

Jews For Yeshua

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To the Torah & the Testimony
If anyone does not speak according to these words
It is because they have no light in them.
Yesh'yahu (Isaiah) 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 14:12



Torah Thought of the Month

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Gan Eden (Garden of Eden) Series

The Church, A Christian Community, or Jewish? *B'resheet (Genesis) 4:1-8: Maaseh (Acts) 2:46,47*

In the beginning, we have a picture of Cain and Abel; **B'resheet (Genesis) 4:1-8**. They were brothers, both of whom professed to serve the same Elohim (God); **verses 2-5**. But the Cain served the Eternal One his own way, and Abel in a faithful way, and Abel the faithful one - killed by the unfaithful one.

You see this same similar pattern followed throughout Scripture from Isaac and Ishmael, to Jacob and Esau, Saul and David, the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, Kepha (Peter) and Judas Iscariot, etc...

And then you have the "church" that has persecuted to the point of torture, maiming, imprisonment, and death of the Jews. And today, though the "church" no longer does these things, still often has their hands stained with guilt in other ways through various forms of anti-Semitism, boycotting, and replacement theology right up to this very day.

But if we follow the pattern of Scripture above, what do we see? We see it is always the rejected one like Cain, or unrighteous one like Saul, or misguided one like Judas, who persecutes the one who has been accepted, declared righteous, or who was clearly guided by the Spirit of Elohim (God).

So what does this have to do with the "church" being Jewish or Gentile? Well, let me ask you this. Is there any parallel between the "Christian" church of today and a true reflection of the "church" of the 1st century, or is it more like an Ishmael who through Islam believes the covenant came to Ishmael instead of through Isaac, or like a Saul who sincerely believes he has been obedient, though he clearly did not carry out the command of Elohim (God)?

Or during the inquisitions and pogroms more like a Cain who despised his righteous brother Abel, or maybe more like a Judas who though sincere, unwittingly betrayed the very One he was called and chosen to faithfully represent?

Let's begin by defining the word "church". The word church is translated from the Greek word "ecclesia", and means simply a "called out assembly of people". The Greek word of which was first used, according to the Septuagint translation, to refer to the descendants' of Israel/Jacob who had gathered at Mt. Sinai after coming out of Egypt under the blood of the Lamb.

The Mt. Sinai experience took place roughly about 1450 years prior to Yeshua's coming. So for approximately 1500 years all the way up to the day of Shavuot in the book of Maaseh (Acts) chapter 2, the word "ecclesia" referred to none other than the Israeli/Jewish people.

However, in this same chapter of Maaseh (Acts) the word for the first time in the history of biblical literature was not translated as "ecclesia" or as "called out assembly" or as some other similar thing, but rather was now translated as "church". And as we can see from history, this same book and chapter are used today to teach that it was at this time that the "Christian" church was "born", the church of which is alleged to be the place where gentiles are saved through the "New Covenant", as opposed to the old covenant through which Jews are allegedly saved.

But does this hold up through the light of Scripture? Let us begin with **Maaseh (Acts) 2**. If you read this chapter through you will see that it involves entirely Jews/Israelites who have gathered for Shavuot (Pentecost), and after having repented for approving of Yeshua's death; **verse 2:36-41**, were immersed, 3,000 souls in all. Then in **verses 2:46,47** it states that continuing daily "in the Temple", and in fellowshiping from house to house, they praised the Eternal One, and that from this platform, the Master Yeshua "added to the church daily those who were being saved".

So the "church" here was not made up of gentiles, or even of people called Christians, but made up entirely of Jews/Israelites who gathered daily at the Temple as Jewish believers, in the long awaited Messiah of the Jews; **Luke 1:32,33,54,55,67-75; 2:11,25,26,36-38; 24:21; Maaseh (Acts) 5:30,42; 17:1-3; 18:28**.

