

Subject: Session 6: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

Herewith Session 6 of the article series. Unfortunately, due to a pressing ministry program, you'll be receiving Session 7 only on Tuesday next week. I would also not be available to reply to emails or until then. In the meantime, ENJOY!

Eben Swart

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..
5. Hebrew Roots teachers teach that the Biblical feasts aren't JEWISH feasts, but THE FATHER's feasts - but then celebrate them in extra-Biblical, Jewish tradition. This is dishonest.

In this issue:

Let some Feasts stop!

Today we'll be dealing with yet more **dishonesty** among some Hebrew Roots teachers:

What is worst: Pagan feasts or extra-Biblical Jewish feasts?

Hebrew Roots teachers are adept at pointing out exactly why the accepted and annually celebrated feasts in society and the church have pagan roots, are extra-Biblical and aren't mentioned in Torah. Amongst these would count feasts like Christmas, Easter, Lent, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and birthdays.

And, of course, these teachers are perfectly right.

But then some of these teachers teach their flocks to celebrate Purim. Or Chanukah.

1. **Purim** is a Jewish feast celebrated in remembrance of the miraculous rescue of the children of Israel from the hand of Haman in the Persian empire, through the intercession of Queen Esther or Hadassah.

The Father never commanded this feast. And although any right-minded Christian would wholly grant the Jewish people their right to have such a historical, cultural feast, it does not form part of the Torah. Israel was never commanded to celebrate this historical event - **much less were Gentiles ever commanded to do so!**

2. **Chanukah** - also known as the Festival of Lights - is an eight-day Jewish Feast commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt in the 2nd century BCE.

And although this event is positioned right in the centre of the "silent" period of 400 years between the OT and NT (and is thus not even mentioned in the Bible), some Hebrew Roots and Torah teachers teach their flocks to celebrate Chanukah!

Once again, no one in his right mind would deny the Jewish people their right to commemorate such an important historical and cultural Jewish event. But **Israel was never commanded to do so by the Father** - in fact, the event does not even appear in Scripture! **And much less were Gentiles ever commanded to do so!**

3. Let's now talk about **fulfilled Torah:**

Pesach is a feast of the Father **mandated by Scripture** in the Torah. This was instituted by the Father to remind the children of Israel of their exodus from Egypt, and the blood of the lamb that saved them from the Angel of Death. This, clearly and simply, foreshadows man's journey from sin and the blood of Messiah which saves him from death.

Any good teacher of the Torah would be adept at pointing out how Messiah complied with literally EVERY condition of the Torah to qualify as the sacrificial lamb - during the very time of Pesach in Jerusalem.

And **on the very night of Pesach**, He gathered with his disciples in the upper room, and instituted the Covenantal Meal (Holy Communion) with the symbols of bread and wine. He did this - clearly signifying that He, the Lamb of the Father, would fulfill every detail of the Pesach feast. By proclaiming the bread and the wine to be the symbols of the New Covenant (referring to Jer. 31), He makes it unambiguously clear **that He wants His disciples to stop celebrating Pesach (since it is fulfilled and thus stops to foreshadow), and to start celebrating the Covenantal Meal in future** - as often as they would remember Him, looking back to this event.

But many Torah and Hebrew Roots groups **happily carry on celebrating Pesach**, and neglecting Communion - thereby "backshadowing" the death of Messiah! The problem is: "Backshadowing" does not make any sense! One only values a shadow when one cannot yet see the reality. **But once one knows the reality, the shadow represents poverty.**

The excuse that these groups "**remember**" the death of Messiah by celebrating Pesach is also **not valid** - because Messiah explicitly **commanded us to employ Communion for that purpose.** So the only sensible "remembrance" could be the remembrance of the lamb of Pesach - the shadow, which

represents poverty in the light of the arrived and existing reality. By celebrating Pesach in “remembrance” one actually displays one’s own poverty or ignorance!

But Torah teachers don’t give up without a fight: They find some or other “**new**” **eschatological foreshadowing purpose** for Pesach – and teach their flocks to celebrate that – accompanied by every imaginable Jewish bell and whistle. But it never seems to occur to these teachers that finding a “new” eschatological purpose for Pesach constitutes disobedience to Torah – because that would mean **adding to Torah**. The Torah simply never says anything about an eschatological purpose for Pesach, and to make Pesach foreshadow something other than what Torah prescribes, means adding to Torah.

So could we please, for the record, once and for all, **bury Pesach**? And cease to display its mummy – long dead, but somehow lovingly embalmed – to the world? It brings glory neither to the Father, nor the Son or the Ruach. It actually **denies the fulfillment on Calvary**, and – as a prophetic act – **pulls a spiritual veil across people’s hearts** concerning this fact.

*Even to this day, **when Moses is read - a veil covers their hearts**. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. – 2 Cor. 3:15 - 17.*

For personal reflection:

What about other fulfilled Biblical feasts?

What about Good Friday?

To be continued ...