CHRISTIANS’ ANSWERS TO MESSIANIC JUDAISM

WE INFORM – YOU CHOOSE

PROFESSOR WA LIEBENBERG
CHRISTIANS’ ANSWERS TO MESSIANIC JUDAISM

By

Professor WA Liebenberg

Proofread by: Lynette Schaefer

All rights reserved.
No portion of this book may be reproduced or copied.

Distributed by:
Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute
Pretoria – South Africa
Email: products@hrti.co.za
Mobile: +27 (0)83 273 1144

Facebook Page: "The Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute"
Website: http://www.hrti.co.za
Preface

YHWH “God” has called us to do two things. First, we are to never give up studying and seeking the correct interpretation of any given Bible passage. Second, such opportunities are golden moments for us to learn to show grace and love to others whose understanding of a given passage may differ from ours.

Throughout the HRTI’s teachings, we use a slightly different vocabulary to that which some might be accustomed. We have chosen to use what many refer to as a Messianic vocabulary. The reasons being: Firstly, using Hebraic-sounding words is another way to help you associate with the Hebraic Roots of your faith. Secondly, these words are not merely an outward show for us, they are truly an expression of who we are as Messianic Jews and Gentiles who have "taken hold" of our inheritance with Israel.

Instead of saying "Jesus," we call our Saviour "Y’shua," the way His parents would have addressed Him in Hebrew. In addition, rather than referring to Y’shua as "Christ," we use the word "Messiah," which is an Anglicized version of the Hebrew word, Moshiach.

"YaHoVaH" is the name of God in Hebrew, where it is written as four consonants (YHWH or YHVH, as the W and V is derived from the same Hebrew letter ‘Vaw’). These four letters are called the Tetragrammaton (Greek for "[a word] having four letters). Jews ceased to use the name in the Greco-Roman period, replacing it with the common noun Elohim, “God,” to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel’s God over all others; at the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered, and was replaced in spoken ritual by the word Adonai (“My Lord”). From about the 6th to the 10th century the Masoretes, Jewish scholars who were the first to add vowels to the text of the Hebrew Bible, used the vowel signs of the Hebrew words Adonai or Elohim as the vowels for YHWH, and later on the artificial name Jehovah was produced. Christian scholars and translators after the Renaissance and Reformation periods replaced the sacred name YHWH with GOD and LORD (all in capital letters in the Bible); which was a strategic move of Satan as to not using the Name. The Sacred Name occurs 6,828 times in the Hebrew text of the Bible, proving YHWH wants us to use it.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh; and it is now the conventional usage in biblical scholarship, but leading Hebrew Scholars suggest YHWH should be pronounced as Yah-oo-VaH (Y’shua is derived from YaH-shuvah which means YaH saves. Yah (יְהֹעָ֣ו) is an abbreviation of God’s name YHWH as seen in Psalm 68:4. The Name is also found in the word hallellu-YaH, which means “you praise the LORD”).
Okay, let’s eliminate the endless confusion…

Introduction

Messianic Judaism states categorically that Y’shua, whom Christians call Jesus, is not merely a man, but the Jewish Messiah and "The Son of God" as part of the composite unity; and that salvation is only achieved through acceptance of Y’shua as one’s personal Saviour and not through any works.

Now that we are on the same page, let’s read further…

Where does Messianic Judaism fit in?

Acceptance by Christians

Mainstream Christian groups generally accept Messianic Judaism as a form of Christianity.

Israel’s legal system’s acceptance

The Supreme Court of Israel has ruled that the "Law of Return" should treat Jews who convert to Messianic Judaism the same way it treats Jews who convert to Christianity¹.

Orthodox Judaism’s acceptance

As some members of the Messianic Judaism movement are ethnically Jewish², some of them argue that Messianic Judaism is a part of Judaism. Jewish organizations and Orthodox religious movements reject this, stating that Messianic Judaism is a Christian sect and cannot be seen as Orthodox Judaism because of the fundamental reason that Messianic Jews and believers have accepted Y’shua as their only Messiah.

² Feher, Shoshanah. Passing over Easter: Constructing the Boundaries of Messianic Judaism, Rowman Altamira, 1998, ISBN 9780761989530, p. 140. "This interest in developing a Jewish ethnic identity may not be surprising when we consider the 1960s, when Messianic Judaism arose."
Why does Orthodox Judaism not accept Messianic Judaism?

Because of the belief in the messiahship and divinity of Y’shua, which Messianic Judaism holds, is viewed by Orthodox Jewish religious movements as being a defining distinction between Christianity and Judaism and therefore cannot and will not accept Messianic Judaism as part of them.

Beliefs, Culture and Traditions

Can works bring salvation?

