

Subject: Session 11: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

Below please find Session 10 - the penultimate session in this article series.

Sorry for the loong wait. We've been out of town for most of the last month, and I just could not find the time to finish the last two sessions.

Yours in Messiah

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 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.
10. The Torah was never the Father's Plan A. Jesus was. The Torah was Plan B.

In this issue:

My Identity in Jesus

Our Road up to Today

Since 2001, Trumpet Call has **published several research documentaries** on CD, video and DVD.

In the process, we've exposed the lies of **Freemasonry** and the **Catholic Church**. We've documented the manifestations of the **Queen of Heaven** and her prevalence in today's **denominational churches**. We've documented the philosophy and manifestations of the **Kundalini spirit** and its prevalence in **pentecostal and charismatic churches**.

In the process of exposing lies, we've **angered many people** and **made enemies by the hundreds**. (Also, by the grace of Jesus, we've made friends galore - simple people who love the truth. I thank the Father for them!)

Throughout these years, people pleasing ministry leaders have rejected our "political incorrectness" and distanced themselves from us. Many ministry doors were closed in our faces. For years on end we've suffered financial lack and hence much humiliation and embarrassment. We've been ridiculed in the media. We've been slandered and lied about behind our backs. We've been accused, tried and convicted in our absence - more than once by those who claimed to be our friends. Our telephones have been tapped. The members of my family and I have been attacked by spirits at night. Witches have targeted us. I've survived several attempts on my life - in the physical as well as the spiritual.

The Response of Torah Folks

But never in my life have I received such an avalanche of **hate mail** as I did since the publication of this article. Never have I been so **sworn at, insulted and cursed**. Never have I been **threatened** so often. Seldom before have I and my family been so **spiritually attacked by manipulative witchcraft prayers** as during the past months. We could FEEL the darts and daggers in our spirit man.

All in the name of Torah.

Seldom have I had so many **technical problems** with computers and email. It got to a point where it became so ridiculous that you know it's demonic.

The non-verbalized message beamed at me via numerous emails from Torah folks was this:

"Eben, you clearly don't understand how this works:

We aren't the guys who are supposed to be rebuked. WE are the chosen ones to rebuke others and show them the Way. You have it all wrong, Eben."

Sadly, if the average email I've received from Torah devotees were to be representative of the Spirit of the Father, then I would seriously have to reconsider Christianity and the Bible. But by grace, I have a relationship with Jesus, and know from experience that this does not represent Him. Friendly emails were few and far between. [I appreciate them greatly - thanks!]

Folks, **there's a dark, lurking spirit behind vast parts of the Torah movement.** Not all of it, but vast parts. It is not the Spirit of the Father. It is a demonic spirit. And this article was stepping on its toes. Up to the point where it got so uncomfortable that it manifested abundantly via its hosts - in the ways described above. By the discernment of spirits the Lord has shown us exactly what kind of spirit it is:

It is a Religious spirit.

It is the very same spirit that **opposed Jesus** when He was on earth. It is the very same spirit which conspired against, set the trap for and hunted Him down.

I don't know at which point this spirit enters an individual. I don't know at which point it takes hold of a group. What I do know, is that **it just LOVES observance of the letter**, with all the associated religious bells and whistles.

To those who have ears - let them hear.

My Identity in the Torah - a Disaster!

A baby's identity is in its mother. **It has no identity of its own.**

When it gets older, its identity gets based in both parents.

When it goes through puberty and adolescence, it starts out to **discover its own identity.**

It asks itself: "Who am I? Who do I want to be? Who do I want to be known as? What kind of person do I need to be in order to be comfortable and secure with myself?"

Sadly, teenagers often build their identity on stupid things, things that spring forth from doubtful value systems - like physical appearance, cell phone brand, status amongst peers, etc.

When they enter the world of grown-ups, many continue this sad trend. They build their identity on possessions, money, sexuality, influence, power, social status, etc.

Some with stronger value systems build their identity on self-devised ethics, standards and norms, belief systems - and religion.

Every single one of the above identity foundations represents **a disaster waiting to happen:**

One can lose one's physical appearance, cell phone and status. Likewise, possessions, money, sexuality, influence, power and social status all possess a notorious non-permanence.

And similarly, even ethics, standards, belief systems and religion could be non-permanent - the only thing needed to topple them is some powerful disillusion with whatever one has valued before.

The same is true for the Torah. Although good and perfect, it was never meant to provide a basis for one's identity. Nevertheless, many have used it in the past for exactly that purpose.

When I lose my Identity

What happens when a person **loses his identity**?

The person does not know who he is anymore. He becomes unsure how to respond to stimuli. He loses his ability to navigate himself through the treacherous waters of everyday life. He loses his ability to assess whatever life might throw at him. He loses his moral compass.

In short - he is in the middle of **a serious personal crisis!**

Jealously protecting my Identity

And in the same way that a child would, as he grows up, learn to stay away from things that might physically harm him, he learns to stay away from **anything that might trigger an identity crisis.**

But sometimes in life it becomes impossible to avoid physical harm. Sometimes it comes your way, hunts you down and hurts you!

So how do we then usually respond?

Well, **we defend ourselves:** In life-threatening situations our primal survival instinct prompts us to **fight for our lives!** Then rules don't apply any more. You do whatever is necessary to survive. Even the justice system recognizes that.

So what do we do when our identity gets hunted down?

Well, **we defend ourselves** in the very same way. Rules don't apply anymore. You do whatever might be needed to avoid an identity crisis. You **fight for your "life"!**

This is exactly how Torah people responded when I started this article. They somehow seemed to view me **as their enemy, hunting down their identity.** And they started **fighting for their lives** - rules forgotten.

You swear and curse.

You bite and scratch.

You growl and spit.

