

Subject: Session 10: 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 alefabet, 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.
7. In their effort to “restore” the “sacred names” of the Godhead, Torah groups have embraced and propagated half-truths, and spread the lie far and wide that the name “Jesus” is of pagan origin. Also, Torah groups have invented a myriad of “original Hebrew names” for the godhead, thereby causing gross confusion in the Body.
8. In the New Covenant, the Torah gets written on our innermost flesh and minds – circumcision of the heart. Our inner Ruach-rabbi interprets and explains the Spirit (which gives life) of this fleshy Torah unto us – as opposed to the letter of the Torah, which kills. Walking in the Spirit of the Torah might violate its letter!
9. Religiosity has many faces – of which we recognize several amongst Torah and Hebrew Roots groups. They manifest in headgear, hairstyle, attire, language, special symbols of authority or power, system, structure, ritual and solemnity.

In this issue:

The Torah was the Father's Plan B

Circumcision of the Heart

*And the Lord thy God **will circumcise thine heart,**
and the heart of thy seed,
to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart,
and with all thy soul,
that thou mayest live.
– Deut. 30:6*

*And I **will put my Spirit within you**
and **cause you to walk in my statutes**
and **be careful to obey my rules.**
– Ezek. 36:27*

*What, then, was **the purpose of the Torah?**
It was added **because of transgressions**
until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.
– Gal. 3:19*

Plan A and Plan B.

The Father's original plan, right from the start (in Deuteronomy already), was **to circumcise the hearts of his people**. This means that His plan was to write His Torah on the fleshy tables of our heart by the power of the resurrection of Jesus. This inward spiritual Torah, interpreted by our inner Rabbi, the Spirit, would then guide our every thought and decision towards an abundant life.

But until the promised Seed, the Messiah, would come in the fullness of time, the Father's people had to settle for His **Plan B** – the Torah written on tablets of stone, the Torah of the letter – not of the Spirit. The written Torah was the Father's **temporary ruling** in order to find a way to deal with sin until **Messiah (Plan A)** would come.

It is vitally, vitally important to understand this. If we don't get this, we miss the central message of the Bible.

Why do we stress this point?

Simply because **many erroneously believe that the written Torah was the Father's original Plan A**. The Torah is good and perfect. But it was never plan A.

At **Sinai**, the Father gave his Torah to a people who cringed at hearing his **direct voice**:

He desired to lead the Israelites by his own voice, but they failed the test. They **feared a relationship with the Father** – and opted for a **mediator**: Moses. Moses had to stand between the Israelites and direct relationship with the Father. And in stead of being guided day by day by His own voice, the children of Israel, for fear of their lives and unbelief in the Father's good intent, **did not allow Him to speak to them directly**. Therefore they had to **settle for a set of good instructions** via Moses – relationship at a distance. **Remote love**.

And until Jesus arrived millennia later, that was all they had – **the voices of prophets**. Long distance calls from their Lover. Besides the prophets, the only Israelite who'd ever experience the Father's closeness, was the high priest on the great day of Atonement when he would venture into the presence of the Shekinah.

But only for atonement. For just one day. Nothing more. Just **Plan B**.

Everything changed when Jesus arrived. Suddenly there was **relationship, intimacy and fun** with the Father via his Son. But because of their previous **remote relationship via the Torah**, the children of Israel **did not recognize Him**. **Through the Torah, they knew the Father so badly** that they **did not recognize His full embodiment** when Jesus stood before them! Actually, understanding of the Torah was what the leaders of the time employed to kill Him in the end!

And when He ascended to heaven, **He sent his Spirit to dwell inside His followers** – so He could have day to day, minute by minute **intimacy** with them. The Torah was safely tucked inside their hearts – the intent of which He would **lovingly explain to them** by his Spirit on a never-ending journey of sanctification. Plan A was fully deployed and implemented! **The Grand Original was in place!**

Causing plan B to wither away for lack of necessity and – eventually – lack of interest.

Today we see **a revival of Plan B**. Some Torah folks deem Plan A to be inferior. They think they understand the Big Plot better than the Father. **They love Plan B** – distant love – and call it Plan A. They also call it the "Original."

They say the rest of the Body have everything back-to-front – blissfully ignorant of their own lack of understanding. And they submit good-sounding arguments:

1. The Old Testament came BEFORE the New – right?
 2. The New Testament flows forth from the Old – right?
 3. The Old Testament foreshadows the New – right?
 4. One cannot understand the New if you don't understand the Old first – right?
 5. The patterns of the Old describes the fulfillment of the New – right?
- etc.

Such people suffer from **linear thinking**:

"A always comes before B!"

"Therefore, if the Torah came before Jesus, then the Torah must be A, and Jesus must be B!"

[Ironically and amusingly, this is a beautiful example of **Greek thinking!**]

This thinking constitutes the **basic cornerstone of the arguments** of almost every international Torah teacher I've ever heard. (I can name them if you want, but to save them the embarrassment I won't).

