

**Subject:** Session 4: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

Herewith Session 4 of this article series.

Please note that all the parts of this article that have already been published, are available on our website [www.trumpetcall.co.za](http://www.trumpetcall.co.za) under "articles". It can easily be copied and pasted.

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

1. 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.
2. We saw how Reformed Theology has declared the Torah obsolete. We saw how Torah-truths were rediscovered in our time. And we mentioned that some of these study groups become deceived.
3. We saw how Torah groups often commit the same evil that they have originally set out to oppose. We see dishonesty amongst some Torah followers concerning their viewpoints towards the Greek mindset and language.

In this issue:

## To all the idols I've loved before!

### The Hebrew Language is neither original, nor holy.

In Torah classes, one often hears the claim:

**“Hebrew was the original language given to man by God.”**

Sometimes you might even pick up hints that Hebrew is some or other “holy” (sorry, sorry, ) “set apart” language, since the OT or *Tanakh* was recorded thus.

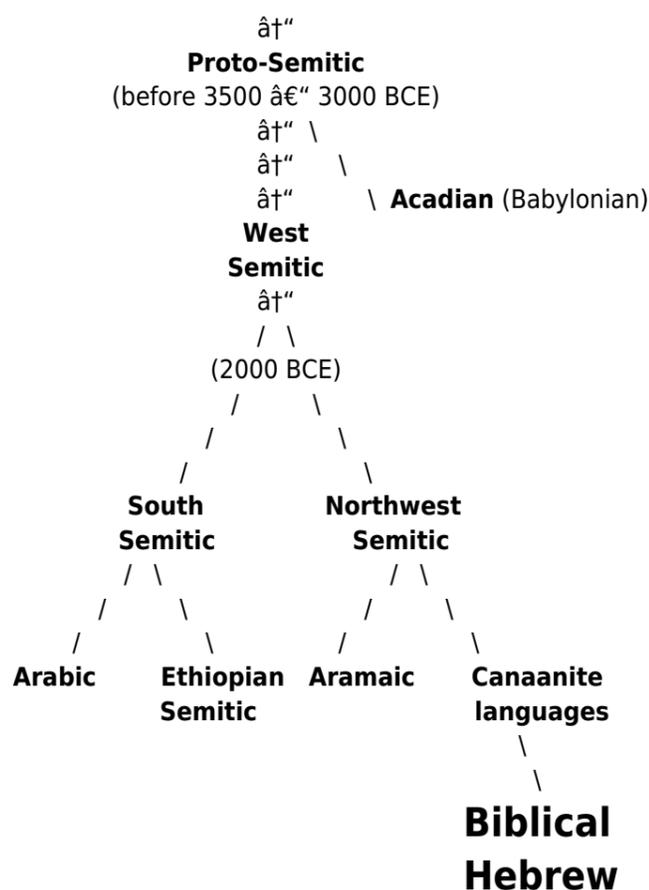
This, notwithstanding the fact that there is absolutely NO indication, not even the slightest hint in the entire Scriptures that the Hebrew language should be regarded as better or in any way superior to any other language.

These claims of Torah and Hebrew Roots teachers are simply not true. There are neither Biblical, nor historical grounds for this claim.

**Here's what scholars know today:**

In the Middle East, until about 3500 – 3000 BCE, a language, which scholars call *Proto-Semitic*, was spoken. At about that time, the *Acadian* (Babylonian) branch of the Semitic languages split off the mainstream, and left *West Semitic* to remain. Prior to 2000 BCE, *West Semitic* divided into *South Semitic* (whose major descendants are Arabic and the Semitic languages of Ethiopia) and *Northwest Semitic* (including Aramaic and the Canaanite languages – of which Biblical Hebrew is one).

In diagram format:



**We thus see that Biblical Hebrew, Acadian, Arabic and Canaanite languages all share the same root: *Proto-Semitic*.**

So, shall we all, for the record, please take note of the fact **that Biblical Hebrew as a language is neither original, nor "holy"**.

