
Subject: Session 2: Hebrew Roots - SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

I need to apologise for my long silence:

Due to a sudden brain malfunction of my computer, it had to spend some time in ICU. But the doctors could pull it through!
So we now proceed with even greater brain capacity, quicker thinking and expanded mind (larger hard drive and more RAM).

Having lost 2 days, it would take some time to answer all your responses.

You amazed me with some of them:

1. Many folks wanted to get hold of the 17 questions mentioned in the previous session. Personally I'd rather that you read the article series. All 17 questions will be dealt with during its course. The 17 questions were written down without much editing, and some were clumsily put, and might cause you to get a false impression of what I really meant.
2. Most folks were EXTREMELY grateful for the fact that SOMEBODY would finally take up the pen to hopefully put some aspects of the said movements in perspective, or at least open a sensible debate. Most folks expressed their nagging sense that something is terribly wrong with these movements, but that they didn't deem themselves equipped to either diagnose the problem, or make a sensible contribution to its correction. (In other words: Sadly, the teaching that folks have sat under for years and years in the institutional church has proved once again to be pretty useless when real problems arise).
Personally, I don't feel too equipped either. But due to the silence and lack of leadership from elsewhere, somebody needs to step up to the plate.
(When I, during my research for this series phoned a (very friendly) professor in Hebrew at a seminary, he enquired about my interest in the topic. When I told him about this article, he asked: "What is this Hebrew Roots movement?"
Folks, the institution is not even aware of its existence! Moreover, there seems to be absolutely NO liasions between this movement and evangelical scholars. Which leaves only Messianism, Talmudism and Judaism for its source of informaton on Hebrew!)
3. Responses from Hebrew Rooters and Torah groups were few and far between - seemingly in wait to see which way the cat would jump.

So here's Session 2.

Enjoy!

Eben Swart

Previously in: **Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis:**

We saw how the Father is moving hundreds of thousands of believers worldwide from Institutional Churches into House Churches.

But we see how large percentages of these in SA get entrapped into related movements:

Sabbatarianism, Messianism, Torah Groups, Hebrew Roots and Talmudism.

We believe this phenomenon could have either a blessed, or dire effect on the spiritual future of the Kingdom in SA.

In this issue:

Previous mistakes concerning the Torah, and its restoration.

Is the Torah really obsolete?

Reformed, Calvinist theology **deems the Torah obsolete** (the Torah being the first five books of the OT, or *Pentateuch*: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers - the books traditionally believed to have been written by Moses).

In our Bibles, "Torah" is often translated with "law" - although "instruction" would be more accurate.

A verse often quoted by adherents of this theology is:

Christ is the end of the law ... Rom. 10:4

often without giving any thought to the origin of the word "end". For them, this verse then epitomises the doctrine which says that Christ had terminated the law. According to this doctrine, we currently don't live under the law any more, but rather under grace (John 1:17; Rom. 6:14).

Moreover, standard theology **correctly concludes** that **we are saved by faith alone, through grace** - and not by keeping the Torah. These doctrines resulted in an almost complete abolition of the Torah in the Institutional Church. One would seldom hear any sermon on any aspect of the Torah. Sermons would mostly be based on the New Testament.

(Theologians somehow forgot that Torah actually means "instruction". We all agree that the Torah cannot save us - but it can disciple us! In the OT, the Torah actually, over the course of 400 years, disciplined a homeless, foodless, waterless, rebellious mob with a slave mentality on the shores of the Reed Sea into the greatest nation on the face of the earth in the time of Solomon!)

In the process, the NT became conceptually dislodged from the OT - which resulted in seriously warped proclamations from modern-day theologians.

The word "end" in *Christ is the end of the law ...* is the Greek word *telos*, which could also mean "the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose". Which would mean that Christ never terminated the Torah, but that the entire Torah actually foreshadows Him!

Also Messiah Himself proclaimed that the Father never sent Him to abolish the law, but rather to fulfil it - Mat. 5:17. Which means that Messiah does not (like the institutional church usually does) put an equal sign between fulfilment and abolition.

These and many other scriptures have lead some believers to **reconsider the OT, and especially the Torah.**

And as they started to study it, they found that they actually started to understand the NT better! Actually, they realized that the NT could not be properly understood without a thorough understanding of the Torah!

The New Testament flows forth from the Torah! The NT is made up of the ingredients of the Torah! The NT is the fulfillment of the Torah!

If the NT were to represent addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, then the Torah would represent the whole numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, ... etc.

If the NT were to represent chemical compounds, then the Torah would represent the elements Hydrogen, Helium, Lithium, ... etc.