Messianic Judaism states categorically that Jewish laws or customs that are followed are cultural and do not contribute at all to attaining salvation. Messianic Judaism makes it clear that no works or keeping the Law (Torah) can ensure salvation at all. Salvation is a free gift from YHWH through the atonement work of Y’shua sacrifice on the crucifixion stake as clearly stated in our "Statement of Faith" later in this booklet.

Why is the Torah, then, important to followers of Messianic Judaism?

Because we cannot violate the "red letter words"; or better, "instructions" in the Bible spoken directly from Y’shua’s own mouth:

Matt 5:18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law (Torah of His Father as given in the Old Covenant), till all be fulfilled.

Matt 5:19: Whosoever therefore shall break (which is a verb, an act/deed) one of these least commandments (of Torah), and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do (which is a verb, an act/deed) and teach (which is a verb, an act/deed) them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 19:17: And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) the commandments (Torah).

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) my commandments (Torah).

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments (Torah), and keepeth them (which is a verb, an act/deed), he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (If you want Y’shua to manifest Himself to you, do Torah!)

Christians argue, “But these words Y’shua spoke are before the cross and do not apply anymore!”

The keeping and doing of YHWH’s Laws, His Commandments and His Torah, is all part of the holiness plan for you to stay on the narrow road (Matt 7:13-14), which will be explained later, to ensure you enter into the New Jerusalem City for everlasting life…

Blessed are they that do (a verb) his commandments (Torah), that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city (meaning God is conditional and what Y’shua said is still applicable). (Rev 22:14)

From this we can clearly see that the Torah has a great role after the "cross" as well.
But Paul and the other writers of the New Covenant's Epistles (Letters) said nothing about keeping the Torah!

Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul) gave the exact same instructions on YHWH's and Y'shua's Laws...

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law (Torah) is the knowledge of sin. (You can only identify sin by using YHWH's standard, and that is His Laws in the Torah! The same as you use your country's laws to identify what is wrong and right)

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (Rabbi Sha'ul is quoting from the core of the Torah and Y'shua's words.)

Rom 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rabbi Sha'ul is again quoting from the core of the Torah and Y'shua's words.)

Jas 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. (Because sin can only be identified by the Torah as Rabbi Sha'ul clearly stated in Rom 3:20 above. How else can you identify sin if there is no Law?)

1 Cor 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping (which is a verb, an act/deed) of the commandments (Torah) of God.

1 Cor 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments (Torah Laws) of the Lord. (Rabbi Sha'ul distinctly says that he only teaches and writes the Torah Laws to the Gentiles!)

Now there are a host of other verses that could be quoted, but the point is that YHWH and Y'shua are definitely not schizophrenic; and Rabbi Sha'ul's teachings can never, ever violate YHWH and Y'shua's teachings on the Torah.
The problem is not what Rabbi Sha’ul taught, it is how the church has raped the teachings of both Y’shua and Rabbi Sha’ul to enhance a satanic doctrine that violates just about everything in the Bible.

Christians bellow out, "We under not under the Torah (Law) anymore!"

The argument by many Christians is as follows:

“The answer to these questions is, of course, no! There is no temple, no sacrifices, no High Priest, no priesthood, and so forth. It is an objective statement that the Torah (Law) cannot be followed. There are Scriptures that indicate that if one does not do the whole law, leaving out nothing, then he is guilty of breaking the entire law.”

This causes many Christians to say: "We are not under the Law anymore" and use various verses to motivate their arguments. Verses such as:

Gal 5:3: For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

James 2:10: For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

James makes the point clear. But what part of the Law is discussed in James and Galatians? This is what Christians do not understand or know about due to their uninformed way of western Hellenistic Christian upbringing.

What is Rabbi Sha’ul telling the Believers of the Church of Galatians?

To understand what Rabbi Sha’ul told these Believers from the concept of the Torah (Law) here in the verses above, you must first understand how the Old Covenant was put together.

How was the Old Covenant put together?

The Old Covenant or rather the Original Covenant in Hebrew is known as the TaNaCh. TaNaCh is a Hebrew acronym (short form/contraction) for Torah, Nevi’im and Chetuvim.
In the TaNaCh, the Five Books written by Moshe (Moses), the first five Books in the Bible is known as the Torah and is also known as the Chumash.

Nevi‘im, the Hebrew for prophets, is the collected Books of the Prophets or the Prophetic Books.

Chetuvim, the Hebrew for the Writings, are the remaining Books. In other words, the TaNaCh is the entire Old Covenant.

The purpose of TaNaCh is as different as its parts:

The Torah (meaning teaching/instruction) is YHWH’s ideas on how to live life in book form. The Torah is the Believer’s ‘Life Manual’.

