books/the-struggle-for-the-birthright/chapter-13-the-land-war/>
- ³²⁹ The Thirty-nine Melachot (works) Forbidden on Shabbat Shabbath 73a. If you are in Jerusalem, you may notice at a hotel that pressing an elevator button may be considered "kindling a fire."
- ³³⁰ D. Thomas Lancaster. 2005. *Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus*. 193p; p136-137.
- Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. 2018. *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings*. Univ. of Neb. Press. Lincoln, NB.294p, p. xiv+.
- Donald Alderman. n.d. *Harsh Shunning Practices*. 9pp, p3.
- ³³¹ Daniel Gruber. *Rabbi Akiba's Messiah*. 1999. Elijah Publishing. Hanover, NH. 282p. p111-112).

³³² Finkelstein, ed. p207 compare Hammer Translation p190 in *The Hebrew Y'shua vs. The Greek Jesus*. 2006. Nehemia Gordon. p14.

³³³ Daniel Mann. 2018. Nov 7. The Jewish Talmud And Its Use For Christian Apologetics. <https://www.equip.org/article/the-jewish-talmud-and-its-use-for-christian-apologetics/> Retrieved 5/18/18.

³³⁴ "See B. Talmud: Berachot 33a, 45b' Shabbat 33b, and a large number of other places." Avi ben Mordechai. 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. p64.

³³⁵ Avi ben Mordechai. 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. p64-65.

³³⁶ *The Indispensable Oral Law*. <http://www.beingjewish.com/mesorah/oral-imperative.html>

³³⁷ Alfred Edersheim. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Book I, page 97f in ORAL TORAH: That Which is of Man & That Which is of God by Daniel Botkin. *Botkin Bimonthly*. 2003. Sept-Oct. p10.

³³⁸ Dr. Israel Shahak. *Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel*. p5 in Stephen E. Jones. 2002. *The Struggle for the Birthright*. Chapter 13. The Land War. <http://gods-kingdom-ministries.net/teachings/books/the-struggle-for-the-birthright/chapter-13-the-land-war/>

³³⁹ Perry Stone. 2019, Nov 15. Kicking Over Your Sacred Cow. Episode 997. Mannafest. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrZ37Tu8fEqLr38q9WD-D44QYqLyHXTu> Time Mark 4:25+ Retrieved 11/15/19; and,

Wikipedia. 2019 Activities prohibited on Shabbat. Retrieved 11/15/19
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activities_prohibited_on_Shabbat

³⁴⁰ Bible Study Tools. n.d. Matthew 15. 2. Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/lightfoot-new-testament/matthew/15.html> Retrieved 11/16/19. The web site quotes A Commentary on the New Testament From the Talmud and Hebraica by John Lightfoot who does not make mention of the specific trates and verses--which can make it hard to verify.

³⁴¹ Dr. Israel Shahak. *Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel*. p25 in Stephen E. Jones. 2002. *The Struggle for the Birthright*. Chapter 13. The Land War. <http://gods-kingdom-ministries.net/teachings/books/the-struggle-for-the-birthright/chapter-13-the-land-war/>

³⁴² Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian). n.d. The Oral Law (Torah Shebaal Peh) Chapter: Y'shua and The Oral Law. http://www.betemunah.org/orallaw.html#_Toc390097244 Retrieved 1/14/15

³⁴³ Talmud. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talmud>. Retrieved 12/16/18.

³⁴⁴ The three primary denominations in Judaism are: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reformed (liberal) along with other smaller sects, such as Hasidic, Karaite and Reconstructionist.

³⁴⁵ Wikipedia: Akitu. n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akitu> Retrieved 4/13/17 "Ancient religious festivals, such as the Akitu (barley) festival, in Babylonia has been linked as a parallel, if not a forerunner of the Scriptural festival of unleavened bread."

³⁴⁶ Cheri Shipper Daily. 1977, Dec 20. Decatur Daily, Alabama Newspaper Archives. p19. . "A Decatur evangelist who persuaded -his followers to burn Elvis Presley records at a bonfire Sunday night said today he.. ." retrieved 1/17/20

³⁴⁷ Wikiepedia. n.d. Book Burning. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_burning Retrieved 1/17/20.

³⁴⁸ Chris Cillizza. 2016, Sept 15. Harry Reid lied about Mitt Romney's taxes. He's still not sorry. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/15/harry-reid-lied-about-mitt-romneys-taxes-hes-still-not-sorry/?utm_term=.e87086be919d Retrieved 4/13/17.

³⁴⁹ Wikipedia: The Golden Bough. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Golden_Bough. Retrieved 4/13/17.

³⁵⁰ Wikipedia: Dying and Raising God. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dying-and-rising_god Retrieved 4/13/17.

³⁵¹ Listverse Staff 2009, April 13. Christ-like Figures Who Pre-Date Jesus. <http://listverse.com/2009/04/13/10-christ-like-figures-who-pre-date-jesus/> Retrieved 4/13/17

³⁵² *Zeitgeist: the Movie*. 2007. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTblu8Zeqp0>

³⁵³ *Religulous*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtgsTfb5X34>

³⁵⁴ Wikipedia: Mithrasim. n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraism>. Retrieved 4/13/17.

³⁵⁵ Jon Sorensen <http://strangenotions.com/exploding-mithras-myth/> Retrieved 4/13/17.

³⁵⁶ John Parsons. Hebrew Word of the Week: *Kadash*. Hebrew for Christians

http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Glossary/Word_of_the_Week/Archived/Kadash/kadash.html

Retrieved 2/16/15

³⁵⁷ 119 Ministries. n. d. Don't Be Under the Law! (Romans 6:14) https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/faithnetworkuserfilestore/FAITHNETWORK_USERFILESTORE/FAITHNETWORK_USERFILESTORE/filecabinet/ministries/00f06fd7-4de2-4d8d-922d-ccd4a82bb1a9/Scripture%20-%20PDF%20English/Dont%20Be%20Under%20the%20Law.pdf

³⁵⁸ Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. 'Which Law?' 16p.

<http://www.hebrewroots.net/hebrewroots/articles/gentiles+and+the+law.asp>

³⁵⁹ Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. 'Which Law?' 16p.

<http://www.hebrewroots.net/hebrewroots/articles/gentiles+and+the+law.asp>

³⁶⁰ Bill Cloud, *Question: What about Jewish Customs?* <http://www.billcloud.com/faq.php>

³⁶¹ Sola Scriptura in *Wikipedia*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sola_Scriptura

³⁶² John Lightfoot. *A Commentary on the New Testament From The Talmud and Hebraica*. "John Lightfoot (1602-1675) was an English churchman, rabbinical scholar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. This series of books was probably his most famous written works, and the four volumes were published from 1658-1674. From a review posted on Amazon. A Messianic-Jew stated "This set is interesting, but dripping with anti-Semitic rhetoric...." The book is available free on these web sites:

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/lightfoot-new-testament/> http://philologos.org/_eb-ij/

³⁶³ Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. *What Law?* p15.

³⁶⁴ The Thirty-nine Melachot (works) Forbidden on Shabbat Shabbath 73a. If you are in Jerusalem, you may notice at a hotel that pressing an elevator button may be considered "kindling a fire."

³⁶⁵ Avi ben Mordechai. 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. p290.

³⁶⁶ Avi ben Mordechai. 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. p270.

³⁶⁷ Pete Rambo. 2014, July 18. Boaz Michael's Tent of David. <https://natsab.com/2014/07/18/boaz-michaels-tent-of-david/> p98-99 Retrieved 7/5/19; and,

Boaz Michael. 2012, Fall. Messianic Judaism. Reconsidering the One-Law, Two-House Trajectories. *Messiah Journal*. http://www.messianicgentiles.com/uploads/1/3/3/3/13335212/mj-111-messianic_judaism.pdf Retrieved 3/17/19.

³⁶⁸ Avi ben Mordechai 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. p270.

³⁶⁹ Eddie Chumney. n.d. Understanding Circumcision Parts 1 and II.

<http://www.hebroots.org/hebrootsarchive/0312/0312i.html>

<http://www.hebroots.org/hebrootsarchive/0312/0312j.html> Retrieved 8/13/16

³⁷⁰ Grafted-In Ministries.2017. Divine Invitation Theology.

<http://messianicfellowship.50webs.com/dit.html> Retrieved 5/16/17

³⁷¹ "The Scriptures, with the normal use and meaning of language, offered no basis for the doctrine of Oral Law, nor for the authority of the Rabbis. However, the rabbinic claims are not based upon the normal use and meaning of the language. They are based upon Rabbi Akiba's unique method of interpretation." p61. R. Akiba's authority was significant, even with other Rabbi's conflicting views. It was he who changed the name of Simon Bar Kokhba and proclaimed him as "messiah" in without substantiation of Scripture. Consider this: Rabbis are *not* Levites. The Diaspora was a result of disobedience and rejection of the Messiah. Was the Creator about to change His Scriptural commands because of the Diaspora? Just asking.

