

'it is the root that supports you...!'

We read in 1 John 3 that "... *sin is the transgression of the law.*" (KLV). Most translations here read that 'sin is lawlessness', which should read, if translated correctly, "...*sin is transgression of the Torah*"; i.e. the absence of obedience to the commandments of God. We also read in the next verse that "*You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*" (1 John 3:5). Thus, as the same words of God apply to our Messiah, then we see here that Yeshua was obedient to the Torah as he did not sin. No disobedience to Torah (Divine Instruction) was found in him. For this reason it should be abundantly clear that Yeshua did not come to abolish the Torah, a fact plainly affirmed by a statement by his own lips at various times throughout his ministry.

So why do so many argue that the Torah has no longer any bearing upon mankind?

Of course we are not called upon to sacrifice sheep and oxen, because these things belong to the Jewish people – just as Gentiles WERE NEVER called upon to take upon themselves circumcision or any of the Kosher regulations.

Christians need to learn to separate what belongs to the followers of Yeshua and what does not!

The Torah is the blueprint for all of mankind. However, what is taught therein needs to be understood properly, lest it become a burden and a scourge. If you understand the Tenach (the OT or TaNaK - Torah, Prophets and the Writings) you will also recognize in the writings of Paul that he distilled the Tenach in them so the Gentiles may enter into the life of God.

Why do so many have a problem with Sinai and the covenants?

There is not one word in the scriptures about abolishing anything from the earlier covenants. Where the problem is, is in the fact that so many people will not accept that they are being deceived by their translations when it comes to these issues.

The Christian world is in deep error, because more and more evidence is emerging that what we have today, especially the NT has been substantially doctored to reinforce a total separation from the Jewish world – despite of what Paul teaches in Romans 8-10.

I cannot comprehend why well-meaning people prefer to lean on the Greek texts, which are at best only translations of much earlier Hebrew texts, when the Jewish people have been reading the same Scriptures since before the time of Messiah!

If we belong to Yeshua, then we belong to Israel and the Jewish world – NOT to the Greeks, Romans, Russians or Americans! It is only in constructive dialogue – which is possible – that we discover the disastrous deviation that occurred at the time of Constantine. It is not enough to acknowledge that Constantine introduced a non-Biblical theology, we must find the courage to return to what Yeshua and Paul gave the Gentile world; i.e. an entrance into the Commonwealth of Israel (Eph. 2:11-13). It is this Commonwealth, that will constitute the Government of the Kingdom of God – not the Church (of whatever denomination)!

What troubles me so deeply in the teaching of so many well meaning Christians, is that, in their 'Gospel' there is no room for the Jewish people unless they abandon their Torah, and their Covenants that HaShem (the Name - God) made with their forefathers.

They are expected to slap an Authorized Version of the King James Bible under their armpit and become member of a dead church! Ezekiel taught it 2500 years ago, Paul taught it 2000 years ago – HaShem will save His people DESPITE their utter unworthiness. He will do it, for His Name's sake! Unless the Almighty will accomplish that, what guarantee do we Gentiles have that He will remain faithful to us and not abandon us when He takes note of OUR utter unworthiness.

Many may ask, 'what covenant are we under?'

The New one of course.

So why then do so many denominations like the Christadelphians continue to lean on the types of the Torah, etc. in formulating their theology and ignore the basic teachings of Paul that the 'Good News of the Kingdom of God' belong to the Jews first and only then to the Greeks (Gentiles). Let us therefore find ways to contextualize what the Greek texts really teach to the Jewish people so that they too may have their eyes opened. Thus far all they know is 2000 years of hearing that their Torah is finished, their covenants are finished and they as a people are finished – WITHOUT CHRIST!

