

## Christianity Is An Extension Of Judaism

Jesus declared, "The Law (of Moses) and the (writings of the) prophets were up until John (the Baptist). From that time (the time of John's preaching) the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is preached" (Luke 16:16). The teachings consistent with Christianity began with John the Baptist who heralded in the ministry of Jesus then Jesus brought the extension of Judaism to the entire world via the disciples and apostles. 'Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. Know therefore, those who are of faith (Christian faith), are children of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed." So those who are of (Christian) faith are blessed by the faithful Abraham' (Galatians 3:6 to 9).

The Jewish people have done an extraordinary good job of bringing the knowledge of God our Creator to the entire world. After Noah and the Ark, Abraham seems to have been the only wholly righteous man on earth. Ten generations after Noah, Abraham was born. How could Abraham be so knowledgeable about God? A simple calculation can explain that. Abraham was born 1,949 years after creation. Noah died 2,006 years after creation. That means Noah and Abraham were on earth at the same time for fifty-seven years! The Ark landed on Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4) up the mountain from Mesopotamia. Abraham's birthplace, Ur of the Chaldees was in Mesopotamia. It is very possible Noah, who was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) could have personally taught Abraham. How did Gentiles learn about creation, Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel, Moses and the foundation of Judaism? We learned all of it from Jewish prophets, scribes and from those who were told by God to write it all down. It was the Jewish people who wrote down what God told them to write so we have an exact record of everything God wants us to know about Him and His plan for our redemption. All of this knowledge comes from faithful Jewish people who very carefully copied the Scriptures, word for word and gave the knowledge to the Gentiles after Jesus came. Without the dedication of the Jewish people, Gentiles would have no knowledge of the Lord. We have so much to be thankful for.

Initially, Jesus spoke mainly to the Jews to bring them back to spiritual renewal because they were like lost sheep (Jeremiah 50:6). "I was not sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). Only a few Gentiles who were living in or around Israel at that time were blessed by hearing the words of Jesus and received healing. It may surprise some people to learn, Jesus was not a Christian. He was an orthodox Jewish Man, born in Israel, schooled in the Hebrew Old Testament (the New Testament was years away from being written), He was fully obedient to His Jewish parents (Luke 2:51), He spoke Hebrew, preached in Synagogues (churches had not yet been invented), His younger brothers and sisters were Jewish and He lived subject to the Laws of Moses and within the Jewish culture of the time. His real Hebrew name was Yeshua, not Jesus. The new spiritual awakening was firmly within the Jewish community living in Israel and beyond. Jewish identity and heritage were a vital part of following Jesus. All the writers of the New Testament were Jewish and the entire New Testament was written in Hebrew by Hebrew speaking Jewish men.

Judaism does not need Christianity. Judaism successfully thrived for hundreds of years before Christianity but Christianity needs Judaism to explain the beginning of mankind, the oracles of God and to explain the foundation of Christianity itself. Without Judaism, Christianity would not exist so Christianity is the child of Judaism. Initially, the 'extension' was not called Christianity it was called 'The Way' (Acts 9:2) taken from the verse Jesus spoke, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Followers of The Way were called Believers (Acts 5:14) because they believed Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah (John 20:31). Their leaders were called Talmidim (Hebrews 13:17), Hebrew for disciples and apostles. The churches were called Assemblies (Acts 9:31) after the Lord said the congregation was an assembly (Leviticus 16:17). Gentiles in Antioch were the first people to use the name 'Christian' (Acts 11:26). All of God's genuine Believers, those who loved Him way back from Moses' day right up until end of the Book of Revelation were all called 'Holy Ones' or 'Saints' (Deuteronomy 33:3; Revelation 22:21). Believers are called by God to be holy (Leviticus 11:45; 1 Peter 1:16) so any person who genuinely loves the Lord and walks with Him continually has the right to be referred to as a saint. The word 'saint' once meant every genuine Believer the world over but the word was misused and became to mean only a select few dead Catholics. God's holy Assemblies became 'the church', broke away from their stable 'root system' of Judaism, was corrupted and a terrible gulf developed between the Jewish people and unholy Christians. Holiness withered away. Anti-Semitism arose to destroy the genuineness of the Assemblies.

