
Subject: Sesson 7: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

Due to ministry pressures, this session would reach you later than expected. We apologise for any inconvenience.

It seems that many Torah followers experience this article as an "attack" on the said movements.

Thanks to many of you who have responded positively. It seems that this article succeeds in verbalising the gut feeling of many people.

Once again, please note that the entire article as yet published, is available on our website www.trumpetcall.co.za under "articles".

Enjoy!

Eben

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.
6. Torah and Hebrew Roots teachers reject pagan and extra-Biblical feasts, but at the same time, some teach their followers to celebrate the extra-Biblical feasts of Purim and Chanukah, and even the fulfilled Pesach. Why? Simply because these feasts are Jewish! This too, represents dishonest and irresponsible teaching.

In this issue:

What's in a Name?

In their unbridled effort to "restore" the so-called "**Sacred Names**" of the Father, the Son and their Spirit, Torah teachers have, sadly, done more evil than good.

Popular Books

Several **popular writings** have circulated in SA during the past two decades, pointing out how the names of the Godhead have been changed in Scripture. Among these, two specific books are paramount: ***Come out of her, my people* by CJ Koster**, and ***Fossilized Customs* by Lew White**. Mixing truth with half-truths, and omitting relevant information, these two books have caused havoc in many a Christian's life. And, because both propagate the use of the original, Hebrew names of the Godhead, these teachers (Torah, Hebrew Roots and especially Israel vision and British Israelism) have embraced these books and distributed them far and wide - another act of service to, and worship of the Hebrew language idol.

In their books, Koster and White, with varying degrees of credibility, set out to prove that virtually ALL the **names** and **titles** used among current-day Christians to indicate the Godhead and its three distinguishable Persons or Aspects, are of **pagan origin**. Among their victims are the terms: God, Lord, Jesus, Christ, holy, hallow, sacred, sanctified, glory, divine, divinity, etc.

Because of this, **two discernable teachings** have resulted amongst Torah and Hebrew Roots teachers concerning the name "Jesus":

1. The name "Jesus" is of **pagan origin**, is intrinsically **Greek**, and should thus be avoided.
2. The name "Jesus" is of **pagan origin**, and actually indicates a **pagan god**. It should never be used in discussion or prayer. Other people who claim to be Christians but use the name "Jesus", are actually **deceived followers of some foreign god**. Fellowship with them should be avoided, or even be forbidden.

Ironically and amusingly, the **Aramaic version ("Yeshua")** of the original paleo-Hebrew name (Yahushua) seems to be **acceptable** to all these groups. According to scholars, this was in all probability the customary form during the time of the gospels. In other words: Messiah's mother most probably called Him by the un-Hebrew, yet Semitic name "Yeshua".

Like most other writings on this topic, Koster and White quote resources from far and wide. They attempt to demonstrate how different parts of the name "Jesus" – or the entire original **Greek form "Iesous"** – hail from various pagan origins, and **correspond to the names of pagan gods** or goddesses like Ieso, Isis, Zeus, etc. But implicitly both authors admit to mere speculation – although they never directly point their readers towards this fact. White even concludes that "Je-sus" would actually mean "hail Zeus"!

Ironically, these learned men seem to be either unaware of, or bluntly ignoring the most obvious derivation of the name "Jesus":

The most obvious Derivation of the Name "Jesus".

Let us say this right at the start of this explanation:

It would not make ANY sense to a Greek person to call our Saviour "Yeshua". (The gospels were recorded in Greek, remember?).

1. Firstly, **there is no "Ye"-sound in Greek**. Therefore, if a Greek-speaking person would attempt to pronounce "Yeshua", he simply would not be able to do so.

It's a bit like an Afrikaans person trying to pronounce the English surname "Smith" without prior practice. There's no "th"-sound in Afrikaans, so an Afrikaans person would probably choose the closest sound to "th" that he knows, and pronounce it as "Smif".

Similarly, an English speaking person, without prior practice, would pronounce the Afrikaans name "Gert" as "Ghert", since the fricative "G"-sound doesn't occur in English.

