
Subject: Session 12: Hebrew Roots: SA in Crisis.

Dear Saints

Herewith the final session of this series: Testimonies of those who've been there.

If you have been one of those who'd been there, realized the true state of affairs, and quitted, we'd also like to invite you to send us your testimony to info@trumpetcall.co.za. Please keep it short (not more than 300 words). If we'd decide to use your testimony, we'll contact you for your permission to do so. If we receive enough such testimonies, we might even compile a Session 13 to this article.

Why don't we invite enthusiastic Hebrew Rooters to write as well?

Those testimonies are abundant all over the internet. We're not interested in duplicating what is already available.

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.
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.
11. Building my personal identity on anything else than Jesus spells disaster. Personal identity built on the Torah IS a disaster!

In this issue:

Testimony Time

Hi Eben.

Here are my reasons as a Gentile believer for leaving the Hebrew Roots Movement:

1. The people in the group become concerned mostly with all things "Jewish" - eventually all striving to become "Jewish".
2. They are convinced that somewhere in their bloodlines, they must have had Jewish ancestors.
3. Mysticism and secrecy starts creeping in - parts of Judaism and deception starts taking a hold.
4. Rituals begin to take place such as observing Shabbat, traditional Jewish prayers, secular Jewish holidays, visiting synagogues, etc.
5. Learning Hebrew so that it can be spoken amongst the group.
6. Reading of the Torah each Saturday morning.
7. Singing mostly Hebrew P&W songs even including some Israeli traditional songs.
8. Reading mostly Old Testament Bible - little from the New Testament.
9. Such things as never using the name "Jesus" or writing out God's name in full, or it's sinful to eat pork or bacon, etc.
10. They become performance orientated, having to observe the strict Jewish ways.
11. Shunning brothers and sisters who don't adhere to certain "Laws" or observances.
12. They believe they are an elite group chosen by the Lord - the only ones who know "the truth".
13. They break away from "The Christian Church" and form small Torah groups.
14. They are both "born-again" believers in Jesus the Christ who has saved them from eternal damnation and also followers steeping themselves in rituals of the Jewish nation who still await the appearance of their "Messiah".
15. They say they can't fit into society and therefore desire to go and live in the Holy land Israel, even if God has not called them to - eventually the group loses all perspective of who they actually are in Jesus Christ. As born-again Gentile believers we are to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy; that is to be God's instrument of stirring them up to the realisation of their need for the gospel news of salvation, like any other nation on Earth. The Jew should be able to see the

light, truth, love and freedom of Jesus in true believers.

Yes, Israel and it's beloved people are not forgotten by the Lord nor will Father God ever forsake them. Yes, they are the nation that God has chosen to use in the final days and where Jesus will return to. Yes, we are called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem but we are not called to convert to Judaism or to practice any things Jewish.

Abba Father, in Jesus' name I pray for my brothers and sisters who belong to you but who are being held captive in this movement by spirits of lies and deception, pride and arrogance, fear and confusion. Please soften their hardened hearts with Your melting, loving kindness - please begin to woo them away from these groups with Your absolute truth through the power of Your Holy Spirit. We love them Lord and we long to have them back amongst us. Thank you Lord that we can put our trust in You alone.

Blessings to you.

Valerie

Next, a testimony from a minister:

Hello Eben

The first thing that struck me was the strong Hebrew theme to this Christian Community (where the kundalini is active) in this small town. Not expected. The theme extended from clothing, to food, to festivals ...

The strongest advocate was a woman, who lives as if she is 100% Hebrew, right down to "Jewish" humour. She is convinced and openly proclaims that she is Jewish - although she has no proof/reason to say so. She is also exceedingly influential in the congregation and her marriage - and disruptive in group work. She is also regarded (her admission) as "peculiar" by the larger community.

Ministering to and teaching them was distracting, there were ram horns being blown, Jewish flags being waved and so on. This was met by my team in prayer, after which all these "festivities" immediately ceased, persons then took their seats -and ministry continued normally.

Blessings

Brian*

Hier's 'n Afrikaanse een:

Hi Oom Eben

Ek wil net dankie sê vir jul gehoorsaamheid aan die Gees om hierdie e-posse te skryf en beskikbaar te maak aan die publiek ten spyte van teenstand.