If the NT were to represent dancing, then the Torah would represent Newton's three laws of motion in Classical Mechanics.

In Theology, this concept is embedded in the term: Foreshadowing.

So believers realized that **the Torah is all but obsolete**. That it is all but terminated. They discovered that the *talit* and tabernacle foreshadowed the Temple of Solomon, which in turn foreshadowed the bodies of believers as temples of the Holy Spirit. They discovered that the Biblical feasts foreshadowed the coming of the Messiah, and seemingly the End Time and heavenly orders.

Some started to learn Hebrew, and were amazed by the hieroglyphic and numerical attributes of this ancient language, and how they seem to tie in with Scripture. And many, many, many more things.

One could say that **the very roots of our faith were rediscovered**, after they'd been forgotten for many hundreds of years. Hence the term: Hebrew Roots.

Corrupting the Corruptible

But then, as is the way of all flesh, **some began to corrupt these rediscoveries** for their own personal interest or sin:

Those who needed to cover up their own racist hearts with good-sounding doctrine invented Israel Vision and British Israelism.

Those who lusted after money and power went into Freemasonry.

Those who fell prey to false prophecies embraced Sabbatarianism/Adventism.

And those who had theological idols in their hearts fell prey to Talmudism.

And, alas, in the middle of the spectrum, many kind-hearted, sincere believers got ensnared by the traps of **Messianism, Torah groups and Hebrew Roots**.

Let me make it **abundantly clear**:

As far as I know, **there is nothing intrinsically wrong with these last three**.

Similarly, there is nothing wrong with Christianity. But one encounters horribly deceived Christians. They aren't deceived because they are bad. They are deceived because they take bad decisions.

Even so, one encounters horribly deceived Messianics, Torah groups and Hebrew Rooters. They take bad decisions.

Hebrew Roots and Torah study is a minefield (Almost without exception, the learned rabbi's, Sadducees and Pharisees of the time of Messiah fell into its traps, remember?) And if new, freshly out-of-church disciples aren't equipped to discern which Torah teachers are wolves in sheep's clothing (which equipping very few churches, if any, do), they are usually mightily impressed with their new "knowledge" and accepts any teaching straight or skew. Hence these groups, over time, often grow terribly twisted.

This article will explore WHY they grow skew.

Can we talk?

Dear friends and fellow-believers, I am painfully aware of the fact that, during the course of this article series, I'm going to **upset**, and might even **alienate** some (if I haven't done so already!).

But I cannot keep quiet. **For the sake of the Kingdom** we'll have to start talking about the unspeakable. We cannot allow our petty preferences and pet doctrines to stand in the way of the Kingdom. The current-day study of the Torah has rediscovered an amazing set of truths - truths which I sincerely believe will help the Body of Believers greatly in times to come.

But just as important is the fact that we need to start drawing boundaries and set parameters so that the whole "Torah business" does not spin out of control. Personally, I see urgent red lights flashing in this regard.

The Father is doing a stunning thing in our day. But as His free-willed representatives and as co-workers with Messiah, we have the ability to **sabotage** everything, just like Israel and Judah, by their own rebellion, sabotaged the Father's dream for them - resulting in terrible exiles. This won't stop the Father, though. Only WE will suffer - in the long run His plans shall prevail.

According to Messiah's own words, His gospel is the gospel of the **Kingdom** - not the gospel of the **Torah**.

We may never slaughter the Kingdom on the altar of the Torah. If so, we would slaughter Messiah all over again. And, alas, this is what is currently happening. The aim of the Torah is Messiah - and He was sent to earth to establish his Father's Kingdom. If we forget the Kingdom, then we forget Messiah. And if we forget Messiah, ironically, we forget the Torah!

Some will surely **accuse me** of any combination of the usual battery of evils deployed to discredit any critic of anything remotely Jewish:

Anti-Semitism, Nazism, Replacement Theology, Arab-hugging, ignorance, Greek mindset, Calvinism, etc.

Those who know me, would be happy to testify that I embrace none of these. In fact, I teach against these in much of what is freely available as downloads on our website www.trumpetcall.co.za.

So please, before you draw the long knives, be sure of what I really teach.

Rather, I would like to invite everybody to take the journey together, and allow the Ruach to speak truth to our inner man. Whatever might not represent truth, we might happily discard. But the Scriptures command us to LOVE whatever represents truth. It also warns us that if we would refuse to love the truth, and prefer to side with lies, we would be handed over to its power, so we would believe it, be deceived, and not be saved.

*When a person is deceived
he doesn't realize he's deceived
because he's deceived.*

To be continued ...

Next time in: **Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis:**

Zorba, dear Zorba ...