According to Gruber (p111-112), five major lessons are conveyed by the Talmud:

1. Miracles are not accepted by Rabbis to determine truth.
2. Heavenly voices (or inspired men) after Mt. Sinai are ignored.
3. A majority of rabbis determine truth in a matter—not Scripture
4. "God laughs when men outwit him"
5. Rabbis have the power to excommunicate those who do not submit to their decisions.

Daniel Gruber. *Rabbi Akiba's Messiah*. 1999. Elijah Publishing. Hanover, NH. 282p. HIGHLY Recommended.

The authority of the Rabbis is stated in the Midrash: "Even if they instruct you that right is left or left is right, you must obey them." (Sifer §154 on Deut 17:11 [Finkelstein, ed. p207 compare Hammer Translation p190.] in *The Hebrew Y'shua vs. The Greek Jesus*. 2006. Nehemia Gordon. p14.

³⁷² Daniel Juster and Russ Resnik. 2005, Jan 28. ONE LAW MOVEMENTS. A Challenge to the Messianic Jewish Community. 8p;p5.
http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/888630/19816732/1344826309507/Juster_Resnik_One_Law_Movements.pdf?token=z1Lzbe2SGeu5RmM7YHKt1NPv6Ns%3D Retrieved 7/19/19

³⁷³ Tim Hegg. 2009, Aug. *An Assessment of the "Divine Invitation" Teaching*. 69p .p40-41
http://www.torahresource.com/EnglishArticles/DivineInvitation_Response.pdf

³⁷⁴ Tim Hegg. 2008. *Acts 15 and the Jerusalem Council*. www.torahresource.com p4. Retrieved 2/4/17.

³⁷⁵ Grafted-In Ministries.2017. *Divine Invitation Theology*.
<http://messianicfellowship.50webs.com/dit.html> Retrieved 5/16/17

³⁷⁶ <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/acts/15-24.htm> Retrieved 5/19/19; and,
 Doug. 2013, Oct 8. *Deliberate Fabrication in Acts 15:24 From 10th Century*.

<https://www.jesuswordsonly.com/books/750-deliberate-fabrication-in-acts-1524-by-10th-century.html>

³⁷⁷ <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/acts/21-25.htm> Retrieved 5/19/19

³⁷⁸ For a detailed explanation see Daniel Botkin. 2001, March-April. *Who Were the Judaizers? Gates of Eden*. p4+ <http://www.gatesofeden.org/pdf/GOE%20Volume%2007.pdf>

³⁷⁹ Num. 15:15-16; Isa 56:3, Lev 24:22; Ex 12:48 and Gen 17:14 all illustrate that the acceptance of Gentiles/ strangers into the body of believers is not a New Testament phenomenon; and, Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. *Gentiles and the Law?* Vol. I, II, III, IV. Hebrew Roots®; and, Monte Judah. 2008, March. *Torah is for All People*; and
<http://lionlamb.net/v3/YAVOHHeisComing/2008/03>

Carmen Welker. 2013. *Should Christians be Torah Observant?* 208p, and, Lev 17:12, 18:26; 24:16, Num 15:30; 19:10; Deut 1:16; 24:17; 26:11; and, Monte Judah. 2018. *Torah is For All People*. Posted in *Yavoh Messianic Magazine*.
<http://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/57-torah-is-for-all-people>

³⁸⁰ Dr. Daniel Botkin, 2021, July-Aug. "613 Commandments?!" *Gates of Eden*. p8+; p11.

³⁸¹ Joseph Good. 1998. *Rosh HaShanah and the Messianic Kingdom to Come*. Hatikva Ministries. p14.

³⁸² Bill Cloud. 2014, June 14. *Fullness of the Gentiles*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_2969510581&feature=iv&src_vid=jt6kJYmhsFI&v=sjWF5eFRXIA

³⁸³ Jewish Virtual Library. *Jewish Concepts: The Seven Noahide Laws*.
https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/The_Seven_Noahide_Laws.html Retrieved 5/18/15.

³⁸⁴ Titus 2:14, James 2:24.

³⁸⁵ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p31 <http://storage.cloversites.com/iamcs/documents/One%20Law%20Two%20Sticks.pdf>.

³⁸⁶ Monte Judah. 2018. *Torah is For All People*. Posted in *Yavoh Messianic Magazine*.
<http://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/57-torah-is-for-all-people>

³⁸⁷ Jewish Virtual Library. *Jewish Concepts: The Seven Noahide Laws*.
https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/The_Seven_Noahide_Laws.html Retrieved 5/18/15.

The seven laws of Noah's time are listed in Midrash Genesis Rabbah 16:6 (Soncino edition, p. 131), Sanhedrin 56 a, b; and Midrash Song of Songs Rabbah 1:2(5) (Soncino edition, pp. 26-27). The sabbath is not one of them. They are commonly listed as seven, however, others say there could others.

³⁸⁸ Monte Judah. n.d. *Jew and Gentile in Our Messianic Faith*
<https://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/42-jew-and-gentile-in-our-messianic-faith> Retrieved 12/21/20

³⁸⁹ Boaz Michael. n.d. *Encounters with an Ephraimite. Identity through a Lost Heritage*. First Fruits of Zion. 16p.

³⁹⁰ Paul Spinrad. 2014, Dec 13. Whither Messianic Judaism? <https://medium.com/@pspinrad/whither-messianic-judaism-1da1219008a8#.cgY0ejw5i> Retrieved 3/3/16

³⁹¹ Source upon request

³⁹² International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p. <http://storage.cloversites.com/iamcs/documents/One%20Law%20Two%20Sticks.pdf>.

³⁹³ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p5.

³⁹⁴ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p20.

³⁹⁵ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p29.

³⁹⁶ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p. <http://storage.cloversites.com/iamcs/documents/One%20Law%20Two%20Sticks.pdf>.

³⁹⁷ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p29.

³⁹⁸ Bradford Scott. N.d. One Law, Two Sticks Position Paper; Brad's Response <https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/IAMCS.html>

³⁹⁹ Judeo-Christian Research. 2009 <https://juchre.org/talmud/sanhedrin/sanhedrin3.htm> Retrieved 7/29/19

⁴⁰⁰ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p31.

⁴⁰¹ Avram Yehoshua. *Goodbye Messianic Judaism!* <http://www.seedofabraham.net/gmesjud.html> Retrieved 7/29/19

⁴⁰² Michael Rood. 1014, Oct 17 Shabbat Night Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kthje6d4oLs>

⁴⁰³ Tim Hegg 2005, May. One Law Movements. A Response to Russ Resnik & Daniel Juster1. <http://www.torahresource.com/pdf-articles/one-law-movements-a-response-to-russ-resnik-and-daniel-juster.pdf> 31p p1. Retrieved 7/26/16.

⁴⁰⁴ Boaz Michael. 2012. *Twelve Gates*. Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 75p. p19.

⁴⁰⁵ Boaz Michael. 2012. *Twelve Gates*. Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 75p. p39.

⁴⁰⁶ Pete Rambo. 2014, July 18. Boaz Michael's Tent of David. <https://natsab.com/2014/07/18/boaz-michaels-tent-of-david/> p98-99 Retrieved 7/5/19

⁴⁰⁷ Dual Covenant Theology. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual-covenant_theology. Retrieved 2/1/19.

⁴⁰⁸ Al Rodriguez. 2019, August 3. False Doctrines. The Wheat and the Tares. <http://www.ahavabshemyeshua.com/messages> Retrieved 8/11/19.

⁴⁰⁹ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement*: A position paper of the

International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 60p; p17.

⁴¹⁰ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee. 2014. Jan 15. *Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee.* 60p; p31.

⁴¹¹ Alfred J. Kolatch. 2000. *The Jewish Book of Why.* Revised Edition. Penguin Compass, NY, NY. 308p; p197.

⁴¹² Source upon request.

⁴¹³ Source upon request.

⁴¹⁴ Boaz Michael. 2012. *Twelve Gates.* Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 75p; p38.

⁴¹⁵ Boaz Michael. 2013. *Tent of David.* Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 220p; p179-180.

⁴¹⁶ Dr. Daniel Botkin. n.d. A Response To FFOZ's Position Paper. "One Law" And The Messianic Gentle. <http://thekeyofknowledge.net/Religion/DL/DanBotkin.pdf>

⁴¹⁷ Batya Wootten. 2004. Dec. 22. Letter and Response to Tim Hegg's paper "A Commentary on the 'Two House Theory': Three Fatal Flaws." <http://www.redeemedisrael.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/1Hegg-Response-for-PDF-2013.pdf> p5

⁴¹⁸ Hebraic Heritage Ministries. 2003. Report To The Body Of Messiah Regarding The Meeting Between Monte Judah And Eddie Chumney With Dan Juster Held March 27, 2003 In Jacksonville, Florida. <http://www.hebroots.org/twohousemeeting.htm> Retrieved 6/7/15

⁴¹⁹ Dr. Frank Seekins. 2003. *Hebrew Word Pictures.* 170p; and,

Jeff A. Benner. 2005. *Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible.* 615p

⁴²⁰ Brad Scott. 2009. *The Tanakh: the dictionary of the New Testament.* Chapter: Why do we use Hebrew Words. 231p. See also Hebrew Words Defined. *Why do we use Hebrew Words?* www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/lesson11.html

⁴²¹ "With reading and studying this [Hebrew] text, we cannot interject our own cultural perspectives into the text. To do so would bring about interpretations and conclusions that are far removed from the author's intended meaning"—*The History of Hebrew.* Ancient Hebrew Research Center. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR5GQ—YNpl&list=PL0E346CF634AD0E30> This would be the same when studying the Greek language.