All of the original Believers were Jewish. Peter and Paul were the first ones to realise the Gospel was opening up to Gentiles. 'God has granted to the Gentiles repentance to (eternal) life' (Acts 11:18). 'When the Jews went out of the Synagogue (or in Yiddish, Shule) the Gentiles asked these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath (in Hebrew, Shabbat). When the Synagogue broke up many of the Jews and of the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who, when speaking to them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. The next Shabbat almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God ...

Jews saw multitudes of Gentiles ... The Lord commanded us saying, "I have set you as a light for the Gentiles so you can bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth." When the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the Word of God' (Acts 13:42 to 45, 47 & 48). It was Peter who first realised the writings of the apostles was going to be used by the Lord to expand the Old Testament Scriptures and extend Judaism. Peter called the Old Testament the 'other Scriptures'. 'Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him (from God) wrote to you as in all of his letters speaking in them of these things (regarding salvation and Christian behaviour). In those letters there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist as they do to the other Scriptures to their own destruction' (2 Peter 3:15 & 16).

Paul and others 'planted' many Assemblies that were attended by Gentiles but they were mostly led by Jewish men. The Jewish followers of Jesus remained Hebraic Law abiding and when the Gentiles joined the Assemblies, they joined with the Jews to observe the holy feasts of the Lord. The early Assemblies were mostly made up of Jewish people who had become Messianic Believers. The early Assemblies functioned entirely within the Jewish communities. The roots of Christianity were entirely Jewish. There is no accurate record of a Gentile in Assembly leadership until about 135 AD, although there were many Gentiles, both men and women, mentioned in the New Testament who held positions within the Assemblies. How did this extension of Judaism started by our Jewish Messiah and continued by Jewish Believers become almost entirely anti-Jewish? The Jewish people had been waiting centuries for the Jewish Messiah to come. By reading the prophecies, they knew where Jesus was going to be born and where He was going to grow up. However when Jesus did come, some Jewish people believed in Him and accepted Him as their Messiah and some rejected Him outright. Jesus fulfilled every prophecy written about Him by the ancient prophets. Jesus and many of His followers attended the Synagogues and kept all the holy feasts. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, His followers continued His message of forgiveness and eternal life with God. There were some Jewish people who rejected Jesus as their Messiah but there have been many more millions of Gentiles who have rejected Him and they still do. How did this gulf between Jews and Gentiles begin? The original Assemblies were mixed. Each group accepted and loved the other. Jews and Gentiles broke bread together, ate together in each other's houses, they fellowshiped together and for the first time, Jews and Gentiles were able to marry without stigma. They were one Body. The Assembly was centred on Jerusalem. When the fall of Jerusalem occurred in 70 AD and the persecution of Jews and Christians became intolerable, the cohesive Assembly was broken up, people fled for their lives and Jerusalem was no longer the hub.

Some people read the Bible as though the historical facts contained within the pages are either written in a 'vacuum' of time or some people choose not to believe the truth of what has been written. Many Christians have no understanding of the historical facts or the importance of what has been written and how those facts can relate to our present or our future. The history of the early church is in reality, the history of Israel and how the coming of the Messiah brought slight changes to Judaism but did not do away with the laws given to them via Moses. Jesus declared, "The law and the prophets were up until John (the Baptist). From that time the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is preached" (Luke 16:16). The Gospel of the Kingdom of God was not preached or taught until John the Baptist taught the multitudes. The Jews who led the way of salvation to the Gentiles all adhered closely to their laws and beliefs, passing them on to the Gentiles who also adhered to them. For the first time in their history, Gentiles could learn about our Sovereign God, creation, Adam and Eve, how sin entered the world, God's abhorrence to idolatry and most importantly, salvation by the grace of God via the blood and cross of Jesus/Yeshua. The newly converted Gentiles burned their idols and their books about idolatry and magic (Acts 19:19). Jewish history is the history of the beginnings of the entire world. Before the apostles preached to the Gentiles, the Gentiles knew nothing about the history of the universe. Judaism and Christianity cannot be separated. Judaism was the forerunner to Christianity. The New Testament cannot be fully understood unless the reader has knowledge of the Old Testament because most of what Jesus preached, He preached from the Old Testament. Most of what the apostles wrote in the New Testament was quoted from the Old Testament. Some of the original Jewish Messianic believers were eyewitnesses to the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus (Luke 1:2; 2 Peter 1:16). There is nothing written in the New Testament that is hearsay.

