



ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP

with **The OLIVE TREE MESSAGE!** Romans 11

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We Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

TRADITION!! or ???

Have you examined your Traditions lately? It is a healthy exercise as it is possible that some of your Traditions might have gone astray from Bible Truth. We found that to be true for us, as we taught typical Evangelical theology. As a scientist, I know that Traditions should be taken to the laboratory and examined carefully to verify whether any Tradition is true or not. Some pass, some fail. Our big problem is: we don't think Jewish and don't know history!!

To arrive at Truth, the starting point is essential! For instance, if a person assumes there is no God, then he will probably arrive at Evolution, even if there is no evidence that it ever occurred in the past, and it certainly is not occurring now. Evolution is the biggest fraud ever put on mankind, and is the starting point for all kinds of wickedness, including the Holocaust, abortion on demand, domination of the weak, etc. Those who teach Evolution think that they will not have to give an account to God. They are in for a big shock!

On the other hand, those of us who assume there is a God, Who has revealed Himself in the Bible, will arrive at Creation, 7 days of 24 hours each, just like He said. By the way, the Creation Museum just south of Cincinnati does an excellent job to show this and is a fun place for a family to spend a whole day.

So, when it comes to theology, we must also be careful to start with the right assumption. If you assume that Jesus started a Church in Acts 2, like so many do, then you will push Israel aside, either permanently or temporarily, and come up with the various theologies that ignore most or all that God Promised to Israel, His Chosen People, and try to apply those Promises to yourself and your church. In addition, practices and celebrations given by God to Israel will be rejected, substituting practices from other non-biblical sources.

On the other hand, those of us who assume that God does not lie, and is faithful to all His Promises, come up with a quite different theology. We find that Israel is and always will be His Chosen People for His purposes on earth, that He has Promised that Israel will be a nation before Him forever, until the sun, moon and stars stop their regular rotation. Jer 31:35-37. We find that Acts 2 is the launching of the Great Commission of Matt 28:18-20: 1) Jewish disciples were made, 2) they were baptized, and 3) they were taught "everything that Jesus had taught the Apostles" over a period of time in Jerusalem. God sent persecution to force them to scatter over the earth to tell the Good News that the long-awaited Messiah had come and accomplished full Redemption by His death and resurrection...according to the Hebrew Scriptures, the Promises to Israel! Jesus is the Jewish Messiah! His real name is Yeshua.

As we continued our search, we found in Webster's Dictionary that "church" comes from *kuriakon* (a pagan temple in NT times?) not *Ekklesia* as theologians claim. *Ekklesia* means "the called-out-ones." Furthermore, we found that God's Congregation of Israel is called *Kehilah* or *qahal* in the Hebrew Scriptures and that this is translated into *Ekklesia* in the Septuagint, about 250BC. This tells us that there is a continuity of God's Congregation without any change or interruption by inserting something called the "church" in the Bible. It is a mystery why this word ever came into our English versions, as "church" is not used in the earliest translations.

Since we understand that Believers from Adam & Eve onward looked forward to the Coming of The Messiah, and since His Coming we look backward at His accomplished Redemption, we call all of these faithful ones "Messianics." This Messianic Congregation (*Kehilah* and *Ekklesia*) of the LORD throughout history contains the Remnant, the Body of The Messiah, entered individually by God's

Grace through our acceptance by Faith, not by any works of our own, whether Israeli (Jewish) or Gentile. Once a member of His Body, Yeshua has given only ONE prescribed Way of Life for everyone, to live as He and His Apostles lived. WWJD? Go and do likewise.

In 1959 while teaching a Q&A Bible study in Banaue, Philippines, a young man asked, “Sir, when I read my Bible, I find that they are meeting on Saturday. Why do we meet on Sunday?” My answer, “Because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, the church decided to change the meeting day from Saturday to Sunday.” I knew this was a poor answer, but I said what I had been taught, the Tradition of the church. I should have begun my research right then, but did not until years later, when it dawned on me, “What right did the church have to change anything in the Bible, especially a Commandment that God Himself wrote on stone with His own finger?” Yeshua and His Apostles always kept Shabbat, never violating anything, except additional rabbinic restrictions.