⁴²² "Other claims include the notion that no one can truly understand the New Testament until they are fluent in Hebrew." The Hebrew Roots® Movement. http://www.truthkeepers.com/?page_id=341 Retrieved 1/31/15

⁴²³ Daniel Botkin. 2019, Nov-Dec.. "Sacred Name Nonsense. *Gates of Eden.* Vol. 25. #6. p24.

⁴²⁴ Brad Scott in one of his presentations.

⁴²⁵ Wikipedia. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer_Ben-Yehuda Retrieved 5/26/19

⁴²⁶ Wikipedia. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revival_of_the_Hebrew_language Retrieved 5/26/19

⁴²⁷ Cathy Lynn Grossman. 2010, Sept. 29. Most Americans believe in God but don't know religious tenets. *USA Today.* http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-09-28-pew28_ST_N.htm

⁴²⁸ "The New Testament is crammed full of idioms, phrases, and concepts known to the observant Jew (Yehudim) living in the time of Y'shua's ministry, but unfamiliar to modern readers. The Scriptures must be read through the eyes and minds of the culture in which it was written."—Brad Scott. <http://www.wildbranch.org/about/>

⁴²⁹ "One properly exegetes Scripture using a correct hermeneutic, historicism (hermeneutical historicism not eschatological historicism). Historicism is the primary mode of hermeneutics; it assigns a central and basic significance to a specific context, such as historical period, geographical place, political and social backdrop of the period, and local customs and culture. As such it is in contrast to individualist theories of knowledge such as empiricism and rationalism, which neglect the role of traditions. Historicism, therefore, is strictly within the camp of hermeneutics..." —Shea Bernard, Shea. 2014, July 12.

edited these books to his own liking by eliminating references to the Old Testament God and the creation as His act, and that the law should be followed, edited the first two chapters of Luke, edited Paul's letters to remove God references in the OT, placed Galatians at the beginning of Paul's letters, and coined the terms "Old" and "New" Testament (among other things!); and,

"Marcion founded his own church which merged Gnosticism and orthodox Christianity, creating a theology that was sharply dualistic, violently antagonistic to Judaism, strictly ascetic, celibate, and yielded a wide and destructive influence in Christendom. Unfortunately, some modern Christians have unknowingly endorsed his ideas..."

"Later Augustine, a Roman Catholic monk, championed Marcion's ideas about grace opposing God's Law and made it a major part of church theology. At the time of the Reformation, men such as John Wycliffe with his first manuscript English Bible, and Miles Coverdale the English translator of the first printed English Bible were heavily influenced by Augustine." —Dr. Ron Moseley. 1993. *The Spirit of the Law*. Chapter One. <http://www.hebrewroots.com/torahandgrace.htm>

⁴⁴⁰ "The names of the months came up with them from Babylonia." (Jerusalem Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 1:2 56d)

⁴⁴¹ Nehemia Gordon. 2020, Spet 14. How Yom Teruah Became Rosh Hashanah [https://www.nehemiaswall.com/yom-teruah-day-shouting-became-rosh-hashanah?ct=\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_9_17_2020_8_28\)&mc_cid=7d68f90971&mc_eid=7595a96cf8](https://www.nehemiaswall.com/yom-teruah-day-shouting-became-rosh-hashanah?ct=(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_9_17_2020_8_28)&mc_cid=7d68f90971&mc_eid=7595a96cf8) Retrieved 9/14/20

⁴⁴² Dean and Susan Wheelock. 2009. *The Fall Festivals*. Hebrew Roots®. 16p;

⁴⁴³ Watch *A Christmas Video* by Michael Rood for a humorous look at the holiday season. Do your own research on the net to learn about the holiday pagan traditions. 2010, Dec 10. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD94u3P35K8>

Catholic Bishop confessed that they changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrB21mc2fml>; and,

Encyclopedia Britannica, "There is no trace of the celebration of Easter as a Christian festival in the New Testament or the writings of the apostolic fathers...The first Christians...continued to observe the Jewish festivals...as commemorations of events of which these had been the shadows. The Passover, ennobled by the thought of Christ the Paschal Lamb, continued to be celebrated..., and became the Christian Easter" (Ninth Edition, article "Easter"); and,

"Yet they [the Protestants] not only reject the observance of the Sabbath enjoined in the written word, but they have adopted and do practice the observance of Sunday, for which they have only the tradition of the [Catholic] Church." —Archbishop Reggio, Council of Trent, 1562. In more recent times, The Catholic Church reaffirmed their Council of Trent opinion in response to the widespread Protestant protests against the 1892 World's Fair in Chicago being open on a Sunday. The *Catholic Mirror* of Sept. 2, 1893 ran a series of editorials refuting the false claim that the New Testament taught Sunday keeping. The *Mirror* was the official organ of Cardinal Gibbons representing the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S.

⁴⁴⁴ Frank Viola and George Barna. 2008. *Pagan Christianity?: Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices*. 291p; and,

Lew White. 2001. *Fossilized Customs*. 210p.

⁴⁴⁵ Lev. 18:1-3; Lev. 20:23

⁴⁴⁶ Samuele Bacchiocchi. 1977. *From Sabbath to Sunday: A Historical Investigation of the Rise of Sunday Observance in Early Christianity*.

Herbert W. Armstrong. Which Day is the Christian Sabbath? <https://www.amazon.com/Which-Christian-Sabbath-Herbert-Armstrong-ebook/dp/B00F7O59I2>

⁴⁴⁷ On the Jews and Their Lies https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Jews_and_Their_Lies

⁴⁴⁸ Source upon request.

⁴⁴⁹ Avram Yehoshua. *Goodbye Messianic Judaism!* <http://www.seedofabraham.net/gmesjud.html>

⁴⁵⁰ Dr. Akiva G. Belk. n.d. What Does B'nei Yisroel Mean? http://www.jewishpath.com/gematria/shemos/what_does_bnei_yisroel_mea.html

⁴⁵¹ Executive Committee of the Editorial Board., Emil G. Hirsch, Judah David Eisenstein. 1906. *Jewish Encyclopedia*. Article Gentile. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/6585-gentile#anchor21> Retrieved 7/28/19