And since the "Ye"-sound does not exist in Greek, a Greek speaking person would typically pronounce "Yeshua" as "Ieshua" – which represents the closest corresponding sounds in the Greek vernacular.

2. But this is not the end of Greek problems with the Aramaic form "Yeshua."

In Greek, any name ending in "-a" would represent a feminine. Compare the names of the well-known Greek goddesses Athena, Hera, Proserpin-a, Europa, Helen-a, Atalanta, etc.

Therefore, calling the Messiah "Ieshua" in Greek would indicate a woman!

Thus, to make any sense in Greek, **"Ieshua" had to convert to "Ieshus"** – to indicate the male gender, because **Greek names ending in "-s" would indicate the masculine form**. Compare the names of the well-known Greek (male) gods: Zeus, Apollo-s, Dionysus, Hephaestus, Heracles, Oedipus, Perseus, Hermes, etc.

And **in the Greek vernacular "Ieshus" would be pronounced as "Iesous"**. **This is the form whence we have the transliterated English and Afrikaans form "Jesus"**. Transliteration is not translation. Transliteration imitates sounds.

The fact of the matter is that any Greek person who would sincerely and sensibly, without any hidden agendas or ulterior motives, pronounce "Yeshua" in his mother tongue, would do so as "Iesous". "Iesous" is simply the sensible Greek rendering of "Yeshua" – similar to the different renderings of the Biblical book *James* (Eng) in other languages, like *Jakobus* (Afr) or *Jacques* (Fr).

Once one understands this, all the allegations about "Jesus" representing the names of the pagan gods Ieso, Isis or Zeus, wilts into ignorance and ridicule. **It simply fades into Israel Vision, British Israelism and Hebrew Roots baloney.**

Dire Consequences of the "Sacred Names".

Why would one go into such technicalities as above to explain this to regular Christians?

Because these shameful lies from Torah teachers, in whichever movement they're found, **has caused havoc, and is still causing havoc in people's relationship with Messiah**. I've seen good Christians' prayer lives ruined, utter despair and doubt about whether they are saved in the "right" name at all, health breakdowns, second baptisms in the "right" name, etc. In short: Serious confusion in the Body.

It seems as if the very anchor cables of a one's human spirit get cut by these nonsensical teachings – leaving one to helplessly drift and get knocked about by life's waves. That is not from the Spirit of the Father, but from Satan himself.

Among the teachers of these lies, I invariably encounter **conceit, self-righteousness, haughtiness** and **alienation** from the rest of the Body.

The "Sacred Names" Merry-go-round.

Moreover, these teachers have confused the flock with **a myriad of spellings and pronunciations of "sacred names"** for the Father and the Son. Invariably, teachers of each individual name claim that "their" rendition represents the best researched, most original and most correct name! Also, they emphatically explain that they "cannot use another name" since they have come to "so love the Person by THAT name" – which represents little more than **sentiment**.

[I have a pet name for my wife *Isabel*. I lovingly call her *Bella* (Italian for "pretty"). I also "so love her by that name." But I'm sure I'd be able to call her Isabel, or even Isabella – her true name, if I had to! It's simply a matter of sentiment.]

Here are all the "true, best researched, most original, most correct names" for the Father and the Son:

The Father: Ieue, Ieueh, Iehue, Ieueh, Iehueh, Yahuweh, Yahuwah, Yehueh, Yehuwah, Yaweh, Yahweh, Yeweh, Jawe, Jaweh, Jahwe, Jawhe, Jaweh, J'we, J'hwe, J'hweh, etc.

The Son: Yahushua, Yahushuah Yehushua, Yahushua, Jahushua, Jehushua, Yeshua, Yehshua, Jeshua, Jehshua, Jashua, Jahshuah, J'shuah, etc.

In stead of **“restoring”** the Names, this has turned into a **circus!** With self-righteousness and shallow sentiment right at the bottom of it. **Are we really better off with this merry-go-round of names than simply with “Jesus”?** And please don't accuse me of blasphemy. I'm not scoffing. It's simply a ridiculous situation created by over-eager, competitive pedantry.