The Identity Crisis of some Torah Folks

There are no better symptoms than those mentioned above to demonstrate that we're dealing with **an identity crisis.** Which means that many folks have built their identity on the Torah and the way they interpret it.

Since the **letter** of the Torah happens to be such a comprehensive "recipe for life" and would encompass almost every aspect of an individual's personal life and behaviour, it could serve as a most powerful force to determine identity. And because the **letter** of the Torah has as its aim set-apartness, it causes adherents to become extremely and radically different from the rest of society. And most often we find that Torah folks find their very identity in their "differentness". And although there is certainly nothing wrong with living a set-apart life, building one's identity on letter obedience spells havoc.

These people know that if such identity were to change (by substituting letter obedience with Spirit obedience) they simply wouldn't know who they were anymore. They wouldn't know how to behave anymore. They wouldn't know how to assess anything that life might throw at them anymore.

Growing into the Image of Jesus

... and become **mature**,
attaining to **the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**.
Then we will no longer be **infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves,
and blown here and there **by every wind of teaching**
and by the **cunning and craftiness of men** in their deceitful scheming.
Instead, speaking the truth in love,
we will in all things **grow up** into him who is the Head,
that is, Christ.
- Gal. 4:13 - 15.

The ultimate aim of a follower of Jesus is not be Torah observant.

My ultimate aim is **to grow up, to mature into the image of Jesus by his Spirit** – so we can serve as **co-workers in the Father's Kingdom**.

He is my Rock. He is my Fortress.
He is THE ONLY ONE with Whom my identity will be safe forever.
He will never be obsolete.
He is unshakable.
He is indestructible.
He can never be surprised.
He cannot be eroded.
He cannot be undermined.
He cannot be corrupted.
He cannot be conquered.
He will never forsake me
He will never disappoint me.
He knows everything there is to know.
He permeates the very life of everything that is.
He is everywhere.
He has all authority.
He has all power.
He is the Beginning.
He is the End.
He is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE!

Defending the Stone Torah forever in order to preserve one's Identity is HARD!

My dear Torah friend:

If you have built your identity on anyone or anything but Jesus, you are a disaster waiting to happen!

Do you really want to forever carry on defending adherence to the Stone Torah with your life – in order to preserve your Torah identity? If so, you're opting for a hard and difficult life. You might get tired, because many other followers of Jesus also understand the New Covenant. **Obedience of the letter is simply not worth your life-long efforts.**

There is a much better and more excellent route: Jesus.

Learn to hear and recognize the inner voice of his Spirit. Obey Him. Speak to Him. Worship and love Him.
Jesus is the kindest Person I know.

For me, personally:

I am a South African, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I am subject to the SA Constitution, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I have political preferences, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I prefer to speak Afrikaans, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I am white-skinned, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I love my culture, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I am a husband and a dad, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I support the Stormers and Western Province, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I drive a Volkswagen and Honda, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I greatly value the Bible and Torah, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
I greatly value prayer and intercession, yes, but over and above that I'm a follower of Jesus.
My identity is in Him, and hopefully in nothing else!

Some things the Torah is NOT

The Torah was never meant to save anybody.
The Torah was never Plan A.
The Torah can never replace the Ruach.
The Torah was never meant to be the object of any relationship.
The **letter** of the Torah was never intended to continue past Pentecost.
The Torah was never intended to serve as the basis of any Christian's identity.

Some things the Torah USED TO BE

The Torah was meant as instruction to avoid curses and live a blessed life.
The Torah was added to find a way to deal with sin until Jesus would come.
The Torah foreshadowed Jesus.
The Torah was a supervisor for an immature people.

The **letter** of the Torah was the recipe for life in the Old Testament.
The Torah was a schoolmaster to bring Jews to Christ - to be saved by **faith**.

Some things the Torah IS

The Torah reveals to us the origin of all things.
The **Stone** Torah remotely reveals the Father.
The **Stone** Torah mandates Jesus as the Messiah.
The **Stone** Torah has a prophetic function.
The **Flesh** Torah intimately reveals Jesus, and through Him, the Father.
The **Flesh** Torah is our guarantee towards an abundant NT life!
The **Flesh** Torah mandates our road of sanctification.

What is the true, but limited value of Hebrew Roots and Torah groups?

1. Hebrew Roots teaches us **to read our Bibles from a Hebrew perspective** - which radically improves the perception that Western folks have of the Bible.
2. Hebrew Roots serves as an excellent tool **to lead Jewish people to Jesus**.

But I struggle to find any further valuable applications of Hebrew Roots. Anything beyond the values above seriously sets off alarm bells and red lights.

At which points do Hebrew Roots and Torah groups veer off course?

1. At any point where the "Hebrew perspective" mentioned above narrows down to "**an Old Covenant** Hebrew perspective". Or a Judaic perspective.
2. At any point where the Hebrew perspective serves to mandate, obscure or soothe the presence of **idols in our hearts** - such as racism, religiosity, intellectualism, the Hebrew language, power, influence, legalism, etc.
3. At any point where the Hebrew perspective serves as a **coping mechanism** for emotional or spiritual woundedness - such as insecurity, pride, rejection, rebellion, etc.
4. At any point where literal Torah observance mandates personal **identity**.
5. At any point where the letter of the Torah starts to **replace** the voice of the Spirit.
6. At any point where the Book **replaces** the Person.
7. At any point where study **replaces** relationship.
8. At any point where busyness **replaces** godliness.
9. At any point where knowledge **exceeds** maturity.

*Dear Jesus, I pray that in this moment by your Spirit you would ease and take away the fear of loss of personal identity in the reader of this article. Please comfort this person by the warmth your Spirit, and grant forgiveness where repentance is made.
Amen.*

To be continued ...