- ⁴⁵² GotQuestions.org n.d. What is amillennialism? <https://www.gotquestions.org/amillennialism.html>
Retrieved 9/20/20
- ⁴⁵³ Catechism of the Catholic Church. n.d.
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s2c2a7.htm Retrieved 10/8/19
- ⁴⁵⁴ Wikipedia. n.d. Amillennialism. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amillennialism> Retrieved 12/21/20
- ⁴⁵⁵ Wikipedia. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/End_time Retrieved 3/11/19
- ⁴⁵⁶ Catholic Answers Staff. n.d. What is the Millennium the television preachers talk so much about.
<http://www.catholic.com/quickquestions/what-is-the-millennium-the-television-preachers-talk-so-much-about> Retrieved 2/7/15
- ⁴⁵⁷ <http://answeringcatholicclaims.blogspot.com/2014/09/the-rapture-and-catholic-eschatology.html>
Retrieved 2/7/15
- ⁴⁵⁸ Eternal Word Television Network. Endtimes, Millennium, Rapture.
<https://www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/endtimes.htm> Retrieved 2/7/15
- ⁴⁵⁹ Dr. Chuck Missler. 2009. *The Book of Ezekiel*. Chapters 38-48. Koinonia House. Coeur d'Alene, ID Disc 2. Session 1. Time Mk 39:50
- ⁴⁶⁰ Wikipedia. n.d. Amillennialism. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amillennialism> Retrieved 1/12/20
- ⁴⁶¹ [http://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/w20001015/what-gods-kingdom-will-do/#?insight\[search_id\]=980043cf-8dcc-492b-92f3-7478e2a21d69&insight\[search_result_index\]=17](http://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/w20001015/what-gods-kingdom-will-do/#?insight[search_id]=980043cf-8dcc-492b-92f3-7478e2a21d69&insight[search_result_index]=17)
Retrieved 2/7/15
- ⁴⁶² John Seaman. 1998. *Who are the Seventh-Day Adventists?* 64p. p63.
- ⁴⁶³ Peter Benson. n. d. Prophecies of Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming Introduction (continued)
https://www.unityinchrist.com/prophecies/2ndcoming_1.htm Retrieved 10/7/19
- ⁴⁶⁴ Ron Matsen. 2020, Jan 1. The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology
<https://www.khouse.org/articles/2020/1372/> Retrieved 1/12/20
- ⁴⁶⁵ Our Father's Festival. *The Eighth Day*. http://www.ourfathersfestival.net/about_the_festival : and,
William F. Dankenbring. n.d. *The Mystery of Shemini Atzeret—the "Eighth Day."*
<http://www.triumphpro.com/shemini-atzeret-eighth-day.htm> Retrieved 5/5/2014
- ⁴⁶⁶ Another teaching (of which I do not agree with) addresses the "three days and three nights" as an idiom (an expression that is not meant to be taken literally).
- ⁴⁶⁷ The disciples kept the Sabbath 85 times in the Book of Acts. <http://www.eliyah.com/85times.html>
- ⁴⁶⁸ "Sacred Tradition is the oral teaching of Jesus Christ handed down to his apostles, who in turn handed it down to their disciples (the early Church Fathers), and then to the next generation, and then finally to us..."
- "Sacred Tradition does NOT refer to individual practices and customs, such as the language of the Mass, kneeling or standing for Holy Communion, eating or not eating meat on Friday, etc. Rather, it is the oral teaching of Jesus Christ handed on to the Apostles and the Church, which carries equal weight with the Church's book, the Bible."—Sacred Tradition. www.Catholic Bible 101 - Sacred Tradition.mht
- Notwithstanding the Talmudic teachings, the blessing of children, lighting the menorah candles, etc are all considered traditions which do not violate or contradict Scripture. Traditions may be instituted today among believers providing they do not contradict Scripture. On the other hand, some of these traditions may be derived from questionable, if not pagan sources, such as the Friday evening of candles and the menorah at Hanukkah. (See Rabbinic Essays Jacob Z. Lauterback. 1951. Hebrew Union College Press. 570p; p437+
https://books.google.com/books?id=RxEHAQAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false Retrieved 7/20/19
- Catholics further explain their position in upholding traditions by citing Scripture, such as:
Act 20:35, Jude 1:9, Matt 2:23, Matt 23:2, 1 Cor 10:4, 2 Tim 3:8, (These men are not mentioned in the OT), Heb 11:35, (This is a direct reference to 2 Maccabees 7 which is in the Catholic Bible but not the KJV), 1 Cor 11:2, (ordinances=G3862 - traditions), 2 Thes 2:15 (traditions - G3862), 2 Thes 3:6 (tradition-G3682).
- ⁴⁶⁹ Robert H. Brom, Bishop of San Diego, August 10, 2004. Is Catholicism Pagan?
<http://www.catholic.com/tracts/is-catholicism-pagan>
- ⁴⁷⁰ Did the Catholic Church Blend Paganism with Christianity?
http://catholicbridge.com/catholic/were_catholics_pagan.php

⁴⁷¹ I have substituted the Hebrew letters of His name (also called the tetragrammaton) for the KJV translation of "the LORD"). The KJV translators were following the command of King James to follow the Jewish tradition to avoid the mentioning His name. Even today, as in ancient times, one's name is not translate or transliterated...it is given in its native tongue. I have also done the same with the word "God" by substituting the Hebrew word Elohim.

⁴⁷² Dr. Daniel Botkin. 2001, March-April. A Sunday Sabbath in I Cor 16:2 An Example of Eisegesis. *Gates of Eden*. p9 <http://www.gatesofeden.org/pdf/GOE%20Volume%2007.pdf> ;and,

Arguments refuted that from earliest apostolic days Christians kept Sunday in honor of Christ's resurrection. This is clearly revealed in two scriptures, Acts 20:7 (where they were participating in *Motzei Shabba*: meaning the "going out of the Sabbath" which refers to the evening immediately following the Sabbath Day). Carmen Welker. 2013. *Should Christians be Torah Observant?* 208p; p25 and 1 Corinthians 16:2. <http://www.sabbathtruth.com/faq/arguments-refuted/id/1773/from-earliest-apostolic-days-christians-kept-sunday-in-honor-of-christs-resurrection-this-is-clearly-revealed-in-two-scriptures-acts-207-and-1-corinthians-162>.

⁴⁷³ Another explanation for Acts 20:7 address the Greek words for "first day of the week" are *mia ton sabbaton*. The *J.P Green Interlinear New Testament* (published by the Trinitarian Bible Society, a mainstream Christian publisher) translates these words as "one of the sabbaths." This phrase could refer to one of the seven Sabbath days counted toward Pentecost in Acts 20:16. Source: Daniel Botkin. 2018. *Hermeneutics*. Gates of Eden, Peoria, 199p; p159.

⁴⁷⁴ The closing of the Sabbath is also called *Havdalah* meaning separation and a time to separate the holy from the mundane.

⁴⁷⁵ Gary Wilkerson. 2019, Sept 18. Really? Worldchallenge.org 4p; p2.

⁴⁷⁶ Source upon request.

⁴⁷⁷ Source upon request.

⁴⁷⁸ Source upon request.

⁴⁷⁹ Wikipeda. n.d. *loudaios* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/loudaios> Retrieved 3 3 19.

⁴⁸⁰ Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg. 2015. *The Jewish Gospel of John*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwDbAM_UQjx-SGVaTzNGdVpQR3M/view?pref=2&pli=1 p120.

⁴⁸¹ Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg. 2015. *The Jewish Gospel of John*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwDbAM_UQjx-SGVaTzNGdVpQR3M/view?pref=2&pli=1 p26.

⁴⁸² Another explanation is that the Gospel of John is said to have been written about 85-90 AD which is about 20 years after the fall of the Temple and 60 years after Christ. As such, he is addressing his historical perspective of a Jewish believer in Christ opposite to those Jews who did not believe in Christ. This is similar to what Paul was writing about unleavened bread in I Cor 5:8 with its new meaning for Jewish believers in the Messiah. John also uses the term "Jew" more frequently than the other gospel writers (e.g. John-69x, Matthew-5x, Mark-6x and Luke-5x).

John was also writing when all Jews came to Jerusalem to keep the feast. Who else were observing the Biblical feasts besides the Jewish believers in Christ except for the Jews? Although the Jews were barred from Jerusalem until after the Bar Kokhba revolt in c132-136 AD, the Jews were persecuting Jewish believers in Christ prior to that time.

⁴⁸³ David Stern. 1992. *Jewish New Testament Commentary*. Jewish New Testament Pub, Clarksville, MD. 935p, p158-160.

⁴⁸⁴ Doug Ward. n.d. Who Were "The Jews" In John's Gospel? <http://graceandknowledge.faithweb.com/judeans.html> Retrieved 3/4/19

⁴⁸⁵ Doug Ward. n.d. Who Were "The Jews" In John's Gospel? <http://graceandknowledge.faithweb.com/judeans.html> Retrieved 3/4/19

- ⁴⁸⁶ The Hebraic Roots Network alone reaches 120 nations via the internet. (HRN. 2016, Jan. 18. Supporter Letter). Rico Cortez indicated a similar response for his ministry in his visit to Glendale, AZ in 2013. etc. Brad Scott of Wildbranch ministry has visited 42 nations as of February, 2016.
- ⁴⁸⁷ www.davidicdance.com
- ⁴⁸⁸ Daniel Juster and Peter Hocken. 2004. *The Messianic Jewish Movement: An Introduction*. p12-13.
- ⁴⁸⁹ David A. Rausch. *The Messianic Jewish Congregational Movement*.
- ⁴⁹⁰ Bill Cloud being interviewed by Michael Rood. 2016, Oct 7. <http://www.aoodawakening.tv/shabbat-night-live/>
- ⁴⁹¹ David A. Rausch. *The Messianic Jewish Congregational Movement*.
- ⁴⁹² Brad Scott. 2014 *Basar Echad*. p. v.
- ⁴⁹³ Barry Yeoman. *Messianics pray the 'Shema' in 'synagogue,' preach Jesus*.
- ⁴⁹⁴ David Chernoff. 1990. Messianic Judaism Questions & Answers. http://familybible.org/articles/messianic_issues/messianic_judaism_questions.html
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⁵⁴⁴ "However, following the observed calendar rather than the calculated Jewish calendar does not have to be divisive, as I and many others have proven over the last dozen years, but given the propensity for dogmatic theological stances extant in the churches of God, the leaders of the larger corporate churches will probably make certain it is a divisive issue when it is brought up because the idea of change can and does threaten their power.

"The split in the Global church of God in the late 90's and the split in the United Church of God in 2010 showed how important the politics of follow the leader versus follow in the footsteps of Christ really is in the churches of God.

"There had been some movement in the churches of God on the issue of the calendar in the late 90's when people were on fire with the desire seek and serve God more deeply, but the vast majority of the people in these churches don't want to be bothered with theological issues today."—James Rudd. 2011. *The Calculated Jewish Calendar: An Examination of Postponements, New Moons, Seasons and More*. 418p; p3. <http://www.KeepersOfTheWay.org>

⁵⁴⁵ Batya Wootten. 2008. *Israel's feasts and their fullness*. Expanded Edition. 349. p100.