Nevi‘im represents the blood, sweat and tears of the Prophets’ leadership over a period of 920 years, beginning with Samuel and ending with Ezra. Though the last Prophet died long ago, their prophecies still apply today. While many of their prophecies were immediately applicable, many are about Moshiach (Messiah)—which is the most fundamental Jewish belief.

Chetuvim are the collected writings of Moshe (Psalms, the Book of Job), King David (Psalms) and Solomon (Proverbs, the Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes), the Prophets: Samuel (the Scroll of Ruth), Jeremiah (the Scroll of Lamentations) and Daniel (the Book of Daniel) and the Men of the Great Assembly (the Scroll of Esther).

The Torah of Moshe in the Old Covenant is a series of instructions given to Israel to help them live holy lives. Within the core of the Mosaic Law (Moses’ Law) was the sacrificial system, evidence that YHWH knew Israel would not be able to keep the Torah; therefore, the sacrificial system declares YHWH's grace and His willingness to forgive the sins of His people.

The Torah consists of three sections: the Sacrificial (Rituals / Ceremonies), Moral (Ethical), and the Civil (Governmental) section. These sections will be explained later in more detail.

Further, it is important to understand that the Torah was originally designed (as is still applicable today) for correction, protection and direction only, and it cannot give you salvation at all! I say it again: Torah cannot give you salvation! Torah was designed and built on the
foundational teachings for Correction/Protection/Direction; basically it is **YHWH’s manual to live holy and to identify sin**. With that as background, let us summarize before we continue:

Okay, but explain to me what the three sections of Torah are?

**The Sacrificial Section**
There is a distinction between the three kinds of ‘laws’ in the Old Covenant. The first kind is the Sacrificial ‘Laws’, also known as the Ceremonial/Ritual ‘Laws.’ These are the laws governing the Temple worship and the way we are to approach YHWH. They have to do with the layout of the Temple, the ways a person must be purified and the sacrificial system.

We don’t sacrifice animals today because Y’shua has become the perfect sacrifice. He, in His death on the cross, fulfilled the Sacrificial/Ceremonial section. Today, each and every offering and sacrifice written in the Torah is understood as a shadow/type of Messiah Y’shua, His work and how He fulfilled it. This is what He meant by the concept, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law (Torah), or the prophets (Nevi’im): I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.” (Matt 5:17). Y’shua literally came to fulfill this specific Section of the Torah. Believers do not have to offer or sacrifice anything anymore as Y’shua has done the full atonement for us with His precious blood. What is extremely important to note is that Y’shua fulfilled this Section, but **He never** discarded the **Moral or Civil Sections**; they still remain to this very day!
When Rabbi Sha’ul (Paul) wrote to the various Assemblies of Galatians and the Romans he had **this in mind**. Rabbi Sha’ul **never** implied that the whole of the Torah is done away with at all, **as that will directly contradict Y’shua’s teachings on Torah** which He said we must keep!

The general Christian tends to read things into the Scripture, as in Galatians and James, which are not there and jump to conclusions which are not based on sound Hebraic thinking and doctrine.

**The Civil Section**
The second kind is **Civil ‘Laws,’** also known as the Judicial ‘Laws.’ They are about taxes, charging interest, punishing sin. When Rabbi Sha’ul wrote to Titus, he said we must adhere to the authorities who rule over us: “**Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,**” (Titus 3:1 and also Heb 13:7).

He quoted directly from the Torah: “**And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.**” (Deut 17:5), and Sha’ul also quoted from the Chetuvim: “**My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:**” (Prov 24:21), which means that the Civil/Judicial Torah teachings and instructions are still applicable to the Believer today!

**The Moral Section**
The third kind is the **Moral Laws.** The Ten Commandments fall into this category. These ‘Laws’ are also still in effect, because they are a reflection of YHWH’s moral character, and that does not change. The Moral Section of the Torah deals with issues such as, “**Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore**” (Lev 19:29), and “**Neither shalt thou steal**” (Deut 5:19), etc.

This Section of Torah still remains firmly in place today—both in the TaNaCh and Brit Hadassah (New Covenant – N.T.), and there is no Scriptural information from the Old or Renewed Covenant that we are allowed to break any part of this Moral Torah Section!

**The Ceremonial, Moral and Civil Instructions**
As said, there are three kinds of biblical precepts: ceremonial, civil, and moral. It is very important to note that YHWH had the **civil and the moral in force even before the ‘Law’ was given at Mount Sinai!**
Since they (the civil and moral precepts) are part of the law of nature; i.e., you must rest on the Shabbat (seventh day)—the land must therefore rest every seventh year, and the application of the laws must be consistent with the character of YHWH; i.e., you are not allowed to murder, or prostitute your daughter, etc.

