

**Subject:** Session 5: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

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.
4. The Hebrew language is neither original, nor holy. If we've made it into an idol, we need to repent of sin. The pictograms of the Hebrew *alefbet*, as well as its associated concepts and numbers are, at best, speculative. Neither they, nor the *parshahs*, may ever be employed to explain scripture or to prophesy.

In this issue:

## Let the Feasts begin!

One of the most meritorious restorations the Hebrew Roots Movement has brought us is **the restoration of the Biblical Feasts**.

Personally, I believe today's Christians are so caught up in worldly, pagan-rooted feasts (Christmas, Easter, Valentine's day, Halloween, Mother's and Father's day, birthdays, etc) that Christians at large are "dancing" to the annual "beat" of these feasts, in stead of dancing to the annual "beat" of the feasts of our Creator (the feast of trumpets, the feast of tabernacles, etc). I believe our current "off-beat dancing" detrimentally affects our godly times and seasons, and sowing and reaping.

But even with solid, Biblical ground beneath their feet, Hebrew Roots and Torah teachers have succeeded in **messing up, and perverting** even this concept:

### The Father's feasts, as opposed to Jewish feasts:

Amongst traditional Calvinist Christians in South Africa one often encounters **stiff resistance against the celebration of "Jewish" feasts**. This opposition finds its roots in Reformed Theology, as well as SA history.

In their **response**, Hebrew Roots and Torah teachers make much of the fact that the Biblical feasts are **not JEWISH feasts, but YAHWEH's feasts**.

In saying this, they are 100% correct, because this is exactly how Scripture puts it. The Father explicitly commanded the nation of Israel to keep these feasts.

But EVERY time in Hebrew Roots and Torah groups, without exception, **the practical celebrations of these feasts are taught containing comprehensive, elaborate - but extra-Biblical - JEWISH cultural and traditional content!** The practical expression of the Biblical feasts amongst Torah and Hebrew Roots groups are unequivocally JEWISH in terms of objects used, food eaten, cultural expression, language spoken, garments worn, symbolism expressed and tradition reinforced.

### The dire Effects of extra-Biblical Ritualism

If the problem would only be their Jewishness, the effects of these celebrations would have been much less severe. But this is not the case. These celebrations overstep the spiritual boundary towards **Judaism**, and hence **open spiritual doors** to the **spirits** behind Judaism. Evil spirits.

Since very few denominational church leaders possess or teach any understanding concerning the spiritual realm, most naïve, nominal, freshly out-of-church Christians simply don't realize that **any ritualistic religion performed outside of Biblical boundaries attract spirits**. Therefore, they easily get caught up in these celebrations. Moreover, very few Torah teachers seem to be aware of this basic principle, and happily and irresponsibly teach their unsuspecting victims to apply every imaginable Jewish and Judaic bell and whistle to what they dishonestly call "Yahweh's feasts".

### Judaism imprinted onto Biblical Feasts

I've heard numerous teachings on the various Biblical feasts. The **extra-Biblical Jewish symbolism** used during these feasts gets expounded by Hebrew Roots and Torah teachers to the extent that you'd think it forms part of man's salvation! The most extreme one I'd recently encountered was that the wooden spoon used to mix a certain batter (for feast purposes) foreshadows the wooden cross of Messiah! - which would mean that if the poor lady mixing the batter would use a metallic or plastic spoon to do so, she would seriously mess up the symbolism! Some of these teachings are so **far-fetched** that one can hardly believe that reasonable people would embrace anything such.

So please, Hebrew Roots and Torah teachers, can we please get this straight:

You teach the feasts of the Father, but then celebrate them in unequivocal JEWISH fashion.

**If so - I'm afraid - they ARE Jewish feasts - bordering on Judaism!**

Could you please, **for honesty's sake**, admit this in your teachings?

Example: Where in Scripture are we ever commanded to **light candles** at the start of Shabbat?

It's simply not there, folks! It's **Jewish and Judaic tradition!**

According to the Torah, Shabbat starts at dusk on Friday evening. And please forgive my ignorance, but I think the Jewish wives originally simply lit lamps when the sun set to drive away the darkness prior to the days of Eskom! It was simply a way of preventing Shabbat celebrations from proceeding in darkness! It has absolutely nothing to do with Shabbat as such.

But today the lighting of the Shabbat candles has become a solemn, seriously symbolical ritual, accompanied by the following religious (Hebrew!) prayer:

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam  
asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu  
I'had'lik neir shel Shabbat. (Amein)*

Which translates to:

*Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe  
who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us  
to light the lights of Shabbat. (Amen)*

This prayer attests of grave deception. But it sounds immensely impressive when your hearers have never considered whether it is Scriptural, and blankly don't understand a word of it.

### **Keep Biblical Feasts Biblical!**

In order to RECOGNIZE its roots, a leaf doesn't have to BECOME a root. It needs not go underground, dig through rocks and dirt, drink root beer or speak Rootish. No, it may remain a leaf, rustle in the wind, drink leaf sap and speak Leafish.

In their blind rush to restore Hebrew and Jewish customs, it seems to have escaped the attention of these teachers **that the Father explicitly recognizes the existence and diversity of nations, tribes and tongues** (because He created them all!).

The Father understands Afrikaans and English quite well. **He doesn't answer prayers because they are in Hebrew.** Rather, He answers prayers because they represent His will, are in the name of Messiah and come from a humble heart of faith.

**Ritual prayer - outside of the Father's will - is witchcraft.** I'm afraid this is exactly what some sincerely mislead Shabbat celebrators do every week. This needs to be repented of.

Feasts celebrated the Jewish way are **Jewish feasts.**

The Father's feasts are the Father's feasts. What He wants us to do when celebrating those feasts, He has told us in the Torah. **Whatever is NOT in the Torah, needn't be celebrated the Jewish way.** We may colour and clothe that in whichever way we, by the Spirit of the Father, deem practical, sensible, proper or applicable in our many different cultures around the world. And I honestly believe the Father just loves to see his children expressing Him in SO MANY different ways!

To be continued ...