⁵⁴⁶ Please note that this explanation is a correction from an earlier writing.

⁵⁴⁷ Wheelock, Dean and Susan. 2015, April-August. Iron Sharpens Iron. Covering the Head. *Hebrew Roots*. p27; and,

I Cor 11:14-15 Covering the Head. "The key to solving this dilemma is understanding who Paul was writing to concerning this particular topic. The city of Corinth was a major pagan center at that time. There were numerous pagan temples with the aid of temple prostitutes — both men and women. History shows that it was the practice of the male prostitutes to let their hair grow long while some of the women cut their hair short like men. Apparently, those hairstyles became common in the regular community as well. As Gentile men were being converted to the Messianic faith, some were accustomed to wearing their hair long — while some of the women were cutting their hair short like a man.

"Thus Paul was teaching against hairstyles that imitated pagan temple prostitutes — not against a man wearing a tallit or some other head covering when he prayed in the synagogue." Wheelock, Dean and Susan. 2015 April-August. Iron Sharpens Iron. Covering the Head. *Hebrew Roots*

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"Paul teaches that a wife that prays or prophesies without having her head covered (being under her own husband's authority) dishonors her head and brings shame upon herself.

"Please remember, however, that this is a custom and not a commandment. Should married women wear a covering over their heads at other times? This is a matter of personal choice...

"It was, however, a cultural practice that a married woman kept her head covered in public as well as during prayer. A married woman's head covering was understood as an act of modesty and respect for her husband. Young single women would allow their hair to be seen, whereas married women covered their glory (hair) and reserved its sight only for their husbands. As Paul states, a woman's long hair was her glory. A young woman looking for a husband would let her glory fly in the breeze in hopes of attracting a husband. Once the young woman was betrothed, however, she would cover her hair lest others think she was being flirtatious. Thus, a woman's head covering was seen as a public declaration that she was now under the covering of her husband. We may see a beautiful example of this declaration in the Torah. When Abraham's servant returned from the East with a wife for Isaac, Rebekah sees Isaac at a distance and asks her who she is. When the servant reveals that it is her betrothed, Rebekah steps down from her camel and covers herself." Wheelock, Dean and Susan. 2015 April-August. Iron Sharpens Iron. Covering the Head. *Hebrew Roots*. p27.

⁵⁵⁰ Wheelock, Dean and Susan. 2015, April-August. Iron Sharpens Iron. Covering the Head. *Hebrew Roots*. p27.

⁵⁵¹ Levitt, Zola. 2012. *The Seven Feasts of Israel*. 31p.

⁵⁵² Biltz, Mark. 2014. *Blood Moons*. 188p

⁵⁵³ Alfred J. Kolatch. 1981. *The Jewish Book of Why*. p86.

⁵⁵⁴ Source upon request.

⁵⁵⁵ Source upon request.

⁵⁵⁶ Source upon request.

⁵⁵⁷ All of these blue-texted sources upon request.

⁵⁵⁸ e.g. Brad Scott on Galatians and the NT: https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/Eddie_Chumney: <http://www.hebroots.org/galatians.htm>

Monte Judah: <http://www.messianicmarketplace.org/collections/monte-judah/products/galatians-as-taught-by-a-pro-torah-messianic-jew>

⁵⁵⁹ Avi ben Mordechai 2005. *Galatians: A Torah-Based Commentary in First Century Hebraic Context*. 505p.

⁵⁶⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Roots

⁵⁶¹ Frank Viola and George Barna. 2008. *Pagan Christianity*. 291p.

⁵⁶² I Saw the Light Ministries. 2007. The Pitfalls of the Hebrew Roots Movement. <http://www.isawthelightministries.com/hebrewicroots.html> Retrieved 2/19/19.

⁵⁶³ Boaz Michael. 2012. *Twelve Gates*. Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 75p. p41.

⁵⁶⁴ Batya Wootten. 2006. *Redeemed Israel—Reunited and Restored*. Key of David Publishing, St. Cloud, FL. 235p. p7

⁵⁶⁵ Source upon request.

A 1945 edition of Herbert W. Armstrong's book (of which I could not locate) of the *United States and Britain in Prophecy* is referenced instead of one of most widely disseminated editions from the 1970s onward. The first edition of the book was first published in 1954 as noted by Stephen Boston in his 2002 book *The Essential Teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong*. 284p. p141. The change in title of British Commonwealth to Britain did not occur until the 1980 edition of the book to the best of my knowledge. "Grow in grace and knowledge" is given for good reason. We may not all believe the same as we grow wiser and older in the faith. Why chose from an earlier source when an author is know by his most popular edition? ; and,

Source upon request.

I can only wonder why the author uses the very first 1998 edition of *Who is Israel* and which of which he acknowledges is dated when the 4th edition was already published in 2006— far enough in time for his/this book

⁵⁶⁶ Source upon request.

⁵⁶⁷ Source upon request.

⁵⁶⁸ John Lightfoot (1658-1674). *A Commentary on the New Testament From The Talmud and Hebraica*. From his preface in the first volume. This four volume series of books (available on Amazon) was probably his most famous.

⁵⁶⁹ Pardes. *Wikipedia*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardes_\(Jewish_exegesis\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardes_(Jewish_exegesis))

⁵⁷⁰ "Rabbi Moses ben Shem Tov of Leon [aka Moses de León c. 1240 – 1305] was the first known writer to mention the acronym Pardes. He did so about 1290 in a composition called Sefer Pardes.... Moses ben Shem Tov also wrote The Zohar, which became the most influential work of the Spanish Kabbalists..." "The acronym Pardes belongs exclusively to the domain of the Kabbalah."—David Bivin. 1999, July- September. "Medieval Jargon on First-century Lips." *Jerusalem Perspective* #56, p33. [cf. *Encyclopedia Judaica* 10.622–23]

The Four Levels of Interpretation(PaRDeS):

1. **Pashat** (pa SHOT)—the "simple" or plain sense meaning in Hebrew; i.e. the literal meaning. Protestant call this "Gramatical Historical Exegesis" which is also similar to Protestant Hermeneutics called "the Literal Principle." One must also consider the Biblical definition of the word as it appears to be used elsewhere in Scripture. According to Brad Scott, one should not go right to the sod. We cannot grasp the sod until we see the Pashat. (Brad Scott. 2015. "as the days of a tree..." Audio CD set. Wildbranch Ministry. Vernal, UT. Disc 2 Track 1 5:39 minute mark)

2. **Remez** (REH mez)—"hint" in Hebrew; i.e. the implied meaning. a hint of something deeper beyond the literal meaning; an allegorical significance;

3. **Drash**—"search" in Hebrew; the allegorical (symbolical representation), typological or homiletical or practical moral teaching application or exposition of which the Pashat meaning is always retained. The Pashat meaning cannot be discarded because the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35); otherwise one could fit meanings that fits only their understanding—not others.

Exo 18:15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire (H1875=*darash*=to seek, search, tread: the root from which the word *midrash* comes from, then do discuss or debat what was learned) of God: *Midrash* is a form of Biblical exegesis. When the word is captialized, however, it can can refer to a compilation of rabbinic writings composed between 400 and 1200 CE.

Isa 34:16a Seek (H1875) ye out of the book of the LORD,

4. **Sod** (sewed)—"hidden" in Hebrew; the secret or mystic meaning which may involve gematria and paleo-Hebrew word pictures. Many may wish to skip the Pashat and delve into the Sod. As Brad Scott explains "God did not bury all important teachings in sod. They are in the Pashat and at one's fingertips."—Brad Scott (Brad Scott. 2015. "as the days of a tree..." Audio CD set. Wildbranch Ministry. Vernal, UT. Disc 1)

Deut 30:10 If thou shall hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. **30:11** For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. **12** It is not in heaven, that thou should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? **13** Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? **14** But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it.

FOUR LEVELS OF HERMENEUTIC INTERPRETATION	
Jewish (PaRDeS)	Christian (Quadrige)*
Pashat: Literal	Literal
Remez: Hint	Allegorical
Drash: Search / Application	Moral
Sod: Hidden / Mystical	Anagogic (Mystical)

* Wikipedia. n.d. Allegorical interpretation of the Bible. Retrieved 2/21/19. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegorical_interpretation_of_the_Bible
 Bob Utley. 1996, June 27. You Can Understand the Bible: An Introduction to and Application of the Contextual/Textual Method of Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics). 6-contextual-method-biblical-interpretation. Augustine's method is the one I chose for comparison. "The hermeneutics of Alexandria held sway over most of the Church in the area of interpretation until the time of the Protestant Reformation. It can be characterized in its developed form by Augustine (a.d. 354-430) in his four levels of interpretation." Augustine was Bishop of Hippo and famous theologian. <https://bible.org/seriespage/6-contextual-method-biblical-interpretation> Retrieved 2/21/19.