The entire Torah movement stands on this erroneous assumption: The Torah was plan A. Jesus was plan B. Jesus flows forth from the Torah.

Big mistake!

I'm afraid it's the Torah teachers who have put the cart before the oxen.

They simply fail to understand the concept of a **"delayed plan A"**. Somehow they've never watched a game where the impact players are only sent on the field in the last quarter of the game. That last quarter was what the entire rest of the game was about. Three quarters of the game is a mere preparation for the final knock-out.

I don't blame them. They're just as human as the Israelites of old at Mount Sinai. But one would think that humanity should have **learnt something** during the past millennia. To repeat the **same old mistake** of Sinai (opting for Moses and his stone tablets over intimacy) all over again is not exactly smart. To call observance of the stone Torah LOVE for the Father is ... well ... **love from a distance** at best:

Then Moses with his divine revelation remains the mediator. The stones remain in the Ark of the Covenant. We still live off manna. We still dwell the desert. We still hunger. We still thirst. We never arrive. We never enter rest.

This, folks, is possibly the worst **insult** one can ever slap in the Face of **the Spirit of the Father** – to shove away His consultation from inside and to substitute Him with a carved slab of rock. To **reject His counsel** and settle for a human rabbi to expound the Stone Torah on His behalf in a Torah class.

Jesus didn't flow forth from Torah. Torah flowed forth from the Father – which means that it flowed forth from the Son, because He is in his Father.

The stone Torah was NEVER meant to be the original. It has ALWAYS been, and shall ALWAYS be a temporary ruling. It was ALWAYS Plan B.

Jesus was ALWAYS Plan A! The Extended (New) Covenant – of which He is the High Priest – was the original Plan A. The Covenant of the Spirit – not of the letter – was the original Plan A. But it could not be implemented until the fullness of time – when Jesus finally conquered sin as He rose from the grave by the mighty Hand of his Father.

Enter the Gentiles.

During the course of the past 2000 years, millions and millions of **Gentiles** (non-Jews) have believed what the Scriptures reveal concerning the reconciliation of **Abraham's spiritual children** unto the Father:

*Understand, then, that **those who believe** are children of Abraham. – Gal. 3:7.*

*No, **a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly**; and circumcision is **circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the written code. – Rom. 2:29.*

By faith, these Gentiles (non-Jews) are included in the covenant of the Father with Abraham. And **by faith** in Jesus millions of Gentiles have found salvation. **By the mysterious working of the Spirit (not by the Torah) these Gentiles have recognized Jesus and believed that He is the Son of the Father, the Messiah, the promised Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head.**

*He has made us competent as ministers of a **new covenant** – not of the **letter** but of the **Spirit**; for the **letter kills**, but the **Spirit gives life**. – 2 Cor. 3:6*

During these same 2000 years, millions of **Torah-obedient (but Spirit-disobedient) Jews have died unsaved** in unbelief unto an eternal pool of fire because **they've stubbornly refused to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah**.

Why?

Because He didn't suit their understanding of the Torah.

Jews were in the best Position imaginable.

Seen from the position of Torah, these Jews were **in the best position imaginable to recognize Jesus** – since the entire **written Torah** (which they devoutly obeyed to the letter) **foreshadows** Him! The entire **culture** of Jewish people flows forth from Torah. Of all people in the world, they **speak** and **understand** the hues and shades of **Biblical Hebrew** best. By far. They are familiar with, and understand the **idiom** and **symbolism** of the Torah best. They bear the very **DNA of Abraham** in their flesh.

But despite everything working in their favour, **their Torah glasses were unable to let them recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He came. Or thereafter.**

Putting on Torah Glasses.

So in our day we see a phenomenon which utterly amazes me:

Torah teachers gather unto themselves **believing Gentiles** (i.e. these Gentiles who have already recognized Jesus as the Messiah by **faith** – not by **Torah**).

Then these teachers encourage their believing Gentile disciples to make **giant leaps** in terms of **language** and **culture**. They teach them Hebrew and its idiom, as well as the cultural interpretations of Torah symbolism – i.e. **they issue their students with a pair of Torah glasses.**

Then these teachers point out to their students **how the Torah foreshadows Jesus:**

“Do you see Jesus here ... and here ... and there ... and there ...?”

Then all rejoice and say: *“How wonderful!”*

Hallo? These students **have already recognized Jesus through the Spirit by faith** (the only way which pleases the Father) unto salvation and sanctification. Long before they even got to Torah classes!

Why issue them with Torah (letter) glasses? Glasses which couldn't even enable Jews to recognize Jesus? Glasses which require giant cultural and language leaps?

How wonderful?

And let's be honest:

What are most of the exclamations of “How wonderful!” about?

They're not about Jesus. They're not about his Person. They're not because somebody had a deeper revelation of Him. They're not about a more intimate relationship with Him.

