LESSON 1: A BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE – BACK TO THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

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1.1 Introduction

Why should we learn about the Roots/Foundation of our faith? The answer to this question is both informative and enlightening! It will definitely be challenging as well, because it forces us to rethink centuries of tradition and stereotyping religion.

Most people do not know that the first believers in Yeshua/Jesus were all Hebrew people, with a Hebrew culture and a Hebrew language – living in Israel. According to the NT we see in Acts the observance of Sabbath as well as the Feast of YHWH as in Lev 23.

How can we understand the Words of Yeshua (the writings of the apostles) without understanding the context, culture and background in which they lived?

Sadly, we learn from Church history that the Greek Church fathers of Christianity moved away from these roots and Christianity was Hellenised - simply meaning becoming Grego-Roman orientated and left behind its Hebraic roots. Finally in 320 AD, Pope Constantine finally broke the "Jewishness" of the Faith by declaring the 1st day (SUNDAY) as the rest day and abolishing the Festivals of Yahweh. This resulted in the two religions - Judaism and Christianity – far apart from each other!



1.2 Returning and Restoring

We are living in exciting times! We are called back to our Biblical roots and foundation – which is Hebraic.

Crossing Over
The word “Hebrew” simply means to ‘cross over’ and refers to Abraham crossing over the Euphrates river to the Promised Land. Yahweh made an everlasting covenant with him that all the nations will be blessed through Abraham and the land was promised to his seed.

So the phrase “Hebraic Roots of Our Faith” simply means there was 2 000 years of Hebrew history, culture, language, traditions and customs from which the church grew far apart.

In order to understand the NT (Renewed Testament) and the way the writers intended it, it should be read within its Hebraic context.

It was a Hebrew (Jewish) rabbi from the Tribe of Benjamin – Paul (Saul) - who wrote in Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have the expectation”.

The Root and the Branches
Saul also wrote “Do not boast against the branches. And if you boast, *remember:* you do not bear the root, but the root *bears* you!

The root is the origin and the source and gives life to that which is attached to the root. The more we learn about our Hebraic heritage, the more fruitful we will become in our walk with YHWH.



1.3 Benefits of Learning our Roots and Foundation

Discovering the biblical roots of our faith, will bless us in so many ways. Here are but a few…

- A Fuller and Clearer understanding of the Word from Genesis to Revelation
- Progressive revelation of the Word
- Clarification on what 'Torah" means – not law, but the Instructions of a Holy Life given by Yahweh HIMSELF
- Clarification on who Paul was and his writings
- A Comprehension on Yahweh's prophetic plan of redemption and prophetic seasons
- Walking as Yeshua Messiah walked

- Reading the Word through "Hebrew-eyes" gives us a fuller, richer and clearer understanding of the original text. It enlarges, clarifies and gives detail to the meaning of what we are reading.
- We get progressive revelation on who Yeshua Messiah is.
- He was…and still is……..

- A Hebrew from the Tribe of Yehudah /Judah
- Spoke Hebrew and had a Hebrew culture
- Kept Torah – If He broke Torah he could not have been sinless!
- Only had the OT (Tanakh) to read and quote from
- Wore Hebrew clothes
- Wore tzitzits (Kept Torah)
- Ate Biblical diet (Kept Torah)
- Kept The 7th day Sabbath (Kept Torah)
- Kept all The Feast of YHWH as in Lev 23 (Kept Torah)
- Kept all the Commandment of YHWH (Kept Torah)
- Was a Hebrew (Jewish) Rabbi

The Followers of Messiah Yeshua…….

- Hebrews (Jews)
- Kept The 7th Day Sabbath
- Celebrated the Feats
- Followed Yeshua
- Acknowledged Him as the Messiah
- Wrote the NT
- Lived a Torah observant lifestyle

Yeshua and all His followers were Hebrew people (Israel), who were deeply rooted in the rich Hebraic soil of their ancestors. They thought, taught and lived it out.

When the early "church" was "taken over" by Gentile believers, the Hebrew believers were forced to deny their Hebraic roots and conform to the Greco-Roman beliefs and practices which were incorporated into the organised church. Some Hebraic believers assimilated into the Roman system, while others faded away over the centuries until the late nineteenth century. They had little or no choice to become part of the anti-Semitic, Greco-Roman church system.