On the other hand, the ceremonial precepts deal with the forms of worshipping YHWH as well as ritual cleanness. The ceremonial commands were "ordained to the Divine worship for that particular time and to the foreshadowing of Messiah". They are all “shadows and types” of Y’shua’s work which He fulfilled. Accordingly, upon the coming of Messiah Y’shua, they ceased to bind—and to observe them now would be equivalent to declaring falsely that Messiah has not yet come. This would then be a mortal sin for the Believer.

But Y’shua also said there are only two Laws applicable today

Yes, you are absolutely correct! The entire Torah can be wrapped up in Two Commandments as Y’shua Himself said: “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Y’shua said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matt 22:36-37).

Why—because the heart of the Torah is Love and Grace!!! Y’shua quoted here direct from the heart of the Torah: “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deut 6:5) and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev 19:18). This is the core of Torah! The entire Laws of the Torah revolve around these two "love" Laws, Torah’s two pillars.

The Moral Law is more clearly revealed in the New Covenant. The Believer’s standard of conduct should be holiness (Col 3:1). We are not without law but we are under “the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2), the law of love (James 2:8), and “the law of liberty” (James 2:12)—and if you really love YHWH you will want to do His Torah willingly.
Galatians clearly say that the Law has been nailed to the cross

Absolutely, the Law has been nailed to the cross, but which part of it? We all are under the Moral and Civil Law sections of YHWH! But you do not need the Sacrificial and Ritual Laws as Rabbi Sha’ul distinctly instructs the Galatians: “you are not under the Sacrificial Laws anymore as it has been nailed to the cross. They have all been fully fulfilled by Y’shua when He became the ultimate offer and completely fulfilled all the Sacrificial and Ritual Laws when He hung on His altar, the crucifixion stake. Therefore the Sacrificial Law has been nailed to the cross as Y’shua demonstrated whilst hanging on the cross”.

Why do I need the Law?

Question: If you lived in a country where there was no law at all, that country would be in total state of anarchy and chaos, wouldn’t it?

Laws protect you and the environment. So is YHWH’s Laws, it is designed for your protection, correction and direction. Torah will protect you, correct your wrongdoings and will always direct you to the cross!

Ah I get it, the Law then identifies and points sin out!

Listen carefully what Rabbi Sha’ul says to the Gentile Roman Church:

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law (Torah) is the knowledge of sin.

Jas 2:11: For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. (Because sin can only be identified by the Torah as Rabbi Sha’ul clearly stated in Rom 3:20 above. How else can you identify sin if there is no Law?)

Bottom-line, you can only identify sin by using YHWH’s standard, and that is His Laws in the Torah!
That means we have to take Y’shua’s words literally

I challenge any Preacher or Believer not to take Y’shua’s own words here literally:

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law (Torah), till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break (which is a verb, an act/deed) one of these least commandments (of Torah), and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do (which is a verb, an act/deed) and teach (which is a verb, an act/deed) them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:18-19)

What is YHWH’s instruction for us to enter the eternal gates?

Matt 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) the commandments (Torah).

I now understand that the Torah is built on two pillars

Matt 22:40: On these two commandments hang all the law (Torah) and the prophets. These two Laws are the core of the Torah, love God – Deut 6:5, and love your neighbour – Lev 19:18, if you will do these two passionately, then you will automatically want to do the rest of the Laws because of your sincere love.

Rom 13:8: Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (Rabbi Sha’ul is quoting from the core of the Torah and Y’shua’s words.)

Rom 13:10: Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rabbi Sha’ul is again quoting from the core of the Torah and Y’shua’s words.)

Fact: Torah’s core is love and not an enslaved legal set of rules.
I sincerely want to love YHWH and Y’shua, what should I do?

YHWH further goes to say that if you truly love Him you will willfully want to keep His Torah…

John 14:15: If ye love me, keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) my commandments (Torah).

But I also want YHWH and Y’shua to love me, what should I do?

He that hath my commandments (His Torah), and keepeth them (which is a verb, an act/deed), he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

If ye keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) my commandments (Torah), ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept (which is a verb, an act/deed) my Father's commandments (Torah), and abide in his love. (John 15:10)

From the verses above we can clearly see that Y’shua says over and over that if you love Him and YHWH, you will want to keep YHWH’s Laws even as He has kept His Father’s Laws.

I really want Y’shua to manifest Himself to me what should I do?

John 14:21: He that hath my commandments (Torah), and keepeth them (which is a verb, an act/deed), he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

If you want Y’shua to manifest Himself to you, do Torah!

Is it true that the only way we can get to know Y’shua is by studying and keeping His Torah?

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) his commandments. (1 John 2:3)

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not (which is a verb, an
act/deed) his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)

Is keeping Torah a requirement to ask Y’shua favours?