⁵⁷¹ The Catholic Church from Augustine onward treats scripture as allegorical which makes it mystical and difficult for man to understand. Example:

Literal: Jerusalem – City of the Jews/peace

Allegorical (suggesting virtues): = the church of Christ

Tropological (involving tropes (figures) or morality) = the human soul

Anagogically (Greek = "to rise") meaning to elevate to future glory: = the heavenly city.*

*from *The Forbidden Book* by Dr. Carig Lampe. 2004. 110p; p41.

⁵⁷² Source upon request.

⁵⁷³ The Gale Group. 2008. REBELLIOUS SON. *Jewish Virtual Library*.

https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0017_0_16525.html

⁵⁷⁴ Source upon request.

⁵⁷⁵ Rather than provide an inadequate summary explanation, please refer to *Meat Sacrificed to Idols* by 119 Ministries to this question. https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/faithnetworkuserfilestore/FAITHNETWORK_USERFILESTORE/FAITHNETWORK_USERFILESTORE/filecabinet/ministries/00f06fd7-4de2-4d8d-922d-ccd4a82bb1a9/Scripts%20-%20PDF%20English/Meat%20Sacrificed%20to%20Idols.pdf

⁵⁷⁶ Daniels Botkin. 2016, Jan-Feb .Immigrants & Immigration. Gates of Eden. p16-17.

⁵⁷⁷ Cathy Lynn Grossman. 2010, Sept. 29. Most Americans believe in God but don't know religious tenets. *USA Today*. http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-09-28-pew28_ST_N.htm

⁵⁷⁸ Lew White. n.d. *The Return of Y'shua*. 144p. p11.

⁵⁷⁹ Rev. Chery Hauer. Rev. 2011. Hebrew Roots®—Heritage or Heresy.

<http://www.bridgesforpeace.com/letter/hebraic-roots-heritage-or-heresy/> Retrieved 8/1/16.

⁵⁸⁰ Monika Staszczak. 2015. Oct 16. The Murray State News.

<http://thenews.org/2015/10/16/bible-group-stirs-controversy/>

⁵⁸¹ This was also found to be the case by Boaz Michael. 2012. *Twelve Gates*. Firstfruits of Zion, Marshfield, MO. 75p. p11.

⁵⁸² Firstfruits of Zion. *HaYesod*. Lesson 10 DVD.

⁵⁸³ Brooke Allen. 2006. Moral Minority. 235p; p149-150.

⁵⁸⁴ More than any other belief, the name of God is probably the most emotionally charged. May I add that significant answers to my prayers in the past, *before* I became aware of the Hebrew pronunciation, have come through using the name of Jesus Christ—not His Hebrew name. The mere adoption of using a Hebrew version of the name can label a Christian pastor a Hebrew Roots® adherent; and,

The name stands for character. Dennis Prager. n. d. *The Fourth Commandment: Do Not Misuse God's Name*. <http://www.prageruniversity.com/Ten-Commandments/Do-Not-Misuse-Gods-Name.html#.VNJI2c5DIU> Retrieved 2/4/15; and,

People may refer to Exodus 9:16 as the rationalization for using the *correct* name. The Hebrew word for name in this verse (*shem*) means more than just a name; it means character. What better reflects his character than the fruit of the Spirit and the Arronic Blessing expressed in Numbers 6:24-26? Are we representing the character of Christ in the world, or are we creating needless divisions by force-

feeding our beliefs on others who have not yet matured spiritually, and using His name to further personal purposes?

⁵⁸⁵ Brad Scott. n.d. These are the days of Eli...too much information.

<http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/08information.html> Retrieved 9/21/19

Brad Scott. n.d. These are the days of Eli...too much information. Part II I repent!

http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/13information_Pt2.html Retrieved 9/21/19

⁵⁸⁶ Boaz Michael and D. Thomas Lancaster, *One Law and the Messianic Gentile*, (Summer 2009) p52. in Source upon Request.

⁵⁸⁷ Dr. Daniel Botkin. n.d. A Response To FFOZ's Position Paper. "One Law" And The Messianic Gentile. <http://thekeyofknowledge.net/Religion/DL/DanBotkin.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸ D. Daniel Botkin. 2016, Sept-Oct. The Slippery Slope of *Sola Scriptura*. *Gates of Eden*. p18+

⁵⁸⁹ Dr Daniel Botkin. 2018, Nov-Dec The Blessing and the Curse of Independent Thinking. *Gates of Eden*. p12+. Vol 24. No. 6.

⁵⁹⁰ Boaz Michael. 2012 / 5773, Fall. Messianic Judaism Reconsidering the One-Law, Two-House Trajectories. *Messiah Journal*. p59.

⁵⁹¹ Zac Poonen. 2010. *Fifty Marks of the Pharisees*.

http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?book=fifty_marks_of_pharisees Retrieved 2/23/15

⁵⁹² Lew White. 2006. *The Torah Zone*. 184p. p114-115.

⁵⁹³ Ken Rank. n.d. A House Divided. <http://messianicpublications.com/ken-rank/a-house-divided/>

⁵⁹⁴ Watch this short minute news report on the prevailing lateness trend in the nation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QCak0toFcY> Retrieved 2/4/15; and,

Greg Savage. 2013, Oct 28 Updated: 01/23/2014 How Did It Get to Be 'OK' for People to Be Late for Everything? http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-savage/lateness_b_4169441.html Retrieved 2/4/15; and,

Laura Schocker. 2013, Nov. 7. This Is Why You're Late All The Time (And What To Do About It)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/07/psychology-lateness_n_4229057.html Retrieved 2/4/15

⁵⁹⁵ Brad Scott. n.d. These are the days of Eli...too much information.

<http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/08information.html> Retrieved 9/21/19

Brad Scott. These are the days of Eli...too much information. Part II I repent!

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRsbSLU9oFA> it must be recognized that the Hebrew language was resuscitated by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858-1922), [see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer_Ben-Yehuda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer_Ben-Yehuda) who coined contemporary words such as pistol and newspaper from the roots of Hebrew words, organized a committee to assist him with new Hebrew words, compiled a Hebrew Dictionary with new Hebrew words and promoted Hebrew as the official legal language to be spoken in the land when Jewish immigrants were speaking their native tongues and not able to communicate with other Jews from other lands.

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Addressing II Kings 17:18 and II Chron 34:3-9 (which also addresses II Chron 35) Steven Collins writes:

"The "Israelites" from the Ten Tribes "who were present" in Palestine during King Josiah's revival were the Scythians (the Sacae") whose armies were then occupying everything from Paletsine to Mesopotamia!" (p217).

"For years, contingents of the ten tribes [i.e. the Sythians] were living in their formal tribal lands. Biblical accounts clearly state that these members of these tribes were separate and distinct from the tribes of "Judah and Benjamin" who comprised the nation or "house" of Judah. The Israelite Scythians had conquered "all Asia" and were flush with war booty out of which to make donations." (p218).

Yair Davidy. n.d. Yair Davidy. n.d. Response to Asher Intrater writing regarding the Orthodox Jewish position on the Ten Tribes. http://www.hebrewroots.org/hebrewrootsarchive/0103/010312_d.html Retrieved 8/6/19

Point: "There are no lost ten tribes. All the tribes of Israel are included in what we call today the Jewish people. There are seven basic biblical evidences that prove this position.

*** Israel Remnant in Judah (II Chronicles)

*** The book of II Chronicles records many times that the members of the northern tribes immigrated to Judah after the kingdom division. This happened from the very moment of the division.

*** II Chronicles 10: 16-17

*** So all Israel departed to their tents. But Rehobam reigned over THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WHO DWELT IN THE CITIES OF JUDAH. It couldn't be stated more clearly that there were members of the Israeli tribes living in the territory of Judah. II Chronicles 11:3 states that Rehobam was the king not only of Judah but to "ALL" Israel living "IN" Judah and Benjamin. II Chronicles 11:16-17 states that members of "ALL" the tribes of Israel who were loyal to God came down to Jerusalem and strengthened the kingdom of Judah."

Counterpoint: "Yair Davidi replies:

"Answer: Some members of all the other tribes did come to Judah but these were only a minority as is clear from the rest of Book of Chronicles.

"On the other hand there are sources suggesting that a good portion of Judah with the Ten tribes. Even so Scripture refers to that portion of Judah that remained as "Judah" whereas all those who went into Assyrian Exile are counted as part of the Ten tribes and referred to in general as "Israel," "Ephraim," or "Samaria."

Point: "II Chronicles 15:9 tells us that during the revival of King Assa that there were "great numbers from Israel" who came over to Judah. II Chronicles 24:5 speaks of members gathered from all the tribes of Israel. II Chronicles 30:21 and 25 speak of the children of the Israelite tribes who came to Judah during the time of King Hezekiah. II Chronicles 31:6 speaks again of the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

"II Chronicles 30:10 speaks of members of the tribes of Ephraim, Menassah, Zebulun, and Asher coming to Jerusalem. II Chronicles 30:18 mentions also the tribe of Issachar. II Chronicles 34:6 adds to that list members of the tribes of Simeon and Naphtali. II Chronicles 34:9 states clearly that there were members of "ALL THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL" who were living in Jerusalem after the time of the Assyrian captivity. II Chronicles 35:3 again mentions that there were members of "all Israel" who were part of Judah.