The serious part about the above-mentioned is this:

**Attribution of unique, divine traits to any esteemed, but undeserving concept is a rather reliable indicator of idolatry.**

In the said movements, Hebrew as a language gets raised to a level which it does not deserve. A position which is based in lies and utter nonsense.

Over many years, I have attended many Messianic, Torah or Hebrew Roots groups who have fallen into this trap. Idolatry is sin, and needs to be repented of.

## The Hebrew Alefbet and its human additions.

In the said movements, one often encounters teachings concerning **the numerical and/or hieroglyphic/pictogrammatic nature of the Hebrew language**. A long-time favourite example is the first Hebrew word in Gen. 1:1. *reshiyth*.

The teaching goes that every Hebrew letter has a picture associate " its so-called "pictogram". Also, that every Hebrew letter possesses an **associated numerical value**.

The "man"s head-pictogram, for instance, is thus connected to the Hebrew letter *reish*, the "ox-head" pictogram to the Hebrew letter *alef*, etc.

**Then, to each pictogram, a concept gets connected**, e.g. the concepts "first, top or beginning" get associated with the man"s head, and "strength, power or leader" to the ox head, etc.

Also, **numerical values** are attributed to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, by means of which premeditated **calculations** are then made (called *gematria*). Only those premeditated, selective calculations are chosen which would reinforce the teaching aim of the teacher. Other valid permutations or manipulations are simply omitted and never mentioned.

**The pictograms and their associated concepts, the numerical values and their selective calculations are then hashed into a teaching** " e.g. to demonstrate how the very first Hebrew word of the Torah, *reshiyth*, actually tells the entire story of the Bible.

On hearing this, the audience usually rejoices and says: "How wonderful!" (the most sensible response possible to most of these teachings).

## The Origins of Pictograms, associated Concepts and Numerical Values (Gematria)

The question is:

Where do we get these pictograms, associated concepts and numerical values from?

Here are the facts:

**Nowhere in the world any known, original example of pictogrammatic Hebrew writing exists.** Nowhere. Anywhere.

The oldest discovered Hebrew texts in the world have been written in paleo-Hebrew. Not even scholars are exactly sure how these should be read: Left-to-right, right-to-left or diagonally. And paleo-Hebrew is syllabic by nature (i.e. the letters represent sounds, not concepts " like pictograms).

Paleo-Hebrew, in which our oldest existing examples of Hebrew text are written, represents most probably (nobody is 100% sure!) **a later development** of original pictogrammatic text (of which we don"t have any examples left today " if they ever existed!).

1. **From paleo-Hebrew, scholars can "reverse engineer" the original pictograms** by comparing paleo-Hebrew characters to other alphabets of the time, such as Egyptian hieroglyphs, paleo-Aramaic or even Middle Greek. But "reverse engineering" is a rather speculative process.
2. **Also, the concepts associated with these pictograms have been "reverse engineered"** by attributing the syllabic value of a specific letter to a concept (in Hebrew) starting with that particular sound. This, also, comprises a rather speculative process " not much more than a guessing game.
3. **The associated numerical values of Hebrew letters stem from tradition.** But nobody seems to be sure when this started, or exactly who did it first. Or why this person(s) chose the existing accepted values for each Hebrew character. What we are sure about, is that they are extra-Biblical. Nowhere in the Torah are we ever commanded or advised to attribute numerical values to the Hebrew alphabet (or rather *alefbet*).

## Conclusion:

So what is the sum total of all of this?

**Well, the pictograms are, at best, speculative** " i.e. guesswork.

**The associated concepts are also speculative** " i.e. guesswork building on top of previous guesswork.

And, as we all know, speculation usually boils down to 95% hogwash. Which means that " to give these teachers the benefit of the doubt " at least 80% of the pictogrammatic and numeric teaching in Messianic, Torah groups or Hebrew Roots is based in guesswork. Or, to call a spade a spade " it"s 80% hogwash. It"s rather like "Hebrew astrology" or "Hebrew horoscopes". And, ominously, it constitutes the first wobbly steps towards full-blown Cabbalism (or Jewish mysticism) " the deepest form of occult I am personally aware of.