As more and more Jewish people left the church because of corruption and anti-Semitism, verses in the Bible were twisted and misconstrued by Gentiles who did not understand their true meaning. The rebuke of the hypocritical leaders by Jesus was misconstrued to mean all things Jewish were wrong. The Assemblies became the Church of Rome and Rome became the new hub. Rome is not scripturally the eternal city, Jerusalem is! Some church leaders erroneously believed the sacking and destruction of Jerusalem was a 'sign' from God, He had replaced Israel with the church. Persecution of Jewish people in the church started in earnest. In 306 AD Constantine accepted Christianity and outlawed all other religions including Judaism. The trouble is, he maintained paganism and idol worship and added a few more, like the worship of the 'Madonna and Child' which actually came from the worship of the evil goddess Ishtar and her son Baal that

originated in the Babylonian cult. Over time, the church adopted many more pagan practices. The pagan festival of Easter (Ishtar) replaced the holy feast of Passover. Christmas and New Year replaced Hanukkah. All the holy feasts were replaced by something pagan. The worship of idols, icons, images, statues, Mary as a kind of 'goddess' and the veneration of the dead as 'saints' became prevalent in the church instead of worshipping God alone. That drove a deep wedge between the Jewish people and the church people. Eventually, the Jewish people could no longer see anything of their beloved Saviour or their culture in the church. When the Assemblies began, the Jewish people wholeheartedly accepted Gentiles into their fellowship. When Gentiles ruled the church, they persecuted the Jewish people putting many to death. The church disallowed Jewish identity and their practices given to them by God Himself.

Constantine made an order so almost all of the Scriptures written in Hebrew were burned and destroyed and replaced by Greek copies. Devout Jewish Rabbi's hid many copies to prevent their destruction. Constantine made Constantinople the new capital of the church and that lasted until he died then Rome became the capital of the church once again. The destruction of the Hebrew Scriptures was so complete, most people still believe the New Testament was originally written in Greek. It was not. Sadly, that anti-Semitic error is still being taught in churches and Bible colleges around the world. The New Testament was written in Hebrew by Jewish men and translated into Greek and other languages so Gentiles could read the Bible in their own languages. The Lord would never allow His holy, sacred Scriptures to be written in a corrupt, pagan, idolatrous language. Hebrew is a pure language and that is the language the Lord chose to have His Word written (Zephaniah 3:9).

All of this took place in the first four hundred years of the church. The great vision God had for His family of Jews and Gentiles being One Body was lost by bigotry, greed, corruption and the sin of anti-Semitism. The church would no longer learn from Jewish Rabbi's. The Jews no longer wanted to associate with Catholics, who referred to themselves as Christians. Instead of the gulf being closed by the teaching ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, church leaders widened it. Instead of Jews and Gentiles being one Body of Believers they were completely divided and in many ways, they still are. Instead of being one family under God they became people in opposition. Eventually the church splintered into many factions, religions and sects but most Christians continued to either ignore or openly persecute the Jewish people. This is not what God wants. To undo all of the damage the corruption in the various religions have caused, the Christian church as a whole needs to return to its Hebraic roots and accept the fact, the church will never replace Israel in God's affections. Christians should never expect Jewish people to lay aside their holy heritage, culture, identity, land or language. Christianity was borne out of Hebraic roots and the Jewish language, culture and Judaism, practiced in Israel, populated by Jewish people. Our Messiah is Jewish. He founded the first Assembly. The very first meeting of Jesus with His followers was held in Jerusalem on the same Sunday evening Jesus rose from the dead. 'When it was evening on the first day of the week (Sunday) and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" (John 20:19 to 22).