Counterpoint: "Yair Davidy replies:

"This was after most of the Ten tribes had been exiled but a minority remained. These according to the Midrash (Yalkut Shimeoni) numbered c12% of the original total. Even this minority however was mostly taken away together with many from Judah and Simeon when LATER Sennacherib came (ii_Chronicles 32;1 2-Kings 18;12) and took all the unfenced cities and many of their inhabitants into captivity, see Midrash Seder Olam, Abarbanel end of Kings, etc).

“These Midrashim reflect the Oral tradition, they are consistent with Scripture when Scripture is taken as a consistent whole and they also conform to archaeological evidence.

“II Chronicles 35:3 refers to the time of King Josiah son of Amon when indeed for a brief period a small band of Scythian-Israelites returned for awhile. King Josiah was killed and those few northern Scythian-Israelites who had returned once again left.

“see Talmud Arakin 33a, Megilla 14b, Rashi on Sanhedrin 94a. etc. Rabbi Goren wrote an article on this subject. See "The Tribes" for details.

Point: “Captivity Restored (Ezra and Nehemia)

“After the Babylonian captivity, the nation of Israel was restored under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemia. In those books are extensive genealogical records. The fact that there were careful genealogical records proves that not only were the northern Israelites part of the restoration, but that they kept records of their families and they knew which tribe they were from.]

Counterpoint: “Yair Davidi replies:

“Answer. genealogical records - from the time of Ezra only refer to families from Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. the other tribes are not mentioned This proves they were not present according to the Bible (though a Midrash says that some of them were and suggests that up to 20% of the people considered "Jews" actually descend from the Northern Tribes. Even so, it is still only a minority that is being discussed and in Scripture is not mentioned. As far as Scripture is concerned Northern Israel disappeared.

Point: Ezra 2:2 starts the records of "the number of the men of the people of ISRAEL."

Counterpoint: “Yair Davidi replies:

“Answer: The term Israel can also apply to Judah, Benjamin, Levi and remnants of the other Tribes i.e. to "Judah.”

⁸⁰³ Greg Laurie. 2015. Dec 8. Facebook. Retrieved 12/13/2018.

<https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/there-is-no-question-in-my-mind-that-we-are-living-in-the-last-daysall-around-us/10153717713921698/>

⁸⁰⁴ Monte Judah. n.d. Jew and Gentile in Our Messianic Faith. Retrieved 11/29/20

<https://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/42-jew-and-gentile-in-our-messianic-faith>

⁸⁰⁵ Greg Laurie. 2015. Dec 8. Facebook. Retrieved 12/13/2018.

<https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/there-is-no-question-in-my-mind-that-we-are-living-in-the-last-daysall-around-us/10153717713921698/>

⁸⁰⁶ Steve Shermett. n.d. The Ephraimite or Two-House Doctrine. Retrieved 12/13/18.

<https://www.biblestudyproject.org/bible-study-library/israel/contrary-claims-ii-ephraimite-or-two-house-doctrine/>

⁸⁰⁷ <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezone03shermett.htm>

⁸⁰⁸ Tim Hegg. 2002. The Two-House Theory: Three Fatal Flaws.

https://torahalkonline.com/Articles/Two_House_Fatal_Errors.pdf

⁸⁰⁹ Steve Shermett. 2016. The Two House Or Ephraimite Movement

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⁸¹⁰ Wikipedia: Article J.H. Allen . n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._H._Allen Retrieved 8/2/19

⁸¹¹ Jewish Encyclopedia. 1906. Anglo-Israelism. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/1524-anglo-israelism> Retrieved 6/5/20

⁸¹² Batya Wootten. 2004. Dec. 22. Letter and Response to Tim Hegg's paper "A Commentary on the 'Two House Theory': Three Fatal Flaws." <http://www.redeemedisrael.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/1Hegg-Response-for-PDF-2013.pdf> Retrieved 8/11/19

⁸¹³ The Hebrew Roots Movement is unfortunately sometimes labeled as being associated with the White Supremacy Movement. “The Ephraimite message undermines the great power of the claims of the Apostolic Writings. It tries to change a message of hope and comfort for all peoples regardless of their heritage, regardless of their station in life, into a racist and race-based plan of salvation for those with the proper bloodlines.” *The Ephraimite Error: A Short Summary.* <http://www.mayimhayim.org/Academic%20Stuff/Ephraimite%20Error.htm#fn19>

Neither is Hebrew Roots “Sovereign Citizen” Christians need to stay away from it as Steven Collins writes in his blog. Steven M. Collins. 2019, June 27. Christians Should Avoid The “Sovereign Citizen” Movement. <https://stevenmcollins.com/christians-should-avoid-the-sovereign-citizen-movement/>

⁸¹⁴ Mayim's Endnote. n.d. he Ephraimite Error: A Short Summary. A Short Summary of "The Ephraimite Error" A Position Paper Submitted to the International Messianic Jewish Alliance. Author: Kay Silberling, Ph.D. Retrieved 6/9/18.

<http://www.mayimhayim.org/Academic%20Stuff/Ephraimite%20Error.htm#fn19>

⁸¹⁵ Brit Hume. 2019, Jan . 16. Racism charge against Steve King 'bogus'
<https://www.wnd.com/2019/01/brit-hume-racism-charge-against-steve-king-bogus/#xlogbclHboKeEEhp.99>

⁸¹⁶ Kay Silberling, Ph.D. n.d. The Ephraimite Error: A Short Summary.
<http://www.mayimhayim.org/Academic%20Stuff/Ephraimite%20Error.htm> Retrieved 7/15/19

⁸¹⁷ Rabbi OvadYah Avrahami. n.d. Pesach – the 2nd Exodus Ingathering of the Tribes of Israel.
<https://www.kolhator.com/pesach-2nd-exodus-ingathering-tribes-israel> Retrieved 1/7/20

⁸¹⁸ Ron Matsen. 2020, Jan 1. The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology
<https://khouse.org/articles/2020/1372/> Retrieved 6/8/20

⁸¹⁹ Wikipedia. n.d. Supersessionism. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersessionism> Retrieved 6/8/20

⁸²⁰ Ron Matsen. 2020, Jan 1. The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology
<https://khouse.org/articles/2020/1372/> Retrieved 6/8/20

⁸²¹ Matt Slick. n.d. What is replacement theology? <https://carm.org/questions-replacement-theology>
Retrieved 8/11/19

⁸²² WND Staff. 2015. Aug. Published August 22, 2015 Is everything you know about 2nd Coming wrong?
<https://www.wnd.com/2015/08/is-everything-you-know-about-second-coming-wrong/#RkMvkBqFXqsl4wzt.99>
Retrieved 11/24/21

⁸²³ Rabbi OvadYah Avrahami. n.d. Pesach – the 2nd Exodus Ingathering of the Tribes of Israel.
<https://www.kolhator.com/pesach-2nd-exodus-ingathering-tribes-israel> Retrieved 1/7/20

⁸²⁴ Tom Bradford. N.D. <http://www.torahclass.com/teacher/>

⁸²⁵ "The straw man, I am afraid, does not exist in most Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Messianic Jewish circles, all of whose noted theologians have repudiated replacement theology and the notion of the church as spiritual Israel." — International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *One Law, Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee.* 60p; p24.

<http://storage.cloversites.com/iamcs/documents/One%20Law%20Two%20Sticks.pdf>. A paper to which Brad Scott, a Hebrew Roots® teacher, also critically responds to at
<https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/IAMCS.html>

⁸²⁶ Mal 3:6; Heb13:8

⁸²⁷ International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee 2014. Jan 15. *One Law, Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots® Movement: A position paper of the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) Steering Committee.* 60p. p53 <http://storage.cloversites.com/iamcs/documents/One%20Law%20Two%20Sticks.pdf>. A paper to which Brad Scott, a Hebrew Roots® teacher, also critically responds to at
<https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/IAMCS.html>

⁸²⁸ Monte Judah. 2018. Torah is For All People. Posted in *Yavoh Messianic Magazine*.
<http://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/57-torah-is-for-all-people>

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https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/The_Seven_Noahide_Laws.html Retrieved 5/18/15. The seven laws of Noah's time are listed in Midrash Genesis Rabbah 16:6 (Soncino edition, p. 131), Sanhedrin 56 a, b; and Midrash Song of Songs Rabbah 1:2(5) (Soncino edition, pp. 26-27). The sabbath is not one of them. They are commonly listed as seven, however, others say there could others.