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep (which is a verb, an act/deed) his commandments, and do (which is a verb, an act/deed) those things that are pleasing in his sight. (1 John 3:22)

Is Y’shua a conditional God?

And he that keepeth his commandments (Torah) dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. (1 John 3:24)

Once you’ve complied with the above-mentioned by loving to keep and do YHWH’s Laws, then Y’shua will dwell in you by YHWH’s Spirit.

Is there another "spirit" opposing YHWH’s Torah?

There is another spirit in our days: the spirit of the Antichrist, the Lawless one, directly translated the Torahless-one. This spirit is from Satan who inspires individuals to oppose YHWH’s Torah! Listen to what Y’shua bellows out:

And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; "depart from Me, those working lawlessness!" (Ps 6:8) (Literally translated, those against Torah) (Matt 7:23)

Eventually the Antichrist will come in the same spirit:

And then "the Lawless One" will be revealed, "whom" "the Lord" "will consume" "by the spirit of His mouth," and will bring to nought by the brightness of His presence. (Also in Isaiah 11:4) (2 Thes 2:8 LITV)

The "Lawless One" is one of the names of the Antichrist. He is so-called because he will totally go against YHWH’s Torah when he appears. This spirit of Lawlessness is already rampant in the church today!
Is the Torah for the sinner to guide him to righteous?

Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient (to point out sin), for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, (1 Tim 1:9)

Who are liars according to God’s standards?

This is a very harsh statement—but YHWH says distinctly, “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments (Torah). He that saith, I know him, and keepeth (which is a verb, an act/deed) not his commandments (Torah), is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:3-4).

Ponder on this verse for a moment and take what God said literally…

This means every Believer and Pastor who preaches against keeping the Torah is a liar in God’s eyes! Moreover there is no true doctrine with such a person!!

What is Y'shua’s standard for False Prophets and Teachers?

This is Y'shua own words, please read it in context:

13 Go in through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are the ones entering in through it.
14 For narrow is the gate, and constricted is the way that leads away into life, and few are the ones finding it.
15 But beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside they are plundering wolves.
16 From their fruits you shall know them. Do they gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?
17 So every good tree produces good fruits, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruits.
18 A good tree cannot produce evil fruits, nor a corrupt tree produce good fruits.
19 Every tree not producing good fruit is cut down and is thrown into the fire.
20 Then surely from their fruits you shall know them.
Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but the ones who do (which is a verb, an act/deed) the will of My Father in Heaven (again YHWH’s Torah).

Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many works of power?

And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; "depart from Me, those working lawlessness!" (Ps 6:8) (Literally, those without Torah)

Then everyone who hears these Words from Me, and does them, I will compare him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; (Matt 7:13-24)

Do you love God sincerely?

Beloved friend, if you sincerely love YHWH and Y’shua, then you will want to keep His Laws willingly and freely… listen to YHWH’s conditions:

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. (Keep His Torah) (1 John 5:2)

Is it hard to keep YHWH’s Law?

YHWH’s Laws are not grievous—meaning terrible or hard to do:

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not heavy. (1 John 5:3)

Did YHWH instruct us to walk in His ancient Torah way?

This is the way YHWH desires us to walk, because it is the ancient path to righteousness and the only way Y’shua taught.

And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning (from Moshe’s time), ye should walk in it. (2 John 1:6)
Will the Torah be an “issue” during the Tribulation Period?

We notice the same pattern as Y’shua teaches for the last days during the Tribulation Period. It must be brought to the reader’s attention that Torah was relevant in the TaNaCH, Torah is relevant today according to Y’shua Himself, and Torah will be relevant until the end.

Listen to what the Book of Revelation says:

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments (Torah) of God, and have the testimony of Y’shua the Messiah. (Rev 12:17)

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments (Torah) of God, and the faith of Y’shua. (Rev 14:12)

From the verses quoted above, we can clearly deduce that the Torah was applicable in the past, is still applicable today, and will be applicable in the future.

Is there a blessing for the Torah keepers?

Meditate on the next verse and see YHWH’s beautiful promise for the active Doer of the Word, not just the reader or listener:

Blessed are they that do his commandments (Torah), that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (Rev 22:14)

From this verse alone, we clearly see that YHWH is a God of conditions. This means, if you want access to the Tree of Life and the New Jerusalem City (as I am sure every Believer desires), then you must "do his commandments". Do is a verb and requires an action.

