

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

Volume 30 Issue 10 © October, 2022

How about... The Christian Roots of Judaism!

The Hebrew Roots movement is, basically, Gentile Christians being taught that they must become like Jews; Oh... they don't exactly say that... but that really is it. They must see the Scriptures through a Hebrew mindset to understand them correctly. They must live a Torah observant life adhering to all the Law: the laws and ordinances, the customs, the dietary restrictions, the Feasts... all of it except the sacrifices but, doubtless, if there were still a Temple in Jerusalem, they would be adhering to that part of the Law as well.

ATTENTION: I am not, in any way, anti-Semitic! Just like Paul and like all of us should: I love Israel and I love the Jews. But, neither do I believe that God made Gentiles as second class creatures. Would God, Who so loved the World, really make His Word, and Salvation, only clearly understood, to Gentiles, only if one was willing to think, and act, like a Jew? God had made the Jews to be a stiff-necked, rebellious people in order to show forth His Glory in spite of all their obstinance. This is not meant to be anything against Israel but, rather, to spotlight the mistake of the Hebrew Roots teachers.

These teachers say that the Gentile Church has veered far afield from God's original teaching and the true Hebrew heart of Scripture; it has become corrupted from Greek and Roman influence and paganism. In order for a Gentile Christian to really please God, he must become like a Jew... how foolish and how anti-scriptural!

First, what did the Hebrew, John, write... 'For God so loved **Israel**, that He gave His only begotten Son?' Of course not! 'He so loves **the World**'... every people group with their own unique customs and cultures. Why did God so love the World, every people group... because that is from where He planned to create and call a Bride for His Son, and who would you expect to be the closest to Jesus Christ's Heart? A friend of the Groom is one thing but ask any groom, who is closer: his friend or his bride?

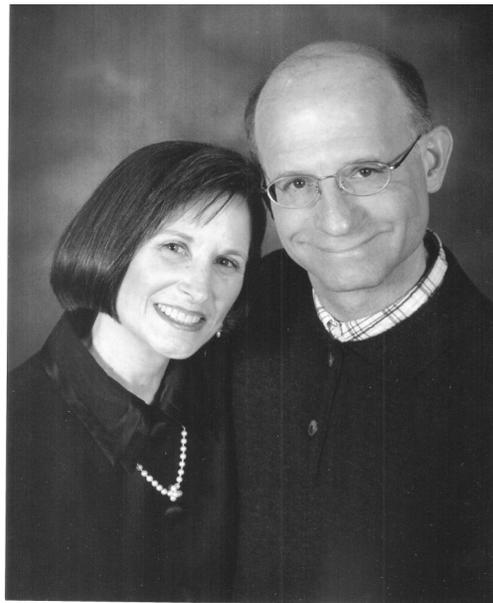
God has had very specific plans for all time and eternity: first... **the Glory of God**; that has always been His #1 plan. Next, to elect, create, call and make worthy a bride for His Son. Then, He would create His Own special nation, Israel, through which He would create a human Body for His Son. Did God cause Jesus to be born into Judaism because Jews were the very best people... or was it because Jews were given the Law and Jesus was tasked with keeping all the Law, perfectly and righteously, so that His righteousness could then be imputed to every Gentile, and Jew, who would put their faith and trust in Him?

'For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. ⁵Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

⁷Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

⁸Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; ⁹Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.' Heb 10:4 If the Old Covenant had been something to continue in, it would still be in effect. It was replaced by the New and better Covenant... and who was that made for, and why? It was made for the mostly Gentile Bride of Jesus Christ, that He would create and make perfect **His chosen Bride for His beloved Son**.

Is the sacrificial system along with the rest of the Law God's pleasure? No! It was meant to show the sinfulness of all men, all Jews included. It was meant to be a picture of the coming perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ. The Bride has been His goal all along; we are that chosen generation, a holy priesthood for His Own possession. 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;' 1 Pet 2:9 We are that chosen generation, the primarily born-again Gentile, but also born-again Jewish, Bride of Christ. We 'born-again' are the Heavenly People of God; Israel are the Earthly People of God. Our promises are Heavenly while theirs are Earthly: the Land, the Temple, David the King with the Lord Jesus



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2 Corinthians 5:19,20

Christ over all. Our attachment is only to Jesus Christ: His Bride, His co-heirs and co-regents. Israel was a never-endingly disobedient and stiff-necked people; they rejected and crucified the long promised Savior/Redeemer. What, exactly, is it about national Israel that is so attractive to the Hebrew Roots teachers? Is it that they feel lost and adrift without a national identity of their own? Don't they understand that we were never meant to have an Earthly national identity? We are the Heavenly People of God. We, the Bride, have nothing whatsoever to do with that plot of ground, between Lebanon and Egypt, any more than we have to do with the plot of ground between Costa Rica and Colombia (Panama). Our citizenship is in Heaven from which we await our Bridegroom Who will come for us, not Israel, one day very soon. Do Hebrew Roots teachers want to be connected to Israel during the coming seven years of the Tribulation or just now when it suits their purposes?