We can see by studying these Scriptures, Christianity was not borne from a vacuum, it is an extension of Judaism. The sooner Christians realise this fact, the sooner we can all return to the original goal God had, and that is to have Jews and Gentiles loving and supporting each other as one Body in God under Jesus. We owe our salvation to the Jewish people (John 4:22). Without them Gentiles would still be lost and without hope of eternal life. Israel is important to God and He loves the Jewish people and He also loves Jerusalem. He created the tribe of the Hebrews (Isaiah 43:1) who later became the Jewish people named after Jacob's son Judah and the area known as Judea. Israel the land was named after Jacob, after his name was changed to Israel (Genesis 35:10). Abraham was a Hebrew (Genesis 14:13) and the forefather of all Jews. God blessed Abraham, promised to make him a great nation and promised the Land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:2, 3 & 7). God established the Jewish people into a nation and into the Land of Israel for the purpose of bringing His Saviour into the world. 'To make ready a people (Jewish people) prepared for the Lord (Jesus)' (Luke 1:17). God chose Noah's son Shem to be the forefather of the Hebrews to bring Jesus to the unsaved world. Just as God says He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He also added His holy name to Shem's name. 'Blessed be the God of Shem' (Genesis 9:26). Shem was the great grandfather of Eber who founded the tribe of Hebrews from where Abraham was born (Genesis 10:21). God gave the Land of Israel to the Jews and it continues to belong to the Jews.

The Hebrew Scriptures – the Old Testament, is not just a book of history. It is a living entity, the absolute true Word of God written by God's prophets as they were taught by the Spirit of God then instructed to write everything down. Some of the Bible is symbolic but most of it is direct speaking from the mouth of God. The New Testament was written down as God inspired the apostles to record everything they were being taught

by the Holy Spirit, so every word in the Bible has been breathed by the mouth of God (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17). The church will never replace Israel in the heart of God. 'I ask then, did God reject His people? Of course not! ... The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable' (Romans 11:1 & 29). The church has a place in God's master plan for salvation but God's heart will always be towards the descendants of Abraham and towards the Land of Israel. The Replacement Theology is at the heart of modern anti-Semitism. It is an evil, erroneous teaching like a deadly infection within the church and all Christians should abandon it and focus on supporting Israel and the Jewish people as God has called all Christians to do. The Jews have brought about our Saviour and thus our salvation. Without them we would all still be lost so we have much to thank them for and we should show our appreciation by supporting them in their quest to rebuild their Promised Land. The Jewish nation is the chosen race and always will be whether Gentiles like it or not.

We need to constantly keep in mind one outstanding statement spoken by the Lord God Himself to Abraham. "I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you" (Genesis 12:3). If we curse, persecute, harass, ignore or cause any harm to the Jewish people, God will do the same to us. If we love, bless, support, help and encourage the Jewish people and their land, God will do the same to us. Although the Replacement Theology appears to have history on its side, the many prophecies regarding the return of Israel to the Promised Land outweigh any points of history. The terrible suffering of the Jewish people over the past 2,000 years has in part been a result of this teaching. If this teaching had never invaded the early church, much of the suffering endured by the Jewish people would never have happened. Persecution of Jews does not mean God has rejected them. God is watching from above and has His holy angels writing everything down in the Books of Judgement. On Judgement Day God will unleash His severe wrath on everyone who has persecuted His chosen people and the persecutors will pay dearly and eternally for their evil deeds (Revelation 20:12).