Are you blatantly ignoring Torah altogether, or are you just reading the Torah and not actively doing it, or are you an active Doer (Executor) of Torah?
The keeping and doing of YHWH’s Laws, His Commandments and His Torah, is all part of the holiness plan for you to stay on the narrow road (Matt 7:13-14) to ensure you enter into the New Jerusalem City for everlasting life…

**What will be used as a measuring stick to judge us one day?**

We are all going to stand before a literal God one day… that literal God will ask you the question, “Why did you not take my words literally?” These words may ring in your ears for eternity…

The one who rejects Me and does not receive My Words has that judging him: the Word which I spoke, that will judge him in the last Day. (John 12:48)

From what we have just seen from a literal context is that you have to do YHWH’s Torah, all of the Torah except for the Sacrificial Laws—also known as the Ritual Laws.

This cannot be reasoned away. By trying to reason it away through spiritualizing of Scripture which enforces keeping Torah, you are violently transgressing YHWH’s instructions.

**Does YHWH listen to my prayers if I violate His Torah?**

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law (Torah), even his prayer shall be abomination. (Prov 28:9)

**Messianic Judaism Defined**

**What is Messianic Judaism?**

Messianic Judaism is a religious movement that differs from mainstream Christianity and from Judaism by combining elements of each into a single faith.

Like other Christians, Messianic Judaism adherents believe that Jesus of Nazareth, whom they call by His Hebrew name Y’shua, is the resurrected
Messiah and the only Divine Saviour. They believe you can only go to YHWH through the atonement work of Y’shua.

Messianic Judaism adds to this some observances of Torah, which are generally not practiced (and often discouraged) in Christian churches. These observances include observing Shabbat on the seventh day, abstaining from pork, shellfish, and other foods banned by Biblical law, and observing Biblical (Hebraic) holidays.

**Is Messianic Judaism Christian?**

Messianic Judaism is Christianity, but insists on the literal interpretation both the Old and Renewed Covenant Scriptures.

**Does Messianic Judaism keep all the Laws?**

Messianic Judaism does not adhere to the Sacrificial/Ritual Laws of the Torah as Y’shua has fulfilled it already, but believes that the Moral (Ethical) and Civil Laws are still applicable.

**Awakening of Messianic Judaism**

**Messianic Judaism is the embodiment of beliefs of the Church of Acts**

The time has arrived for the testing of the Believer to recognize and identify him/herself with the forsaken Biblical Hebraic Roots. The roots of the Church of Acts, the first church, were Messianic in each and every single way. Believe it or not, each and every thing the Jews do and hold dear to is Y’shua-centered.

**Will YHWH restore the sound doctrine of Messianic Judaism?**

YHWH, through the Holy Spirit, is preparing to restore His Church to the biblical principles found in the Hebraic contours of its formative years. The way it will happen is not by an "outpouring" of the Holy Spirit alone, but through a Word of YHWH revival. Here is the promise of YHWH:
My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: (Deut 32:2)

The latter rain will be a small soft rain of truth, not a mighty revival as the “Faith Movement” preachers falsely teach. What the Church needs today is the following:

…the washing of water by the word. (Eph 5:25-26)

**YHWH’s grand strategy is to go back to our Hebraic Roots in three stages:**

YHWH wants the restoration of the Renewed Messianic Congregation’s position and culture of the Good News of the Jewish Messiah within a Messianic Renewed identity.

His second purpose is the complete and full restoration of our worship and enjoyment of all three aspects of YHWH’s Inner Nature: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church has lost that enjoyment in the wake of Satan’s counter-strategy.

His third purpose is the restoration of our benefitting from the "Old Testament", the Hebrew Scriptures.

His fourth purpose is the restoration of Y’shua, the true Messiah of Israel, in our understanding—replacing all non-Jewish misunderstandings of Him.

YHWH is carrying out these purposes of His through three reformation/restoration movements.

**Protestantism: The First Reformation**

Protestantism, the first Reformation begun in 1517 by Martin Luther, was the restoration of the position of Y’shua to His appropriate place. This Reformation was, in hindsight, not thorough enough - since it left enough theological, spiritual, and identity-related links behind for the counterfeit movement to stage a successful comeback.

So Protestantism was not yet the full restoration of our understanding of the true identity of Rabbi Y’shua, the Jewish Messiah. That is, Y’shua was
back in His place, but as a Gentile God only—not as the real, original Jewish Rabbi Y’shua of Nazareth as the Jews knew Him 2,000 years ago.

**Pentecostalism: The Second Reformation**

Pentecostalism, the second Reformation which began in 1740, 1790, 1831; and the one on Azusa Street in 1906 and still going on today, has brought about the restoration of the position and identity of another part of God's Inner Nature (the Holy Spirit), to His proper place in our lives and in Y’shua's Congregation, a.k.a. - the Church.

