

March 2, 2024

## **The Jewishness of Your Faith**

The reason many of you are here is because you want to know more about the Jewishness of your faith. You had come to realize that as you read scripture, you noticed things that were not talked about by your pastor or studied, yet something was being stirred up inside you to what to know more. Hence a new journey began for you. Unlike your first one where you would come to faith in Messiah, this one was to discover more about Him and His Jewishness.

Throughout the New covenant writings we see His experiences unfold within the culture of traditional Judaism. What Judaism had become. Not what it was at the time of King David, though it was far from what Adonai had established it did not comprise the legalistic yoke at the time of Yeshua. When Yeshua makes the following comments, He is functioning within the framework that exists...

**Mar 7:6** Yeshua answered them, "Yesha` yahu was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites—as it is written, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me.

**Mar 7:7** Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines.'

**Mar 7:8** "You depart from God's command and hold onto human tradition.

**Mar 7:9** Indeed," he said to them, "you have made a fine art of departing from God's command in order to keep your tradition!

And...

**Mat 23:13** "But woe to you hypocritical Torah-teachers and P'rushim! For you are shutting the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces, neither entering yourselves nor allowing those who wish to enter to do so.

**Mat 23:14** [*Woe to you hypocritical Torah-teachers and P'rushim! For you swallow up widow's houses while making a show of davvening at great length. Because of this your punishment will be all the worse!*]

**Mat 23:15** "Woe to you hypocritical Torah-teachers and P'rushim! You go about over land and sea to make one proselyte; and when you succeed, you make him twice as fit for Gei-Hinnom as you are!

Yeshua came to fill our understanding and complete that which had been promised in Torah in ITS context, not the context by which it has become known whereby instructions were added known as "a hedge/fence" around the

commandment whereby if you broke through the fence you did not violate the commandment, yet.

**Mat 5:17** "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete.

Within this context of filling our understanding and completing that which is not finished, we see a definitive context here.

We see what I call a Heritage here. Something that has been passed down from generation to generation...L'dor V'dor.

What are the elements of this heritage?

Sha'ul conveys what they are as they have been given by Adonai to a people and that that people are to be a light to the world. Their heritage, inheritance is not to be squandered or hoarded, but to be shared and thus experienced...

**Rom 9:1** I am speaking the truth—as one who belongs to the Messiah, I do not lie; and also bearing witness is my conscience, governed by the Ruach HaKodesh:

**Rom 9:2** my grief is so great, the pain in my heart so constant,

**Rom 9:3** that I could wish myself actually under God's curse and separated from the Messiah, if it would help my brothers, my own flesh and blood,

**Rom 9:4** the people of Isra'el! They were made God's children, the Sh'khinah has been with them, the covenants are theirs, likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;

**Rom 9:5** the Patriarchs are theirs; and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all. Praised be Adonai for ever! Amen.

The Patriarchs, starting with Avram...the one whom the initial promise is made in Genesis 12:1 – 3 is the origin of this Heritage Adonai is establishing...

**Gen 12:1** Now Adonai said to Avram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

**Gen 12:2** I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing.

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

This promise would not end with Avraham, but would continue but would be a generational promise that would continue with his descendants.

**Gen 17:5** Your name will no longer be Avram [*exalted father*], but your name will be Avraham [*father of many*], because I have made you the father of many nations.

**Gen 17:6** I will cause you to be very fruitful. I will make nations of you, kings will descend from you.

**Gen 17:7** "I am establishing my covenant between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation, as an everlasting covenant, to be God for you and for your descendants after you.

**Gen 17:8** I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land of Kena`an, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."

This is the beginning of the rich Heritage Adonai would establish. A heritage no other people or nation can relate to. Yet, a heritage that would impact the world and be the foundation for what Adonai would do.

By establishing this Heritage, He is equipping it with His personal attributes. Within this Heritage, Adonai reveals Himself by entrusting the descendants of Avraham with this unique gift...Torah.

Torah would become the foundation of this Heritage. Within it we are witness to...

- **Who Adonai is...**

He not only reveals His name to us...