Certainly, Jesus had strong words to say against the hypocrisy of some of the Pharisees who lived in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago (Matthew 23:13 to 30) but those words were not for all Jews then or now. Peter and Paul also rebuked some of the Jewish leaders in Acts chapters 3 and 23 but that was meant for them, not all Jewish people for generations. The church does not negate God's purpose for Israel. People who persecute the Jewish people forget one very important fact; our Messiah Jesus is fully Jewish. When people persecute Jews and genuine Christians, they are persecuting Jesus Himself (Acts 9:4 & 5). Anti-Semites would be very uncomfortable in heaven because heaven is made up of Hebrew patriarchs and matriarchs who have died, then came Jewish families, Jewish prophets, Jewish leaders and millions of Jews who have gone before us. The gates in heaven in the New Jerusalem have Jewish names of the twelve tribes of Israel etched on them and the walls of the New Jerusalem have twelve pillars with the names of the twelve apostles etched onto them (Revelation 21:12 to 14). The 144,000 thousand are all holy Jewish men from the twelve tribes of Israel – minus the tribe of Dan, plus the tribe of Manasseh (the son of Joseph). These 144,000 men are musicians who sing praises and new songs for the Lord and follow Him everywhere He goes (Revelation 7:4 to 10; 14:1 to 5). It would not be possible for anyone who dislikes Jews on this earth to be happy in heaven so it is very possible, all those who persecute Jews on earth will be shut out of heaven for eternity. Remember, heaven is God's home. God the Father would never allow anyone into His home who hates His chosen children! Some Gentiles will have to change their attitude if they want to spend eternity in the presence of God. When we do good things for the Jewish people, we are doing those things for Jesus. "Most certainly I tell you, when you did these good things to one of the least of My brothers you did it for Me" (Matthew 25:40). When people persecute or ignore the needs of the Jewish people, they are ignoring the needs of Jesus and He said those people will be sent to eternal damnation. "Depart from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels ... When you did not do these good things to one of the least of my brothers, you did not do it for Me. These (unhelpful ones) will go away into eternal punishment but (only) the righteous will go into eternal life" (Matthew 25:41, 45 & 46).

The Lord is doing something new and fresh in our world, something unheard of until recently to restore His original plan of Jews and Gentiles into one Body of Believers. He has given many believing Gentiles a new and fresh revelation of His will. God is reconciling His fractured Body of Jews and genuine Gentile Believers. This movement is called, 'Hebraic Roots Movement'. The reasons our Lord has given His revelation and blessing to this new divine movement of born-again Christians, learning about our Hebraic Roots is to reconcile Jews and Gentiles, to bring clarity to the Scriptures, to strengthen the spiritual lives of all genuine Christians, to create disciples, to bring unity to the Lord's Body and to encourage all Christians to support God's work of bringing His Children of Israel back to the Land of Israel. We must understand, the plan of God was always to bring the Jewish people back to their homeland and because it is His plan, we should embrace it. Before Jesus came as a baby, God had to make sure Israel was a thriving nation so His Messiah Jesus could be born and raised in the land, culture, laws and language of the Jewish people (Luke 1:17). Jesus is coming again so to prepare the land, the Jewish people need to be living there in the Land of Israel, thriving with their culture, laws and language. Jesus will always be Jewish and He is returning to the Jewish nation of Israel. It will be an amazing time when Jesus returns but Israel has to be ready just as it was the

first time He came. That is where the Gentiles who love the Lord can be a part of this incredible event. The Christians who do not believe in the new divine Hebraic revelation of God, or if they ignore the Jewish people they will miss out on being part of this blessing. Returning to embrace our Hebraic Roots is deeply ingrained in Scripture.