Here is Truth: From the time of Adam, from the first promise of God, when He said, to the Serpent, Satan: 'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Gen 3:15... everything... everything... all the Law, all the feasts, all the Prophets, the entire culture of Israel, from God, has been to pinpoint one thing and one thing only... the Lord Jesus Christ! That's it! So, anyone to whom God has revealed Himself and granted him repentance and the faith to believe, from the time of Adam onward, has been a Lord-Jesus-Christ-ian or a Coming-Messiah-ian, but it has always been about the Lord Jesus Christ and for any teacher to focus on anything, which God's Word does not focus on... is, at the very least, mistaken!

Our connection, as the primarily Gentile Bride, to Israel, is not the Law, the Feasts, the Prophets or the Culture... our connection is that they, the

Family, the Nation of Israel, was created and chosen, by God, first, to receive the Law which, in itself, showed forth the absolute sinfulness of all men, Jews included, and then, to reveal the Truth of the coming Deliverer, their Messiah, and then to act as the Holy, set apart, incubator through which the perfect and Holy Lord Jesus Christ would be conceived, born, matured and then rejected and Crucified... for us, His Body and Bride, Jews and Gentiles alike.

There is no reason to think that any Old Testament believer, such as Simeon, were not, in fact, Messiah-ians or, using the Greek word, Christ-ians: 'And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ²⁶ And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's **Christ**. ²⁷ And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰ For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, (Messiah/Christ) ³¹ Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; **A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.**' Lk 3:25

That, I believe, is the voice of a genuine Messiah-ian, a true Christ-ian. When they teach 'Hebrew Roots of Christianity,' I think they are thinking far too small, far too constricting... bringing Christian believers under the bondage of the Law. They say, 'We keep the Law out of love for God.' But what happens when they don't keep a law: 'I must not love God enough... I must do more!' But 'more' is never enough because no one can 'do more' enough to where they are keeping all the Law... It's never enough!

Paul wrote his letters to the Galatians, the Co-

lossians, the Romans and others (Gentiles) to combat that very heresy: 'Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.' Col 2:16

'One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.' Rom 14:5

'So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God' Eph 2:19 (Not fellow citizens of the household of Israel.) Again: there is nothing, at all inferior, in being of the household of Israel, but neither is there in being of the household of Gentiles.

Rom 7:6 says, 'But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.'

We are adopted sons and daughters of God Almighty. Is God a Hebrew? We are all descendants of Adam; was he a Hebrew? We are all descendants of Noah; was he a Hebrew? All Hebrews are descended from Abraham... was Abraham a Hebrew? Abraham was from Ur. We see that Ur is located in S.E. Iraq. Would Hebrew Roots teachers say that anyone else from S.E. Iraq, today, not descended from Abraham, is a Hebrew?

Here's a question for Hebrew Roots teachers... was Jesus a Hebrew? The truth is, the Lord Jesus Christ was first and foremost, God Almighty, eternally existing before the first human, let alone the first Hebrew, was ever born. In fact, even in His Earthly Body, Jesus Christ was less than half Hebrew! He received all His 'Hebrewness' from Mary, half His DNA, and she, as a Hebrew, was less than 100% Hebrew. God specifically and pointedly inspired Matthew to include 3 Gentile women in Jesus' ancestry: Tamar and Rahab: Canaanites, and Ruth: a Moabite.

Does God really want His Son's Bride to imitate Hebrews? That is like a friend of the Bridegroom telling the Bride that she must become like him, the friend of the Groom. She should say, 'Forget about it! He's not marrying you, you know! A Gentile does not become a Jew to be saved; he becomes a born again Christian. A Jew does not become a Gentile to be saved; he becomes a Christian; he may not like that term (many so-called Christians, mostly Catholics and Orthodox, have been very cruel to Jews in the past) but the fact remains, he must become 'in Christ,' a 'Christ-in,' a 'Christ-ian.' He may want to only call himself a 'completed Jew' or a 'Messianic Jew' but, in reality, he has become a Christ-ian, a Christian. A true Christian, by any other name, is still a Christian.