Two questions these teachers need to answer:

1. **In which name were you saved** at the time when you got saved? Was your salvation in the name of Jesus by any means an inferior salvation? And if “Jesus” can save, then Jesus must be the Messiah, right?
2. If you want me to use the sacred names, **which one** in the above mix should I use? **Which ones** are best or correct?

Even if one would revert to the Hebrew spelling (JHVH or Tetragrammaton), it still needs to be pronounced.

How?

Or do we go the Jewish and Masonic way and never pronounce it?

The “Power” Claim.

But once again, these teachers don't give up without a fight:

*“No”, they say, “but the sacred names have **MORE POWER** than the ‘Greek’ ones.”*

I've even heard the claim that “since I've started using the sacred names, the name ‘Jesus’ has no power anymore”!

Really?

I've put these claims to the test - in **real-life situations**. And after many years of putting the sacred names to the test in prayer, deliverance sessions and baptisms, I can confidently proclaim:

There is absolutely NO observable difference in the power behind the name “Jesus” and any variation of the sacred names.

Not in prayer (answered prayer), baptisms (in terms of the baptisee starting to speak in tongues) or deliverance (demons leaving).

It seems that both the Father and the Son honour their “nicknames”. **Who do you think you are to do different?**

So, even the POWER claim of sacred names adherents gets exposed to be **a lot of hot air**.

Corporate Prayer in the “Sacred Names”.

Corporate prayer in the Hebrew sacred names is an most effective way of letting brothers and sisters “who are not in the know” **feel inferior**. And I'm sure that many who use the sacred names in corporate prayer are fully aware of this. This is a subtle, but infinitely effective **way of establishing oneself just one or two notches above “the rest”**.

Personally, I avoid doing this.

Would the Father or Messiah really approve of me having a little cozy prayer “insider” with Him to the exclusion of my prayer partners? Or would He rather have me call Him by His “nickname” to the inclusion of others, and unity in prayer with them?

Which of the two would be an honest reflection of His character?

Folks, could we please **put an end to this indulgence**? If you would prefer to use some variants of the sacred names, I'd be the last one to nag you not to do so. But please, stop shoving your brand of sacred names down other people's throats! You're not honouring the Father by doing so - you're simply enforcing your will onto other Christians. Is **“MY will be done”** part of your daily prayer?

Blasphemy by the Sacred Names Movement

I wish I were wrong in saying this, but I'm afraid I'm not:

I have good reasons to believe that **the majority of intentional, scornful, targeted blasphemy and denial of the name “Jesus” in the world today** does not come from non-Christians, Hollywood or Satanism. **It comes via the Torah movement.**

This is sobering.

Is Jesus a pagan God?

If you teach that “Jesus” is a pagan god, **you're simply deceived**. I fear for you. Whoever would dare blaspheme the Name “Jesus” **would have to answer to the very same Name** - One Day. Not only for blasphemy, but also for those whom you've lead astray by your teaching, whose prayer lives have been ruined, and weak ones whose faith you've eroded. It would have been better for you in that day if you'd been thrown into the sea with a millstone around your neck.

And if you **look down your nose** at those who don't use your brand of the sacred names - the Father hates haughty eyes. I fear for you also.

If this article, by the Spirit of the Father, has created in you an urge for **repentance**, then **do so** without delay. The Faithful One will forgive you.

If you were guilty, but would refuse to repent, I fear for you even more.

Dreadlocks, here we come!

For further reflection:

One of my earliest memories of evangelism as a young, naïve Christian in the early 1980's was when I encountered a Rastafarian (with dreadlocks and smoking *pot*) on the streets of Cape Town in the middle of the night. After politely asking him whether he knew Jesus, he defiantly retorted: **"I serve Jah!"** At the time, I had absolutely no idea of what he was talking about.

Later that night, he was laboriously trying to convince me from the book of Revelation that the Biblical Tree of Life was actually the marijuana plant!

Would you serve Jah (or Yah, or any rendition thereof), the god of Rastafari, if you'd pray in any of the names above?

To be continued ...