We also noticed that Yeshua and Paul celebrated the Appointed Times (Festivals) of the LORD (not Jewish), and the church was not. Why not? Yeshua and the Apostles celebrated Passover and the Festivals regularly, and His last supper was a Passover. Maybe the answer is in Emperor Constantine’s “Letter to the Churches” after his Council of Nicea in 325, where he stated that celebrating Passover was now a criminal offense in his empire! This letter was strongly anti-Jewish, calling the Jews “polluted wretches...hostile rabble...odious fellowship...vilest of mankind...murderers of our Lord, etc.” The Roman Catholic Church had now been officially established on a foundation different from that of the Bible, making all the changes they wish by bringing in pagan practices and “whitewashing” them with some Bible terminology to deceive the people, who do not know the Bible anyway.

We continued our research and found many other disturbing things. Why are Protestants, especially Evangelicals, continuing some of these changes from Bible Truth? They have become Traditions! Very few bother to find out how these Traditions began, especially clergy who may feel insecure if they find and admit that they have been teaching non-biblical Traditions in ignorance, as I had to admit. They had not been taught properly, as we had not been taught, and our teachers had not been taught, and their teachers had not been taught, etc. We are very thankful that the LORD has opened our eyes and hearts to his Foundational Truth, and given us the Grace to adjust our teaching and practice to that of the Bible as stated, and quit trying to twist the text to justify Tradition! “Follow Me,” Yeshua said.

The “Church” made changes because of anti-Semitism, pure and simple! We have found that the “Church” began as break-offs from Messianic Congregations, beginning about 200AD, when Gentile members did not want to endure the persecution by the Roman Empire. They chose to change their practices to be different from the Bible so as not to look Jewish, and called the Hebrew Scriptures the “OLD Testament” so as to ignore most of it. How tragic!

I must admit that as a teenager I read Acts 7:38 where Stephen is saying that Yeshua was in the “church in the wilderness” with Moses, so I was not really convinced that the “church” began in Acts 2. Also, Heb 2:12 quotes David talking about the “church” in his day. These are KJV for *Ekklesia*, the continuing Congregation of the LORD, containing the Remnant, the Body of The Messiah. How did I miss these clues for so long?

Based on this context, please note my expansion and correction of Matt 16:15-19, “Yeshua said to the disciples, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Yeshua said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of John, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but My Father, Who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter (a small stone) and on this rock (a huge boulder, the Truth that Peter had just stated) I will (continue to) build up my Kehilah, Ekklesia, Congregation, and the gates of *hades* shall not prevail against it. And I will give to you (singular, Peter only) the keys of the kingdom of the heavens (fulfilled by Peter’s action in Acts 2 to Jews, Acts 8 to Samaritans, and Acts 10 to Gentiles), and whatever you might bind on earth shall be having already been bound and still bound in the heavens, and whatever you might loose on earth shall be having already been loosed and still loosed in the heavens.” All versions are backwards, like Catholic dogma!

Truth expressed above: 1) Yeshua is God, 2) Truth is revealed, 3) the Congregation of the LORD is a continuity, 4) persecution cannot wipe out His Congregation, 5) the keys have been used by Peter and

“thrown away;” and 6) whatever decisions related to the teaching and practice of this Congregation, must be based on the Torah, that which has already been recorded in the heavens and still recorded there, not changed, and given to Israel as custodians.

Where do Gentile disciples fit in? Bible passages in the Torah and Psalms put the God-Fearer, the “*ger*” or alien who lives among Israelis, as accepted by God on an equal basis to the native-born Israeli. Cornelius the Centurion is a prime example of a God-Fearer, a “*ger*” in Hebrew! There is one Torah for both. We have learned also that Torah means “teaching,” not law, although Torah contains some laws. Rom 11 and Eph 2 tells us that as Gentiles, we have nothing apart from Israel and her Messiah! Yeshua said, “Salvation is of the Jews.” Jn 4:22. By God’s Grace, both Jewish and Gentile disciples are grafted together into the Good Olive Tree, into ONE Family, with equal inheritance, with ONE way to live: love God and love your neighbor; expanded into TEN Commandments; expanded further with the Appointed Times of the LORD, and the details given from Genesis through Revelation, the complete Torah/Teaching of Yeshua. He said that He did NOT come to destroy the Torah or the Prophets, but to fill the teaching full of meaning, and fulfill any Prophecies related to His first Coming. Paul continued on this same Foundation, no changes, no contradictions. Have you assumed Paul contradicted Yeshua? We hope that you and others will begin your journey into Truth, and not blindly follow Traditions, some ok, some not.