They're about the intricacies of the shadow. They're about the **beauties and elegance** of **symbolism, code** and **ritual**. They're about the mind-boggling way by which the Father had **planned** and **assembled** the shadow. They're about the **eloquence** of the **Hebrew language**, its **gematria** and **pictograms**. They're about **patterns** and its **supposed prophecy**.

In short, 95% of the “How wonderful”s are about **the beauty of the work of the Father's hands** – the **shadow**.

And although it is right and good to praise the Father for the works of His hands, this is very little different from studying any other works of His hands – and then exclaiming: “How wonderful!”

Like studying Astronomy – the wonders of the earth, the sun, the moon, planets, the stars and galaxies.

Like studying Physiology – the wonderful workings of the human body.

Like studying Ecology – the wonderful way in which nature fits together.

Anybody for a couple of Physical Science classes? As an ex-schoolteacher I have a good number of “How wonderful”s for the Torah folks about the works of the Father!” Or would you prefer Maths? J

Have we lost our Minds?

In a nutshell:

The Torah teachers mentioned above find **Gentiles** who recognize and accept Jesus **by faith through grace** – the only way pleasing the Father. Then they gather these gentiles unto themselves and, after assisting them to make huge linguistic and cultural leaps, **teach them to look at Jesus through Torah-glasses** – the Father's plan B, the shadow – which the apostle Paul calls *“those weak and miserable principles”* (Gal. 4:9).

These Torah teachers are well aware of the fact that the same *“weak and miserable principles”* were, and still prove to be unable to reveal Jesus to the Jewish nation – those who happen to be in the best position imaginable to interpret the Torah correctly. But still these teachers insist that Gentile believers see Jesus through the glasses of these *“weak and miserable principles”* – **as if the faith by which they already see Him isn't sufficient!** And **as if their Inner Rabbi, the Ruach, doesn't know the Spirit of the Torah or could speak to them!**

And to add insult to injury, more often than not these teachers **teach their followers to painstakingly follow the LETTER** of many of the Torah laws (which kills) – of which the Shabbat is usually first!

Alarmingly, many of these teachers, when asked for clarification on this, in their answers show that they've never even contemplated what the SPIRIT of, for example, the Shabbat law would comprise.

For the trees (letter) they literally fail to see the forest (Spirit).

Torah Studies could lead to serious Deception

When, as part of my initial 17 questions, a well-known South African Torah teacher was asked:

“Do you put more emphasis on relationship with Yeshua than Torah knowledge?”

he confidently wrote:

*“I cannot see how Y'shua can be divorced from the Torah. **He is the Torah.**”*

It should be pointed out that the question was about “Torah knowledge”, i.e. LETTER.

Taken at face value, this gentleman's answer seems to imply that he is under the sincere impression **that the Torah saved him**, since he puts an equal sign between Jesus and the Torah – which not only indicates **dire deception**, but constitutes **utter heresy**.

Also, this would mean that if I held a Torah book or scroll in my hand, **I would be holding Jesus in my hand** – as opposed to Jesus holding ME in HIS hand – which is utter heresy as well.

And, it would mean that **Jesus' coming to earth was a mistake and unnecessary**, since Israel already HAD the Torah at the time – which is **utter**

blasphemy.

This teacher is so impressed and taken by the shadow that, for him, the shadow has become the fulfillment. Talk about back-to-front!

He thus puts an **equal sign** between what the apostle Paul on the one hand calls "**weak and miserable principles**" and Who the writer of Hebrews on the other hand calls "**the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being**" (Heb. 1:3).

I greatly fear for the spiritual destiny of this man's disciples.

We are not in the Religion of the Torah.

Followers of Jesus are not in the **Religion of the Bible**. Much less are they in the **Religion of the Torah**.

My **faith unto salvation** is not in Scripture. Scripture helps me greatly to know my Saviour. But **my faith is in Jesus**.

We're not in the Religion of a Book. Almost every major religion on earth has a book. **We're in a personal relationship with a Person**.

The Scriptures is not a goal in itself. It is merely a means towards a goal. **The Goal is Jesus**.

As soon as the means would become the goal, I've simply lost sight of the Goal!

Grieving the Spirit

My dear fellow believer, I hope I've been successful in this session to allocate and bring forward **the most basic mistake** made in Torah groups who eventually lose their way: **Interchanging of Plans A and B**.

Simple errors like these have huge spiritual consequences. One of them is that the **Spirit** of the Living Father **always gets grieved and quenched**. Eternal Gentleman, He then simply **withdraws**.

I sincerely don't want to see you going through what I've seen others go through because of **letter observance**. I sincerely don't want to see your whole group get entangled and lost in **a myriad of tangents** that will take you away from everything that was important to Jesus. I don't want to see good, sincere people **getting so hurt** that they later don't want anything to do with Jesus or the Bible ever again.

*Dear Jesus, would You please in this moment **touch the heart** of my brother or sister reading this article, and have them **experience** the warmth of **Your presence** by your Spirit. Would You please show them who You are - and **reveal Yourself** to them by faith.*

Amen

To be continued ...