Ons hele vriendeking wat almal tot radikale bekering gekom het, het die laaste twee jaar al dieper in die *Hebrew Roots* in beweeg. Ons het al die *feasts* gehou, begin om Hebreeus te leer en dit gesien as 'n heiliger taal, begin *kosher* eet, *tallits*, *shofars*, *you name it*. Ons het *parshahs* begin lees en later boeke en boeke van kommentaar op die *parshas*. Dit het gelei dat ons amper nooit tyd gehad het om by die Nuwe Testament uit te kom nie. Ek het selfs mense jammer gekry wat nog die naam Jesus gebruik!

Ons almal het so 'n dood oor ons geeste begin voel en *condemnation* omdat ons nie by al hierdie standarde kon hou wat ons vir onself gestel het nie. En ek het so onsensitief geraak vir die Gees, ek kon nie meer *intercede* soos ek voorheen kon nie. Vader se stem het al hoe sagter begin word en ek het al hoe meer gewens dat ek terug kon gaan na daardie eerste dae ná my bekering. Daar was 'n skuldias op my skouers soos nog nooit tevore nie. Ek het ook begin dink dat ek nie net een *commandment* kan hou en nie die ander nie, so ek sou ALMAL moes hou! Die gedagte daaraan het my begin insluk en ek het nie kans gesien om dit te doen nie.

Ek wou al vandat ek 'n jong dogtertjie is Frans leer, maar ek het begin voel hoe durf ek eerder Frans wil leer as Hebreeus, dis seker net my '*flesh*' wat dit wil doen. Ons almal het begin besef dat iets nie reg is nie, maar ons kon nie presies besluit wat dit was of hoekom nie.

Oom se e-posse het op die perfekte tyd gekom en die spyker op die kop geslaan! Halleluyah! Dit het regtig daardie dinge kom ontbloot wat tussen my en Jesus gestaan het. Ek het alles bely en wil net van voor af Sy stem hoor en loop in Sy wil - uitgaan en iets doen!

Anneke*

Liewe Eben,

As jou skrywe net was om my uit die Torah Roots te kry, dan sê ek DANKIE! Ek is al 15 jaar in die ding, maar ek prys die Here dat Hy my bewaar het dat ek nooit "Joods" wou raak nie! Tog was ek *solidly* in die Torah teachings ens, ens. Maar die Heilige Gees het aan my begin "krap". Vandat ek jou eerste *mail* oor die "Roots" gekry het, het ek besef dat die Heilige Gees jou gebruik om ons te waarsku!!!

Die Vader het my net genade gegee om te sien 1) in hoeveel **PRIDE** ons loop en 2) hoe n verskriklike rol **DIE MIND/KENNIS** in dit alles speel!

Eben, dis DOOD, want die Gees is nie daar nie!!! En ek wil amper sover gaan om te se God/Jesus (met al die redenasies oor wat ons Hom mag noem!!!) is ook nie daar nie, want dit gaan nie oor Hom nie - ons het Torah (d.i. geskrewe een) -aanbidders geword!!!

Wel Eben, danksy jou en die Here se werking in en deur jou, het ek "bedank", uitgeklim, *whatever*!!! Ek het met my groepleier probeer praat, maar weet jy, hulle HOOR mens nie!!!! Ek het op n baie mooi en liefdevolle manier net vir hulle gesê ek is KLAAR met die *Roots*!!!! WAT 'N VRYHEID!!!!

So, met die lang gesels wil ek net se DANKIE!!! En ek huil soos ek hier sit want ek besef net die Here is ontsettend genadig!!!!

Ester*

Beste Eben,

Hier is my getuigenis:

I have personally been following Trumpet Call for over 10 years and regard Eben Swart as one of the leading Spiritual researchers in South Africa. His latest work regarding "Hebrew Roots South Africa in crisis" is a prompt and timely tool in the hand of the discerning believer. I was fortunate to be present at the first reading of the rough draft of the article to find Eben moved to tears with compassion for the church as well as the 1000s being misled by this doctrine of demonic origin.

It was then that I realized the weight of this serious issue facing the body of Christ. It is the same spirit that worked through the Pharisees and religious leaders opposing Jesus directly and makes the spirit behind this movement anti-Christ. I have also witnessed the devastating effects of this doctrine firsthand and believe it to be very poisonous.