With speculative pictograms and associated doubly speculative concepts, **one can fabricate a whole saga for every Hebrew word**. Pour the numbers and numerology into the mix, and one can almost create anything out of everything! **The very same method, although with different elements, is what astrologers employ when drawing up horoscopes.**

Do you really want to buy into that?

So next time you respond to these teachings, rather say: "How wonderful!" " speculatively!"

Folks, we are bringing dishonour to the Godhead by "praising" Him for things that are based in speculation. It"s a bit like somebody who would heartily congratulate you with what he sincerely believes is your 500<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Wouldn"t you think he"s rather silly and wonder whether he"s pulling your leg or not? Wouldn"t that leave you somewhat embarrassed?

When one has only 54 *parshahs* to teach on annually, then pictograms, associated concepts and numbers **come in handy to add some spice** to what has become rather dull and stale after several decades of teaching. These pictograms, associated concepts and numbers could keep one busy for a loooooong, loooooong time " with every "How wonderful!" taking you one small step of agreement closer to full-blown Cabbalism.

## Parshahs

Speaking of *parshahs*:

**The Tanakh (or OT) was divided into 54 readings**, most probably during the time of Ezra or Nehemiah, when the children of Israel returned to their country from exile. The leaders of that time were painfully aware of the fact that the nation had been carried off into exile for 70 years because of their disobedience to the Torah. So they devised a system according to which no 3 days would pass without Torah reading " hence the 54 *parshahs* or "readings". **Each**

**parshah** would then correspond to a certain time of the year and would be read during that particular time.

But, as any good Christian would know, **the parshah system is simply human** – much like the human chapter-and-verse divisions in the Bible. One shouldn't do numerical calculations with them or use them as a basis for prophecy.

But, unbelievably, on a recent tour through Israel, our well known, seriously Hebrew Roots tour leader advised our entire group of about 30 men to establish the specific *parshah* which would correspond to their date of birth (does this sound somewhat horoscopey?). He taught that one's personal destiny is locked up in that particular part of Scripture, after which he ceremoniously prophesied on Mount Carmel(!) over each tour member individually – according to their personal *parshahs*.

And because nobody has ever warned them about the serious errors amongst Hebrew Roots teachers, only about 5 of the 30 men refused this "ministry" (of whom I was one). I felt particularly sorry for a certain guy whose *parshah* was the chapter in Leviticus 13 on MILDEW and MOULD. Sadly, and amusingly, his destiny seems to be locked up in MOULD!

This is just one example of the utter baloney that gets taught, and witchcraft that gets performed by Hebrew Roots teachers in the name of Torah.

## A pure Language?

A popular argument in favour of the use of Hebrew is Zeph.3:9:

*For then I will return to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord.*

For reasons unbeknownst to outsiders, **Torah and Hebrew Roots groups unanimously conclude that this "pure language" can be but one language: Hebrew.**

Really?

The verse above was originally recorded in Hebrew, right?

Why then does it use the **indefinite article** "a" in stead of the definite article "the"?

Why doesn't it say "the pure language", but calls it **"a pure language"**?

Was Hebrew a known language at the time of the recording of this verse? Certainly – the verse was recorded in Hebrew! Why then call Hebrew "a" pure language – as if it didn't yet exist? If Hebrew was known as "the pure language" – then why not call it such?

At this point, let's make this abundantly clear:

**There is absolutely nothing wrong with Hebrew studies or the Hebrew language as such.**

But I hope that I've been successful in demonstrating how, among specific theological mindsets, **the Hebrew language has become an idol** to which undeserved, almost divine properties have been ascribed. And this leads to idolatry, occultism and witchcraft.

Unfortunately, folks, there's much, much more to come –

To be continued –