**Exo 3:13** Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

**Exo 3:14** God said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [*I am/will be what I am/will be*]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [*I Am or I Will Be*] has sent me to you.' "

**Exo 3:15** God said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh ( יהוה ) [*Adonai*], the God of your fathers, the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

And he has revealed his attributes to us...

**Exo 34:5** Adonai descended in the cloud, stood with him there and pronounced the name of Adonai.

**Exo 34:6** Adonai passed before him and proclaimed: "YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh ( יהוה ) [*Adonai*] is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth;

**Exo 34:7** showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations."

No other nation or people possess such a treasure as the God of all creation sharing such intimate and personal aspects about himself. This would be known to the world through the stewardship of the Jewish people in preserving His word from generation to generation.

- **The origin of the history of this Heritage:**

We witness throughout Torah that it is a history book as well. Documenting origins and lineages right from the beginning of time. The rest of Scripture would do the same. Throughout the Tanakh there are lineages and history recounted about this nation that has been set apart to be a light to the nations...

**Isa 42:5** Thus says God, Adonai, who created the heavens and spread them out, who stretched out the earth and all that grows from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it:

**Isa 42:6** "I, Adonai, called you righteously, I took hold of you by the hand, I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people, to be a light for the Goyim,

**Isa 42:7** so that you can open blind eyes, free the prisoners from confinement, those living in darkness from the dungeon.

- **The manner by which we are to live within this Heritage**

**Deu 30:11** For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

**Deu 30:12** It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

**Deu 30:13** Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

**Deu 30:14** On the contrary, the word is very close to you—in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil—

**Deu 30:16** in that I am ordering you today to love Adonai your God, to follow his ways, and to obey his mitzvot, regulations and rulings ; for if you do, you will live and increase your numbers; and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

The same standards apply equally to the foreigner as they do to the citizen...

**Lev 19:33** " 'If a foreigner stays with you in your land, do not do him wrong.

**Lev 19:34** Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you—you are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am Adonai your God.

- Within Torah comprises prophecy.

**Luk 24:44** Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

**Luk 24:45** Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

**Luk 24:46** telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

**Luk 24:47** and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

From “the Prophet” in Deuteronomy 18 to the Passover, Torah is full of Adonai's promises, many have come to fruition while many are still awaiting the return of Messiah. Within Torah are the covenants whether mentioned directly or alluded to and thus further established elsewhere in the Tanakh.

**Eph 2:11** Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

**Eph 2:12** at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

**Eph 2:13** But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

**Eph 2:14** For he himself is our shalom—he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

**Eph 2:15** by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

**Eph 2:16** and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

As a result,

**Eph 3:1** It is a consequence of this that I, Sha'ul, am a prisoner of the Messiah Yeshua on behalf of you Gentiles.

**Eph 3:2** I assume that you have heard of the work God in his grace has given me to do for your benefit,

**Eph 3:3** and that it was by a revelation that this secret plan was made known to me. I have already written about it briefly,

**Eph 3:4** and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.

**Eph 3:5** In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets,

**Eph 3:6** that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.

It is this Heritage that all believers are to experience. A richness that I have only touched on is available to be experienced in its fullness. This is the Jewishness of your faith and can only be found within Messianic Judaism because it isn't just something we teach as you would experience within the Hebrew roots movement, but it is what we live. It is who we are. We are the descendants of Avraham, the physical seed and the spiritual seed.

I have only touched on this Heritage you have become part of, embraced and are learning to live by. The body of Messiah is vastly divided yet is in the midst of being reconciled. It is not for any other reason that through the Ruach Ha Kodesh that your eyes have been opened to something so rich and dynamic as the Heritage of Adonai, established by Him and given to the Jewish people for the purpose of being a light to the nation. Emanating His light and it is that light that is drawing believers in and thus back to Him. Not based on man-made traditions or theological understanding that greatly diminishes this Heritage, but by the power of Adonai through His Ruach Ha Kodesh.

Over this past week I had been playing with words. One night while I was at work throwing stock and praying about a congregant and a matter involving them and how to help them in their time of struggle I focused on "the Jewishness of your Faith" As I was doing this, I changed the order of the words and came up with "the Faith of your Jewishness." So next week I will elaborate on that further.