This is further confirmed in **verses 10:28,35** where approximately 10 to 12 years after the resurrection, the Emissaries (Apostles) still were faithful to not go to those of another nation; though now at this juncture, they were now being granted permission to accept Gentile proselytes who had been faithfully serving the Elohim (God) of Israel - if they believed in Yeshua. Other disciples as well, when fleeing Jerusalem after Stephen's death, went with no concept in mind about their commission other than to take the message of Messiah's arrival to the Jewish people scattered abroad; **verse 11:19**.

But yet during this whole time from **Maaseh (Acts) chapter 2 to chapter 11**, this entire assembly of called out believers over this approximate 10 to 12 year period was not only entirely Jewish/Israeli, but was referred to as the "church" 8 times over this span of time in Scripture; **verses 2:47; 5:11; 7:38; 8:1,3; 9:31; and 11:22,26**.

This is a shock to many, because you often hear in Christian churches today that the Jews rejected "Jesus", and that's why "God" created the church. But yet for the first 10 to 12 years the "church" was entirely made up of Jewish Emissaries (Apostles); Jewish disciples, Jewish prophets, teachers, elders, and lay people. In fact, not only did 3,000 who approved of Yeshua's crucifixion repent in **Maaseh (Acts) 2:36-41** and become believers, but a great many of the Cohanim (Priests) were also obedient to the Faith; **Maaseh (Acts) 6:7**, and by the time of **Maaseh (Acts) 21:20**, a time approximately 20 years after the resurrection, tens of thousands of Jews in Jerusalem alone, had come to believe.

This is likewise, a few years "after" Paul stated that from now on he would go only to the "Gentiles"; **verse 18:4-6**, but yet after this statement he went to Crispus, a leader of the synagogue (a Jew) who became a believer; **verse 18:8**; and then after about 2 years went to witness to Jews in Ephesus who were also receptive to the message; **verse 18:19, 20; 19:1-7**. So it was not that Paul was saying because the "Jews" have now somehow rejected Yeshua, that now he was going to only preach to the Gentiles, but rather, that because in **verse 18:4**, he saw that Greeks attending synagogue were being consistently persuaded about Yeshua as Messiah, that he became determined from that point forward to not focus his message exclusively to the Jews anymore, with Greeks only eating the crumbs from the master's table, but like Kepha (Peter) did with Cornelius among the Samaritans in chapter 10, Paul was committed to now doing with full fledged Gentiles. That is, as he states in Ephesians, that he was beginning to see believers among the Jewish believers as full-fledged citizens and fellow heirs with them now as well; **Ephesians 18:19, 20; and 3:1,6-9**.

So where is the disconnect? It was not that the Jews rejected "Jesus" that now somehow the "church" has replaced Israel. The early "church" was completely Jewish, and then after 10 years or so, Gentile proselytes began to be allowed to join as fellow citizens and heirs. But through this whole process, from the crucifixion to the end of Maaseh (Acts), there were Jews who believed, and Jews who did not believe, and in due time, gentiles who believed, and gentiles who did not believe.

And in all of this, allegedly, the gentiles have replaced the Jews because they believe in "Jesus", while the Jews allegedly do not. Yet when driving down the freeway I am often hit very somberly concerning the thousands upon thousands of gentiles I see driving down that same freeway who I have no doubt are all going to perish in the lake of fire someday because they have rejected Yeshua's Messiahship and Sovereignty for their lives.

But on the other side I know many Jews who do believe; and like the **Maaseh (Acts) 21:20** Jews, they are often zealous for the Torah like the whole early "ecclesia" was. Now go back and read the above verses and replace the word "church" with the meaning of the word "ecclesia"; that is, replace it with the words "called out assembly", and now the passages and everything I just said should make perfect sense.