**Messianic Renewed Judaism: The Third Reformation**

Messianic Renewed Judaism (the third Reformation) is the current movement, since 1970, which is beginning to restore us to seeing both the identity and the rightful position of bringing the Hebrew Scriptures back to their proper position in our hearts and lives; teaching us the identity and teachings of the real Y’shua, the Jewish Saviour, the King of Israel; restoring the Jews to the original culture of the Renewed Covenant, the Jewish culture taking its proper position as their own; and restoring the body of Israel; i.e., the Land and the National identity of Israel to the soul of Israel and the Jewish People worldwide.

**What is Hebraic Roots?**

The cultural restoration of the Renewed Covenant is the current movement being carried out by erasing the linguistic, theological, cultural and religious expressions of the old-time anti-Semitism - which displaced and disfigured the Church's identity, position and culture. Simultaneously, it is restoring the Jewishness and our Hebraic Roots in each of these areas.

Picture, as an instance of this cultural anti-Semitism, the Hasidic Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul), a protegé of the famous Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), wearing a tallit (prayer shawl with tziziot, fringes), peyos (sidecurls) and tefilin (leather boxes placed on one´s arm and head) just like any other Orthodox Jew - since that was what he was.

At the same time, contrast that picture of him with the common one: "the apostle Paul" with a Mithraistic (sun-god worship) "Christian" halo around his head and being called "Saint" Paul by most Christian writers, and you
will catch the inconsistency of the cultural anti-semitism all at once! There are many examples of linguistic, cultural, and theological anti-Semitism in the Church today; and quite frankly, I do not believe that YHWH is impressed with it.

**Reviving the Roots today?**

Before the light of truth has been entirely extinguished, however, the ever-searching YHWH has always identified men and women whom He could call to renewal and restoration. Such is the case in the world today.

Christians by the millions today are demanding the restoration of the Hebraic foundations of faith, practice, and discipline through which Y’shua and the apostles expressed their devotion to YHWH after centuries of Hellenisation and Latinisation that replaced the gold and jewels of divine truth on which the church was founded.

A profound movement of renewal is restoring to God’s people a passion for His Spirit and His truth. An over-Hellenised, over-Latinised Christianity is experiencing a re-Judaising process that is re-attaching Christian faith to its Jewish and Hebraic roots.

**Why the need to go back to the basics?**

Believers are no longer content to blindly follow in the traditions of blind leaders of the past, and are consequently finding themselves in ditches of despair and confusion. They are searching the Scriptures for themselves like the noble Berean Jews.

How can we possibly worship God Almighty in truth if we do not understand the Hebraic roots? Worship is commonly defined as "the act or feeling of adoration or homage; the paying of religious reverence as in prayer, praise, and so forth". It is derived from the Old English *worthship*, the act of ascribing "worth" to someone or to something.

When we analyse the Hebrew and Greek words for worship, however, we gain a somewhat deeper meaning of the act of worship. The Hebrew word for worship, *segad*, means to bow oneself down, to fall down flat, to reverence, or to do obeisance; and it has the connotation of total submission to a superior (e.g., the king). The Greek translation of this word, *proskunéo*, means to prostrate oneself in homage or more graphically, to "kiss as a dog would lick its master’s hand".
This is exactly what happened during worship ceremonies in the Temple area in biblical times. Men would lay flat on their faces before the Creator of the universe. Likewise today, YHWH is revealing His Word in a clarity not witnessed since the First Century as Christians are recovering the faith of Y’shua and learning to be true worshippers by worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth, or in spiritual truth.

The more we discover the true Hebraic nature of the Christian faith, the more we will be challenged to live according to the Scriptures.

**What is the emphasis of Messianic Judaism?**

It seems unbelievable that multitudes follow and serve "a God Whom they do not know" - not by Name, neither by His True Will or Purpose! Messianic Judaism Studies is a "must" for every professing believer on earth.

This emphasis on "Hebraic Roots" has, or should have one glorious goal. That goal is to seek to help the Body of Messiah gain a fuller understanding and appreciation of the Scriptures in depth and to come to know our Lord and Saviour better and more intimately. What higher goal can any of us have?

**Acceptance and Growth**

**Statistical facts on YHWH’s restoration**

From 2003 to 2007, the movement grew from 150 Messianic houses of worship in the United States to as many as 438, with over 100 in Israel and more worldwide; often congregations are members of larger Messianic organizations or alliances.

In 2008, the movement was reported to have between 6,000 and 15,000 members in Israel. The two countries in the world with the most followers of Messianic Judaism are the United States and then South Africa.

Today, in 2011, the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute in South Africa is one of the biggest Institutions globally, if not the biggest; training Believers in more than five specialized fields of formal studies from a Certificate to a PhD. Apart from that, they are also opening Yeshivas around the globe for
informal learning in Messianic Judaism. YHWH is surely restoring His doctrine as promised.