I hate that word Christ (a Greek version of the Hebrew term for 'Anointed One'. Messiah is a more consistent translation), because I hear it all the time here in Israel from 'well-meaning' Christians as a statement of superiority over Judaism. Christians will freely use

the name Yeshua HaMashiach, but when push comes to shove, they will revert back to Jesus Christ; i.e. in prayer! If we are truly fair dinkum, then let us embrace the truth in all matters – not push our individual dogmas – no matter how sacred to us they may be. Dogmas killed the Son of God and are killing the Christian world! Christianity is a Jewish religion and a meaningless entity without the Jewish Roots. As Paul says in Romans 11, *'it is the root that supports you...'*!

Since living in Israel it has become so clear to me that much of Christianity is just a show. We go somewhere to do religious things, but for the rest of the time we live our own lives, whereas Judaism (and Islam for that matter) is a way of life (to whatever extent you want to practice it). A Jew is a Jew 24/7, whereas I see Christians who are VERY spiritual at work, but once they leave the building they become something else; they become their real selves! Jewish people observe this kind of behaviour and shrug their shoulders saying, what else do you expect from the Gentiles?

Christians are so concerned with what belongs to the flesh and what belongs to the spirit! They do not realize that this is an oriental expression for good and evil? In other words, whatever hurts God and man is evil (fleshly) and what blesses God and man is good (of the Spirit). There is a good inclination in man (Paul talks about that in Rom. 7) which is an action of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and an evil inclination which comes from our lower self (the flesh). They all describe the same things! Paul gives a major teaching in Galatians on this subject, which needs to be understood from a Hebrew perspective.

Gal 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Messiah Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

It is an amazing thing to discover, how easy it is to draw near to Jewish people if we understand what Paul tried to teach the Gentiles, that he did no more than make the Tenach digestible for non-Hebrews.

We need to earnestly seek the face of God to learn how to implement the truth of the Abrahamic Faith.

It has to become a practical way of life for us, nothing is clearer for me. Failing that we will not go anywhere!

It is **not about Hebrew names, words, artifacts or festivals**, but a reality built around a solid way of walking with Yeshua. It is about an authenticity that is beyond reproach. Either we follow a Jewish Messiah or a Greek Christ, but we cannot follow both, because they are incompatible!

Most Christians confuse the observance of Torah commandments with salvation. Such thinking is foreign to Jewish thought.

The Almighty came for Israel while they were slaves in Egypt and saved them by His mighty hand and **only afterwards** gave them His Torah. They were saved by Grace not by Torah and by faith they followed Moses into the sea. Israel was intended to become righteous through the laws of Sinai, but missed. It is the same for Christians! Praise God, that the doctrine of 'Once saved – always saved!' has been debunked, for the scriptures clearly teach that we have to 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling', that *'...(we) too can be cut off as Israel was cut off...'* Rom 11:22.

Salvation grants us an imputed righteousness – but that righteousness needs to be maintained, just as Israel was expected to do.

Galatians 4:21-31 is a problem passage.

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say?

"Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

This passage clearly alludes to the Jewish people as a parallel to Hagar. It is a passage, which supports the utter rejection of the Jewish people and the Tenach. However, when we look at this passage closer, it also becomes evident that Paul seems to have had a change of heart when we compare his thinking here and that expressed in Romans. The passage also has the hallmark of distinct anti-Jewish sentiments and totally incompatible with Paul's theology of Romans.

Therefore, as I have expressed elsewhere, we need to find the courage to ask the difficult question, 'have the letters of Paul been tampered with?' How can Paul say in one book that the Good News belong first of all to the Jews and ALSO to the Gentiles. How would God inspire a book like Romans and then inspire another book, which seems to say the complete opposite- as does the Qur'an in many places?

Many teach a form of rejection of the Jewish people based on this passage as they do not know any better being the product of centuries old, bad teaching! But we can change things if we truly want to!

There are extremely difficult times coming toward us and truth will be at a premium – not just truth, but truth tempered by grace and love for one another.

Better understanding our relationship and indebtedness to the Jewish people is a very important part of this truth seeking, as the world turns more and more against the State of Israel, her Jewish people and the promises of God.

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