But moving forward to today, where does the persecution come from today? The Brit Chadasha (New Testament) was clearly given to Judah/Israel; **Yer'miyahu (Jeremiah) 31:31-34**. Yeshua Himself said that "Salvation is of the Jews"; **Yehochanan (John) 4:22**, so why aren't "Christians" running around looking for Jewish believers to teach them about the Way? And why when a Jewish believer does attempt to teach a gentile believer, the Jewish believer is accused of being a "Judaizer" - and that anybody who believes their message of hope, is accused of being a "legalist"?

Could it be that the Gentile believers who were grafted in have become arrogant against the natural branches they were grafted into?; **Romans 11:17,18**. Like the Ishmaelite who believes that the covenant of Avraham came through Ishmael, rather than through Isaac? Or like a king Saul who considers his acts of disobedience as obedience? Kind of like the "church" today calls the rejection of God's law, obedience?; **I Shemuel (I Samuel) 15:18-23**.

Consider this. In **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 7:21-23** Yeshua states to those who do amazing things in His name, to depart from Him, for He never knew them. And what is the reason He gives? Because they are workers of iniquity - literally, workers of Torahlessness.

And in **Mishlei (Proverbs) 28:9** it is stated that those who reject His Torah, even their prayers are an abomination. But yet it is the Torah of the Eternal One that the "gentile" church teaches incessantly against, except concerning the commandments they find convenient and/or acceptable to their culture and lifestyle.

In fact, I find it interesting that the gentile church has become guilty of the very same issue that Yeshua chastised the Scribes and Pharisees for in His day, and that is of rejecting Father's commandments in favor of the traditions of men; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 15:3,8,9**.

On the other hand, according to **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 18:18,19** the Eternal One said He would raise up a prophet like unto Moshe (Moses), and that whoever does not listen to Him, they will be held accountable for it.

This early prophecy pointing to Yeshua states that there will be an accountability held concerning to those who do not receive Him. But notice the language is not near as strongly stated as it is against a professing believer in **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 7:21-23**, or as stated against a rejecter of Torah like stated in **Mishlei (Proverbs) 28:9**. That is, in this case in **D'varim (Deuteronomy) 18:18,19**, you do not hear phrases like, "their prayers are an abomination", or "Depart from Me you workers of Torahlessness"; but only that they will be held accountable, without defining in what way they will be held accountable.

Why might this be? I suggest that with the individual of the Gentile church, that any individual knowing the whole of Scripture, would be willfully rejecting the Torah. But concerning the Jew who has never read the Brit Chadasha (New Testament) and has only heard of a pork eating, Sabbath breaking, Torahless blonde haired, blue Catholic messiah figure who goes around and persecutes and often kills any Jews that will not convert or embrace him, can this really be accounted to them as a willful rejection of Yeshua? Or only as a proper rejection of a counterfeit?

The Jews of the first century who chose not to believe knew full well who they were rejecting, as so are not in any in any better shape in my opinion than the professing believers of today who knowingly and willfully reject and violate Torah. But such is not the case today. Today's Jews have often only heard about a sinful (Torahless) Jew

hating counterfeit. So who is more in danger of judgment today? The Jew who rejects Yeshua out of ignorance because they have only heard of the catholic version of Him; or the Gentile believer who knows the Scriptures and the Torah within it, but who knowingly and willfully rejects it? Like King Saul, who ultimately lost his kingship over his disobedience, or like Cain who lost his right of the first born through an unacceptable sacrifice?

Is the time of the gentiles now full?; **Romans 11:25**. Is this the time for the ecclesia to return to its 1st century "Jewish" roots?; **verse 11:26**. If so, then is all I have to say is, if the "temporary casting away of 'some' of the natural branches worked to help reconcile the people of the nations to our Elohim (our God) through Yeshua's death and resurrection, then what would our full acceptance of Yeshua ultimately be; **verse 11:26**, other than life from the dead; **verse 11:15**!

For a video that ties in nicely with this study by Brother Daniel Botkin, you can go to the following link called "Why Jews don't believe in Jesus": <https://youtu.be/gvCJ-3KB900> (a 4 part series).

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