Many genuine Christians today are returning to their Hebraic Roots and are seeking more knowledge of how the church began. The small group who began about fifty years ago is growing into a vibrant group as God is pouring His knowledge of our Jewish Roots into more and more genuine believers. Returning to our Hebrew, Jewish, Hebraic Roots is not a cult or a sect or heresy and it is not a negative thing, it is God's will. It is the divine development or movement started by God Himself to coincide with the return of the Jewish people to their true ancestral home, Israel. Christians are being called to play a vital role in helping the Jewish people re-establish themselves in their homeland. Their future is also our future. This divine movement is a blood-tie between Jews and Gentiles. The Jewish Man Jesus shed His blood so Jews and Gentiles can be a cohesive Body led by our risen Lord, grafted into the 'holy Olive tree.' Jesus broke down the divide between Jew and Gentile so we can all become as one Body – 'One New Man'. 'You (Gentiles) were at that time (before accepting Jesus) separate from Jesus, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise (given to Abraham), having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of our Messiah. He is our peace Who made both (Jews and Gentiles) one (Body) and broke down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in the flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so He might create in Himself One New Man of the two (Jews and Gentiles), making peace and reconciling them both in one Body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility by the cross. He came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off and to those (Jews) who were near. Through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. You are no longer strangers and foreigners but you are fellow citizens with the saints (all genuine believers) and of the household of God, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (New and Old Testaments), Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone in Whom the whole building, fitted together grows into a holy temple in the Lord in Whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit' (Ephesians 2:12 to 22). In the following narrative, the 'olive tree', 'root' and 'first fruit' are Judaism. The 'branches' are the Jewish people. The 'wild olives' are Gentiles. 'If the first fruit is holy so is the lump. If the root is holy so are the branches. If some of the branches were broken off and you, being a wild olive were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. Remember, it is not you who supports the root but the root supports you' (Romans 11:16 to 18). Gentiles have been grafted into the 'olive tree' via our Jewish Messiah so both communities are being spiritually nourished by the same sap rising from the same roots or origins. When a tree has a deep firm root system, it is immovable by human hands. Gentiles are 'grafted' into the holy 'tree' or 'vine' of God. Jews are God's family by birth. Gentiles need to be 'adopted' by faith into the family of God. These verses completely discount the wicked 'replacement theory'.

Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour are all part of the entire Body of the Messiah. Jesus chose to accept Gentiles and bring them into His fold as His 'sheep' via the Gospel message and the world would understand this new unity by the love each group had for the other (John 13:35). If Gentiles do not love the Jewish people then God's love is not in them. 'If someone says, "I love God," and hates his (Jewish) brother, they are a liar for those who do not love their (Jewish) brother whom they have seen, how can they love God Whom they have not seen? This commandment we have from Him, those who love God should also love their brother' (1 John 4:20 & 21). Those people who believe the Old Testament has been superseded by the New Testament need to think again. We only need to see the hundreds of times the Old Testament was quoted by the New Testament writers to realise nothing can ever supersede the original Scriptures. Judaism does not need Christianity but Christianity cannot exist without Judaism. Without the spiritual roots of Judaism, Christianity would not have succeeded. Judaism and Christianity are alike in many ways yet are entirely different in other ways but they are inextricably linked through shared history and love of the Scriptures. The heritage of Christians is based on the heart of God as He is revealed by and through the Scriptures. The Old Testament is as valid as the New Testament. There are some Jewish people who are coming to the realisation the New Testament is indeed an very Jewish Book, written by Jewish authors who were living in Israel and who travelled to spread the Gospel of Salvation that came through the Jewish people and filled the entire New Testament with Hebrew idioms, phrases and quotes from the Hebrew Old Testament. The Old Testament was the foundation on which Christianity was based. Without Judaism, Gentiles would never have known the way of salvation. The oracles of God came only through the Jews (Romans 3:2). There are many of references to the Old Testament embedded in the New Testament, especially the fulfilled prophecies of the first coming of Jesus. Jesus and the apostles directly quoted, alluded to, referred to and made suggestions from the Old Testament hundreds of times. The church should have a deeper understanding of Jesus/Yeshua and the Laws He followed. The genuine Messianic Judaism encourages people to embrace Him. They encourage Jewish people to continue to live as Jews just like the disciples did. They encourage Gentiles to feel free to worship with Jews as equals in the Kingdom without

having to become Jewish. Jews are Jews and Christians are Christians. Jews do not have to become Christian and Christians do not have to become Jewish. They should however, be able love and accept each other like they did in the early Assemblies.