Our Statement of Faith

✧ We believe in the Bible, both the TaNaKh (Old Covenant) and the Brit Hadasha (New Covenant), is the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17).

✧ We believe in one God, as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.” (Deut 6:4, John 10:30). We believe that the intended meaning of this word “one” as found in Hebrew (echad), means a “composite unity.”

✧ We believe that Y’shua is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Eternal One in Whom all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and who is the Word who became flesh and dwelt amongst us, and whose glory we beheld, the glory of the uniquely begotten Son of God, full of grace and mercy (John 1:1-14, Col 2:9).

✧ We believe that the Spirit of God comforts, teaches, leads, indwells and empowers all whom He regenerates.

✧ We believe that all have sinned and have fallen short of the Glory of God (Rom 3:23).

✧ We believe that Y’shua’s death and resurrection accomplished the atonement for all who would place their faith in Him. Whoever trusts in God, in His work alone, is made a new creation in Messiah, indwelt by the Spirit of God, and is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His own Son (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 5, 6).

✧ We believe salvation is by faith through the grace of God alone, and not by human efforts. One may not earn, merit, or keep this eternal salvation by his own efforts. A new creation is the work of God alone (Eph 2:8-10; Rom 8:29-36).

✧ We believe in the spiritual unity and equality of all believers in Messiah Y’shua (Eph 2:11-22).

✧ We believe in the continuity of God’s covenants with the physical people of Israel according to Jer 31:35-36 and parallel passages. Part of the fulfillment of these covenants is the physical return of the people of Israel to their Promised Land (Deut chap. 30).
We believe that all non-Jewish people who trust in Y’shua are grafted into Israel; and while this does not make them Jewish, they are granted the privilege of following the Torah (God’s Teachings), having had it written upon their hearts as participants of the New Covenant (Rom 11:11-24; Jer 31:33).

We believe that the Torah (first five books of the Bible) is a revelation of the righteousness of God and the description (along with the rest of the Scripture) of the lifestyle of the redeemed community (Mat 5:17-19; 2 Tim 3:16-17). We also believe that the Torah can’t give you salvation.

We believe in a literal, physical return of Messiah to rule and reign upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. We hold to the pre-millennial, pre-tribulation view of His return (Zech 14; Rev 19-20).

We believe in the resurrection of both the wicked and the righteous. Those who have trusted in Y’shua will be resurrected unto life and those who died without having believed in Y’shua will experience eternal wrath of God (Rom 1:18ff; 1 Cor 15; Rev 20-21).

Conclusion

*Something mind-boggling is happening right now before our eyes! What can only be seen as a sovereign work of the Ruach HaKodesh is breaking forth as Christians around the world are working to restore the Hebrew foundations of Christianity. After being stained for more than eighteen centuries by Judaeophobia, anti-Judaism, and anti-Semitism, Christianity is being impacted by an unprecedented revolution of restoration.*

*Scholars, clergy, and laity from virtually every nationality, ethnicity, and denomination are reconnecting their faith in Messiah Y’shua with its historical Hebraic roots. HalleluYAH*

**Recommended books to read**

* What are Hebraic Roots, Messianic Believers and Messianic Judaism?
* The true Doctrine of Law and Grace Unfolded
* How should Believers apply the Law (Torah) today?
* Why Y’shua is the Messiah of Mankind
* How Messiah’s Name changed from Hebrew Y’shua to Greek Jesus
* The Highest form of Worship is Studying the Word
* A Hebraic Perspective on God’s Fundamental Principles for Financial Blessings
We inform – You choose
Never be guilty of: "By your traditions you make the Word of God of non effect"

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Proverbs 25:25
Thank you that we may minister to you from the Southern point of Africa

Contact us for Distance Learning in your Own Time from your Own House. You do it Online in either one of the field of:

Hebraic Roots (Y’shua centered Messiah Studies) or,
Midrashic Eschatology (Jewish approach to End-Time Events)
Certificate to PhD.

To find out about our other Products please contact us at http://www.hrti.co.za and click on “Online Shop”

4 The truth of the Torah makes you see the mistranslations in the New Covenant. It's amazing how you can look at the epistles of Rabbi Paul one way and it looks like he's leading the body of Messiah away from Torah; when in reality, he's leading them to Torah. A paradox of vantage point. Let us remember, the intent of the law maker constitutes the law. We need to walk a mile or two in our Hebrew Messiah’s shoes
5 Matt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? Matt 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition
That 'narrow way' is the path of Torah, which is the mission of the Believer … to continuously direct you to the Crucifixion.

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters of Torah.

Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

PLEASE BE SO KIND TO DISTRIBUTE A COUPLE OF THESE BOOKS AS PART OF YOUR TITHING