Thank you Eben, we now have the knowledge you have again given us to fight the good fight of faith in defending the truth of the only Gospel of Jesus Christ!

In HIM!
Ps. Jack Martin
Bloemfontein

Another one from an ex-Hebrew Rooter:

We managed to be set free by the Spirit of the God of Abraham, Yitsaq and Ya'acof only when we came to understand that:

The Name of our Almighty Father is indeed "Yod Hey Vav Hey" but as yet the correct pronunciation has not been revealed to any person. Where the Spirit of the Almighty Father is not present, the Spirit of Confusion reigns. Note: There is no grammatical rules in personal pronouns.

Proving one statement incorrect, does not automatically by default make the other alternative correct.

The use of the names of other gods in the days of the week and months is not a sin. The correct translation of "do not let the names of other gods pass your lips" is in actual fact "do not give priority or acknowledgement to the working of other gods".

The constant "in-fighting" and slandering amongst people confirm that the Spirit of the God of Abraham, Yitsaq and Ya'acof is not present.

Where there is no Prayer and no true Worship - beware, for the Holy Spirit is not there.

A cult is described as exclusive with exclusive knowledge and if you don't belong to them you cannot tap into this knowledge or have eternal life. Sounds familiar?

Abigail*

Another one in Afrikaans:

Liewe Eben,

So 'n wyle terug het ek by 'n Torah-groepie aangesluit, omdat ek meer van die Hebreeuse wortels van my geloof te wete wou kom.

Ons is aangeraai om die voorgeskrewe gedeeltes in die Ou Testament, of Torah (soos wat ortodokse Jode wêreldwyd doen) daagliks te bestudeer, sowel as die kommentare van verskeie rabbi's wat daarmee saam gegaan het. En aanvanklik het dit goed gegaan, dit was fassinerend om die Torah te ontdek soos wat Jode dit interpreteer.

My probleem het begin toe geen teenargumente werklik geduld was nie - my eposse met ander sieninge is net geignoreer. Dit was asof die feit dat iemand 'n "Messiaanse Jood" is, hom outomaties kwalifiseer om die enigste waarheid oor 'n saak te kan insien.

Die hele Jood vs Gentile saak is so gestel: Aanvanklik was daar 'n skeiding tussen Jode en Gentiles, en die Jode het God, die tien gebooie, die Torah ens. gehad. Die gentile: niks. Toe het Christus die skeiding tussen die twee weggevat, en dit beteken nou dat die gentile, wat mos niks gehad het nie, nou ook vir God, die tien gebooie, en die Torah het. Eenwording as Jode moet dus eers plaasvind voordat die gentile vir God aanneemlik sal wees. Terwyl ek nie sien dat 2 Kor 5:17 'n onderskeid maak tussen groepe mense nie, dit lyk vir my asof daar in daardie vers gesê word ALMAL word nuut, dus sekerlik Jode ook?

Dit was toe mense begin gesels oor hoe moeilik dit dan nou is om net linne te koop en dra, (wol en linne mag nie volgens Torah wette gemeng word nie); en hoe die kinders dit moeilik verstaan as hulle ma's Saterdag niks mag doen nie, wat beteken dat Pa maar die kinders moet rondry en inkopies doen en skottelgoed was ens; en een dame begin wonder hoe sy haar man en seuns gaan oortuig om besny te word; dat die gevaarligte vir my helder begin brand het.

Want die feit dat Jesus die volle omvang van al wat 'n wet is kom vervul het, beteken vir my dat Hy alleen in staat is en was om AL die wette namens my perfek te onderhou! En omdat Hy dit namens my kom doen het, hoef ek niks te *doen* nie, ek moet Hom alleen liefhê en gehoorsaam!

Ek is nie teen bv Shabat hou op Vrydagaande nie - dit is 'n wonderlike manier om die familie bymekaar te bring. En ook hou ek daarvan om bewus te wees van die Bybelse feeste, en hou ons so nou en dan bv die Loofhuttefees. Dit is 'n wonderlike manier om kinders Bybelwaarhede te leer. Maar as dit belangrik word dat Joodse gebruike en feeste deel van my identiteit in Christus **moet** wees, het ek daarmee 'n probleem.