We, Gentile believers, were never grafted into Judaism; we were grafted into the faith and blessings of Abraham who, incidentally, lived some 600 years before the Law was ever given to Moses. We are of the seed and faith of Abraham, not of the Law.

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The Hebrew Roots movement is simply one more, modern attempt to force Gentile believers under the bondage to the, ever impossible to keep, Law. We are not one in Israel; we are not one in 'Jewishness;' we are not one in 'Hebrewness;' we are one in Christ; we are Christ-ians. He is the Messiah, the Christ, God's Salvation for the whole World. First, about those 'Hebrew Roots' teachers... God never intended Gentiles and Hebrews to become one in Israel, but one in Christ: Christ-ians. They teach that keeping the Old Covenant Law is a 'higher path' and the only way to really please God. The Lord Jesus Christ completely kept the whole Law, perfectly in every way, for us so that we might be freed from the bondage of the Law. The Law was given, not as a way to please God, since no 'normal' human has ever been able to keep the Law, including Hebrew Roots teachers, but, rather, the Law was given for two main purposes: to show that absolute Holiness and perfection of our God and to reveal the utter sinfulness of all men. Only God, Himself, could fully keep His Own commandments, showing forth His Own perfection. Now... what do I mean by 'The Christian Roots of Judaism?'

Let's travel back to long before time began. What do we see? We see God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is surrounded by countless myriad angels. Let's go back even further: now, all we see is the Triune, God Almighty, in the place He created for Himself: Heaven and His Throne. What is He thinking, what is He planning. Of us, Paul writes: ... oh, and, by the way, Hebrew Roots teaches that Paul's writings are subordinate and inferior to the Old Testament... he writes: 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame (because Jesus kept the Law for us) before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according

to the good pleasure of his will... he hath made us accepted (because Jesus kept the Law for us) in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace... Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will... That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation (not the Law or any Hebrew customs): in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.' Eph 1

Long before He created the World, God was thinking about us and choosing a very special, perfect in every way, Bride for His Son. Of course it's true, but the Word doesn't say that He was choosing and predestinating Israel, or the Law but it was the Bride for His Son He was choosing and planning. We are that Bride, the true Church made up, mostly of Gentiles, but also of Jews who have trusted in Jesus Christ. What is the very first thing we see in Genesis? God, creating a bride for His Son, Adam. Then, 2000 years later, God chooses and calls Abraham... a Gentile. (everyone was a Gentile then) Abraham becomes a type of God, the Father. He is given a miraculous son who is symbolically sacrificed and given back on the third day. (Abraham and Isaac traveled **three days** to sacrifice to the Lord; on the third day he was symbolically raised to life: 'And Abraham said,

My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.' Gen 2:8 Then, the ram was offered, as a sacrifice, in place of Isaac who was, then, a type for both Jesus Christ, the Son, and also, for us who were spared because of the Lamb, sacrificed, provided by God, in our place.

Next, we see Abraham sending forth his servant, Eliezer, who becomes a type for the Holy Spirit, to find and call a chosen bride for the son and then we see Jacob working 14 years for his chosen bride.

God chose and created Israel as His Own special nation and has always loved her as His wife (of the Father) but when it came time to chose and create a bride for His Son, He went out to all the World to call her from every nation, tribe and tongue. We are that Bride and He loves and welcomes us from every nation and culture; He has never taught that we should seek to become anything or anyone but who we are; He loved us so much, just as we are, that He sent His Son to die for us, to become sin for us, that we would have imputed to us, His Own righteousness: He elected, chose, created, called, drew us to Himself, granting us repentance and the faith to believe.

He created Israel to receive the Law and to birth the Savior and to receive His special and eternal promises which He will fulfill fully during the soon coming Millennial Kingdom of His Son. We don't deserve His love and, yet, He loves us. Although He has perfected us at the Cross, He continues to sanctify us until the moment He comes for us when He will, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, finally change our sinful, Earthly bodies, born again Jews and Gentiles alike, into perfect, glorified Eternal bodies like His Own, of which we have always dreamed; He is coming for His Bride: mostly Gentiles and Jews; then He will finish His work with Israel, finally giving them the Kingdom of which they've always dreamed. He will come soon! **Be aware, be ready!**

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