There is one thing we must all be aware of. We certainly need to be sincere about supporting Israel but we should not become extreme. We need to do the work, support Israel in any way we can but do not destroy God's divine Hebraic Roots movement by going overboard with it. This is what the Bible says Gentiles should do. 'Do not trouble those from among the Gentiles who turn to God but we write to them saying they must abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, do not eat an animal that has been strangled and do not eat (animal) blood' (Acts 15:19 & 20). That is literally all Gentiles have to do. Gentiles do not need to become Jewish, they do not need to change their names, they do not need to adhere to Jewish rituals or customs. The Bible says we should stay as we were when we accepted Jesus so we are not led astray (1 John 2:24 to 27). There are some Christians who take on Biblical names and ritually observe the Jewish festivals and eat only kosher foods. Some Rabbi's call these Christians, 'Pretend Jews'. They pretend to be Jewish when they are not. When the true Jewish people observe their God given feasts, they are obeying the Lord. When Christian 'pretend Jews' do the same, they do so out of pride, even if they do not like to admit it. We do not have to take Jewish names. Ruth and Rahab were Gentile women who moved to Israel, converted to Judaism and married Jewish men but neither of them changed their names.

The 'pretend-to-be-Jewish' Christian's movement often condemn normal Christians who can see it is not necessary to pretend to be Jewish. The Christian 'pretend Jews' want to confront and 'convert' others, alienating them in the process with their less than humble attitude. The Christian 'pretend Jews' have stained the genuine Messianic Judaism and Hebraic Roots movement by their extreme and almost cultish behaviour. We must learn the difference between the two groups. The Christian 'pretend Jews' are pushy, proud and preach a strange Gospel, taking the Scriptures out of context to fit in with their erroneous beliefs. They seek to compel normal Christians to observe God's holy feasts when they were never given to any Gentile to observe. No Christian should ever be compelled to become Jewish nor should any Jewish person be compelled to become 'Christian'. This cultish movement is increasing in churches and seminaries. It is spiritually dangerous in the way it is implying, keeping the Old Covenant Jewish Laws is somehow walking a 'higher' spiritual path and it is the only way to please God. Gentiles are free to observe Jewish celebrations but should never be compelled. Christian 'pretend Jews' who adopt Judaism's holy and sacred rituals and symbols and use them to express their own misguided desire shows a lack of respect and a complete misunderstanding of God's intentions when He gave those complex rituals and symbols to the ancient Jews. They are making light of the spiritual significance of the Lord's commandments. Two examples are, blowing a shofar (ram's horn trumpet) or a woman wearing a Jewish prayer shawl (tallit) and both are extremely disrespectful to an Orthodox Jew. The shofar was blown only by Levitical male priests for specific purposes as spoken by God (Numbers 10:1 to 10; Leviticus 25:9). When Gentile 'pretenders' blow a shofar it shows a complete lack of understanding of God's intentions regarding the use the shofar and it shows a lack of respect for Jewish traditions. A prayer shawl (tallit) is given to a Jewish boy at his Bar Mitzvah and he usually keeps the tallit for life. It should never touch the ground and is always treated with respect. It is considered to be a holy garment (Exodus 28:2). Women should never wear a tallit. Some Rabbi's feel the 'pretend' movement is robbing them of their holy ceremonies.