It should be obvious by studying the Hebraic background, culture and language, we will gain new revelation about YHWH.

1.4 About Paul…

Other than Yeshua, Paul is probably the most misunderstood person in history. Both Jews and Christians believe he was anti-law, establishing a Gentile Christianity that was opposite from his Torah beliefs.

But…

- His name was Sha'ul – the Hebrew form of Paul
- Born into the Tribe of Benjamin
- Circumcised according to Torah
- A zealous Pharisee
- Considered himself the Hebrew of Hebrews
- Kept all the customs and traditions of his Israel people
- Lived his entire life as a Torah observant "Jew"

Paul was an extraordinary Torah student and studied under Gamaliel, grandson of a great rabbi, Hillel. Paul was fluent in Hebrew and Greek.

In Acts we see…

- Paul circumcised Timothy (16:3)
- Attended synagogue (17:2)
- Took a Nazarene Vow (18:18)
- Kept the Feasts (18:21 ; 20:16)
- Kept the Torah and customs of the Hebrew people (25:8 ; 28:17)

Paul assumed the people in Corinth would celebrate Passover and encouraged them to do so in the proper way (1 Cor 5).

The misunderstanding in Christianity about the "Law being done away with" causes that Paul is accused of being Anti-Law (Anti-Torah).

Yet, he wrote

- Therefore the Law (Torah) is holy, and the commandments holy and just and good (Rom 7:12)
- For we know that the law is spiritual…. (14)
- For I delight in the law of Elohim after the inward man (22)

If we study Paul through our Western eyes, we will most certainly misunderstand his writings. Unfortunately, this is what happened with the early Hellenistic (Greek) church fathers. Their view and writings have passed down from one generation to the other, even to our time.

1.5 A Clearer Comprehension of Redemption and Prophetic seasons.

A clearer comprehension of Redemption and Prophetic times is accomplished by studying the Feast (Moedim) of Yahweh as in Lev 23. While Christianity consider the Feats as “Jewish” holidays, they are actually called the Feasts Yahweh - Lev 23:2. “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts”.

The major moves of Yahweh happened on these Appointed Times and are of extremely prophetic significance. Yeshua and all His disciples kept The Feasts, and all His Redemptive Activities were accomplished on them.

Yeshua fulfilled …

- Crucified on Passover
- Was sinless and in the Grave on Unleavened Bread
- First Fruit out of the grave on FirstFruits (Resurrected)
- Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) on Shavuot (Pentecost)

Yeshua will fulfil the last 3 Feasts

- Feast of Trumpets
- Atonement
- Sukkot

We will be able to discern the times and seasons we live in through the Feast of Yahweh. This aids us in understanding the past, present and future, and what YHWH is currently doing in His ongoing work of redemption.

1.6 How to Follow Yeshua

Yeshua said in Luke 24:45-48: “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, thus it is written and thus it behoved the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Yeshua declared that the Hebrew Scripture (Tanakh), was all about Him. He opened the spiritual understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures – how it pointed to Him.

He wants the same for His Bride though out all the ages – He is yesterday, today and forever the same, without any change!

- Mal 3:6 For I *am* Yahweh, I change not…
- Heb 13:8 Yeshua the Messiah the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.
- Num 23:19 Yahweh is not a man, that He should lie, nor a human being that He should change his mind.

We hear from John how to follow and know Yeshua…

1Jn 2:3-6 “And by this we know that we know Him, if we guard His commands. The one who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not guard His commands, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim has been perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked”.

We hear from Paul …
Col 2:6 “As ye have therefore received the Messiah Yeshua the Master, *so* walk ye in him”.

It is important to note in 2Ti 3:16 “All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness”
When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy – the New Testament was not written yet! Thus Paul was referring in “All Scripture” to the Old Testament!

1.7 In Conclusion

- The word will open up to us with a richness and depth that will change our walk, our way of thinking and our entire life!
- We will be able to discern the prophetic times and seasons we are living in (Sabbath and Feasts)
- We will learn that the OT and the NT are ONE!
- We will learn about the One new man in Yeshua (Efe2)
- We will start walking as Yeshua walked
- Our love for Israel will increase
- We will start praying for the Peace of Jerusalem
- We will be part of the end-time restoration of all things (Acts 3:21)
- We will become part of the Commonwealth of Israel (Efe 2:12)