⁸³⁰ David Rudolph. n.d. Gentiles Believers and Torah. PhDDirector of Messianic Jewish Studies. The King's University.
https://www.messianicgentiles.com/uploads/1/3/3/3/13335212/gentile_believers_and_torah_final_9_18_19.pdf Retrieved 7/17/20

⁸³¹ Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian). 2002, June 12. Who is Israel? (And What are the Implications for Gentiles?) <https://www.betemunah.org/gen-jew.html> Retrieved 7/4/19

- ⁸³² Alfred J. Kolatch. 2000. *The Jewish Book of Why*. Revised Edition. Penguin Compass, NY, NY. 308p; p197.
- ⁸³³ Bill Cloud. 2016, March 28. Two Witnesses Encouragement by Bill Cloud and Perry Stone <http://shematorah.com/two-witnesses-bill-cloud-perry-stone/> Retrieved 7/5/19
- ⁸³⁴ Doug V. various dates. Email Exchange On Law Applicable Today <https://jesuswordsonly.com/topicindex/98-law-applicable-today.html> Retrieved 7/9/19
- ⁸³⁵ Bill Cloud. 2020, Jan 4. The Torah Portions: Vayechi. The Hebraic Roots Network https://www.facebook.com/hebrewrootsnetwork/videos/820940305019612/?v=820940305019612&mc_cid=adf0fe106d&mc_eid=11c8b281f7 Time Mark 26:32. Retrieved 1/13/20
- ⁸³⁶ Got Questions? n.d. Were Jacob's prophecies about his sons fulfilled? <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jacobs-prophecies.html> Retrieved 7/8/17. Note although the answer states the prophecy was fulfilled, it does not address the very specific Hebrew words in Genesis 49:1 *acharit ha'yamim* which literally means "in the end of the days." The phrase is used in prophecy (Isa 2:2; Micah 4:1) to refer to the end time last days of this present age. The New Testament phrase "last days" also refers to the end time. (Acts 2:17; II Tim 3:1, II Pet 3:3). The Torah Class gives some additional information that may not be found on Church of God sites which teach the prophecy is applicable for today--the end times: <http://www.torahclass.com/old-testament-studies/34-old-testament-studies-genesis/118-lesson-43-chapter49> ;and, Dennis Jones. n.d. *Will the Lost Tribes Return? An Analysis of the Lost Tribes in Rabbinic Literature*. <http://www.hope-of-israel.org/tribereturn.html>
- ⁸³⁷ Steven M Collins. 2005. *Israel's Tribes Today*. Bible Blessings, Royal Oak, MI 296p; p14-15.
- ⁸³⁸ Wikipedia. n.d. Demographics of the Arab League. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Arab_League#:~:text=The%20Arab%20League%20\(L%20league%20of,around%20407%2D420%20million%20people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Arab_League#:~:text=The%20Arab%20League%20(L%20league%20of,around%20407%2D420%20million%20people). Retrieved 6/8/20
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- ⁸⁴⁰ Jeff Booth. n.d. How Many Tribes of Israel Do the Jews Represent? <http://www.hope-of-israel.org/howmanytribes.html>
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- ⁸⁴⁷ Batya Wootten. 2006. *Redeemed Israel—Reunited and Restored*. Key of David Publishing, St. Cloud, FL. 235p. p75. This is the new title of the 4th edition of her book *Who Is Israel*.
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- ⁸⁴⁹ Batya Ruth Wootten. 2003. *Passover in all its Fullness*. Key of David Pub., St. Cloud, FL 84p; p ix-x.
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- ⁸⁵² Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler, Michael A. Fishbane. 2004. *The Jewish Study Bible: Jewish Publication Society Tanakh Translation*. p131 <https://books.google.com/books?id=aDuy3p5QvEYC&pg=PA131&lpg=PA131&dq=stranger+becomes+israelite+circumcision&source=bl&ots=YKikUObx5b&sig=p8Nc5MOHRxvgHkLH19Re8VY3Yo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ACROVcTUJI7FogTsm4DQCg&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=stranger%20becomes%20israelite%20circumcision&f=false> ; and,

Ex 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to YHVH (the LORD), let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourns among you.

Num 9:14 And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land. (See also Ezekiel 14:7)

⁸⁵³ Daniels Juster. n.d. The Danger of Jewish Roots Movements.

<https://www.tikkunministries.org/newsletters/dj-sep14.php> Retrieved 5/27/17

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<http://www.redeemedisrael.com/we-declare-these-truths-to-be-self-evident/> Retrieved 5/25/15

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⁸⁶³ Sandy Bloomfield. n.d. *The Errors of "The Ephraimite Error."*

<http://www.redeemedisrael.com/category/protecting-the-truth/> Retrieved 6/5/15 see also Moshe Koniuschowsky response to "*The Ephraimite Error*" in his paper "The Truth about Israel" written in 2000.

<http://familybible.org/downloads/TheTruthAboutAllIsrael.pdf>

⁸⁶⁴ Mayim's Endnote. n.d. he Ephraimite Error: A Short Summary. A Short Summary of "The Ephraimite Error" A Position Paper Submitted to the International Messianic Jewish Alliance. Author: Kay Silberling, Ph.D. Retrieved 6/9/18. See Sandy Bloomfield. n.d. *The Errors of "The Ephraimite Error."*

<http://www.redeemedisrael.com/category/protecting-the-truth/> Retrieved 6/5/15

⁸⁶⁵ Alan Lee. 2015. June 5: theological allusion. E-mail..

⁸⁶⁶ Haaretz. 2008, May 7. why not Judea? Zion? State of the Hebrews? <http://www.haaretz.com/why-not-judea-zion-state-of-the-hebrews-1.245441>

⁸⁶⁷ "Burn their synagogues and schools; what will not burn, bury it with earth that neither stone nor rubbish remain. In like manner break into and destroy their homes. Take away their prayer book and Talmuds. For in them there is nothing but godlessness, lies, cursing, and swearing. Forbid their Rabbis to teach, on pain of life or limb." --Martin Luther, *Preface to Commentary on Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans* in *Escaping the Great Deception by Derek Frank*. 2014. Roaring Lion Productions. 121p; p11.

There were others going back to the early "Church Faiths" who expressed similar disgust, if not hatred of the Jews (e.g. Jerome, Augustine, and John Chrysostom (the Golden Mouth) whose 8 sermons expressed intense hatred toward the Jews).

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⁸⁷⁴ Source upon request.

A 1945 edition of Herbert W. Armstrong's book (of which I could not locate) of the *United States and Britain in Prophecy* is referenced instead of one of most widely disseminated editions from the 1970s onward. The first edition of the book was first published in 1954 as noted by Stephen Boston in his 2002 book *The Essential Teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong*. 284p. p141. The change in title of British Commonwealth to Britain did not occur until the 1980 edition of the book to the best of my knowledge. "Grow in grace and knowledge" is given for good reason. We may not all believe the same as we grow wiser and older in the faith. Why chose from an earlier source when an author is know by his most popular edition?

⁸⁷⁵ Should Messianic Believers Return to the Land of Israel? http://www.convince-the-gainsayer.com/Should_Messianic_Believers_Return_to_the_Land_of_Israel.pdf Retrieved 5/26/19

⁸⁷⁶ Jewish Virtual Library.n.d. Select Quotations of David Ben-Gurion. Retrieved 12/13/18 <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/select-quotations-of-david-ben-gurion>.

⁸⁷⁷ Dr. Ray Gannon. 2018, June 23. Sabbath Presentation at at Ahava B'Shem Y'shua Messianic Congregation in Prescott, AZ.

⁸⁷⁸ Personal conversation with Tim Kelley on 9/15/20 about his trip to Israel with Joe Good, Messianic Jewish Roots Teacher, in 2000.

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⁸⁸⁴ Dr, Stephen E. Jones 2021, Dec 13. The saints prepare to rule, part 26 <https://godskingdom.org/blog/2021/12/the-saints-prepare-to-rule-part-26> Retrieved 12/13/21

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⁸⁸⁹ Brad Scott. 2014. *One Law, Two Sticks Position Paper*. <http://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/articles/IAMCS.html> Retrieved 12/27/14; and, Source upon request.

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⁸⁹¹ *Wikipedia*. n.d. Christian Identity. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_identity Retrieved 5/10/2014

⁸⁹² United Church of God. 2011, Feb 16. *Advocates of British-Israelism*. <http://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-united-states-and-britain-in-bible-prophecy/advocates-of-british>

⁸⁹³ Avi ben Mordechai, 2010, May 18. Part 1 - ONE House -TWO House <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H74MkMf4auk> ; and,

The wife of a MJ pastor excitedly remarked to me that it is the "pride of the Gentiles" when other believers regard themselves to be part of the "lost tribes."; and,

Monte Judah. 2018. Torah is For All People. Posted in *Yavoh Messianic Magazine*. <http://yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/57-torah-is-for-all-people>

⁸⁹⁴ Boaz Michael. n.d. *Encounters with an Ephraimite. Identity through a Lost Heritage*. First Fruits of Zion. 16p.