The Passover meal (Pesach) Jesus participated in, in 30AD would have been very different to the Passover meals celebrated by Jewish people after the Temple was destroyed forty years later in 70AD when Judaism underwent a massive changes. After the Temple was destroyed, one Jewish man named Yochanan Ben Zakai recreated Judaism so a Temple would not be necessary, firstly because there was no Temple and secondly, because the Jewish people were widely scattered. The oral traditions were written down. The Passover meal Jews celebrate today did not exist in Jesus' day and was only developed following the Temple's destruction. However, we can see in Jesus' Pesach the same actions we see in a modern Pesach. Examples like the ritual hand washing, breaking of bread (matzah), the use of grape juice (vin), using ground up bitter herbs (sop) with olive oil (oli), singing of hymns from Psalms (hallel) and the honouring of the Messianic Kingdom. This all led to the New Testament ritual we now call 'communion' and Jesus said to take it often to remember Him (Luke 22:19).

The Passover meal was a Messianic prophecy in action. Prior to the Passover meal the unleavened bread (matzah) was broken, wrapped in linen and put out of sight. After the meal the broken matzah is brought out, dipped in salt ('mlch', salt of the Covenant, Leviticus 2:13) and consumed with (non-alcoholic) grape juice. Leaven or yeast and alcohol were both symbols of sin and salt was symbolic of purity. The matzah represents the Messiah, the broken body of Jesus, wrapped in linen, buried then raised to be consumed as the broken body of our Lord, just as Jesus told His disciples at the Last Supper. 'Jesus said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." ... He received a cup and when He had given thanks He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves for I tell you, I will not drink from the fruit of the

vine until the Kingdom of God comes.” He took bread and when He had given thanks he broke it and gave to them saying, “This is My body which is given for you. Do this in memory of Me.” He took the cup after supper saying, “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:15 to 20). The meat they consumed was a male lamb without blemish or defect (Exodus 12:5; 1 Peter 1:19) and Jesus was and still is the Lamb of God (John 1:29 & 36; Revelation 5:6). Yeshua fulfils every aspect of the Passover ritual.

Anti-Semitic leader Emperor Constantine replaced the Lord’s Passover with Easter and it became the ‘Christian’ festival. He was wrong. Passover is holy, Easter is pagan. It falls in line with Constantine’s efforts to rid the church of anything Jewish. The modern church leaders who still believe the church has replaced Israel are in error. The early disciples, both Jews and Gentiles adhered to the Jewish calendar and celebrated all of the holy feasts at the correct time according to the Jewish/Hebrew calendar. Three hundred years later, Constantine used the Roman calendar and coincided Passover with Easter, and Hanukkah with Christmas and New Year. We cannot separate the Messiah from Passover. He went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate Passover and He was crucified then rose during Passover. Jesus/Yeshua’s original disciples celebrated Passover. All Believers should remember He ushered in a New Covenant in His blood by His tortured death and magnificent resurrection. We are encouraged by Jesus to celebrate the broken bread and cup but we must be very sensitive to the Jewish people and not dishonour their Pesach. To correctly support the Jewish people, what Christians have to do is keep a level head, use common sense and embrace this new movement of God with wisdom. An arrogant, extreme, exclusive attitude will do none of what God intends with His new movement. Any division within the Body of Jesus is not from God. We need to be cautious and check everything with the Bible. We need to be God’s instruments of love and bring glory to God with our work. We can be dedicated followers of Jesus without misguided external expressions because God looks at the heart of a person but mankind looks at the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). What Gentiles must do is read and study the entire Bible from cover to cover. It is a holy book written by Jewish men within the Jewish culture, laws and language within the Jewish land of Israel, and if we are not grounded in the root system given to us from the mouth of God then we would have a very weak faith because, ‘Every Scripture is God-breathed’ (2 Timothy 3:16). We also need to support our Jewish brothers and sisters in the faith because we love and follow the same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who were all Hebrew men. Genuine, faithful Gentiles will join with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendents to celebrate the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which will be a truly, heavenly Passover meal. Jesus our Saviour promised, “I tell you, many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 8:11). ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb’ (Revelation 19:7 to 9).

Amen and God bless you.

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