Groete,

C*

This one is from a subscriber to a different newsletter:

I have listened to HR/Messianic teachings off and on (not really getting "into it") but I heard enough to get me to stop eating "unkosher" meats and become afraid of breaking Sabbath, etc. When you sent out these two newsletters, I did not actually know what to think, so I just left it alone. But later, I realized that your letters were seeds of truth that God would use to bring me out of these deceptions. I want to share with you how He pulled me out of it because this movement is far more dangerous than people realize.

Over the past 3 years, I was lured into the HR/Messianic movement. At first, it is like a "gateway" drug, just listening to "soft" Hebrew roots teachings like Mark Biltz and Bill Cloud. But later, it's like you need stronger drugs, so then you start dabbling into Monte Judah and Rico Cortez. By this time, spiritual bondage

begins to set in because so many seeds have been planted into the heart and mind, that now it's time for an even stronger drug. That's when people begin to move into the more extremes like Michael Rood and Avi Ben Mordechai, etc.

By the time a believer has made his way into the more extreme groups, the bondage is full-blown and very difficult to get out of. Fortunately, I never made it to the more extreme teachers, but it was enough to blind me severely.

The Lord has recently opened my eyes and brought me correction concerning the doctrines and teachings of the HR/Messianic movement. By His grace, I was able to break from the very powerful demonic bondage of those false doctrines they teach. After He opened my eyes, it felt like I came out of a very long dream – I was stunned, and it almost did not seem real. That is how powerful those demonic spirits are.

I would also like to add that in the process of the Lord bringing me out of this demonic stronghold, He showed me something that I think every Christian must become aware of: this HR/Messianic movement is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS and EXTREMELY DECEPTIVE. I do not make these statements lightly nor in exaggeration. I will share with you part of the process of how He brought me out of this so you can understand my concern.

First, the Lord permitted the adversary (through demonic spirits of various sorts) to torment me, both body and mind. As I sought Him in extended fasting, He showed me various visions to lead me to the truth; two of these visions occurred back-to-back, that is, two nights in a row. These two visions were messages telling me that there was a "breach" in my hedge of protection. The following night, He gave a vision and a verse of Scripture. Rather than detailing the vision itself, I'll just share the main message of the vision, which was this:

"You have lost your ability to receive forgiveness."

As you can tell, this is no light matter!! To put it in Paul's terms: *"You have fallen from grace."*

The verse that accompanied this last vision was 2 Corinthians 4:2:

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

He then led me to look up the word "craftiness" in the original Greek, which is *"Panourgia,"* Strong's 3834. The meaning that the Holy Spirit slapped me in the face with was *"specious wisdom."* I had not heard this word before, so I looked it up, and this is what it means: apparently correct or true, but actually wrong or false.

Peter*

* Names changed on author's request.

Epilogue.

Dear reader

If you consider yourself part of the Hebrew Roots or Torah movements, I would humbly submit to you that what I've tried to communicate in the course of twelve sessions comprises deep concern about these movements. I sincerely hope that I could communicate the content of my message to you in a digestible format – on both intellectual and emotional levels.

My quest is not to be "right", or even "more right" than others. My motive is not to point out where others have erred or stumbled and then to scoff at them.

I have gained absolutely nothing by writing this article – in fact, it costs me dearly. But I have to obey the urgent Voice of the Spirit within me. For me, disobedience to that Voice would be far more disastrous than whatever any Torah movement could throw at me. So I simply obey.

Once again, I would like to iterate that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with Messianism, Torah studies or Hebrew Roots. People merely pervert it and "take it too far".

My concern lies with the Kingdom of Heaven. My compassion is with the Body of Christ. If anything hurts the body, it hurts me as a part of it.

I hope that I could be instrumental in deterring you from evil. I hope that I could clarify at least some deceptions to you. I hope that, in the minefield of doctrines, I could point out at least a couple which you should seriously avoid.

And if you would dare to be honest towards yourself – is your group free from these deceptions? Or is your teacher constantly wrestling the boundaries of sound New Covenant teaching further and further afield? Have you escaped from the prison of Christian Institutionalism just to walk open-eyed into the prison of Torah-ism across the street? Have its steel gates already shut and locked behind you?

If so, get out! Rather sooner than later. Repent of your folly.

And, by faith, throw yourself headlong onto the grace of the Father in Jesus the Messiah by the power of their mighty Spirit.

Eben Swart

The End.