

Prophetic Insight

May 1, 2017

“I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior’s sword” (Zechariah 9:13).

From the day Jesus rose to heaven until God allowed the Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed by the Romans in AD70, the followers of Jesus, who were mostly Jewish, were viewed as a sect within Judaism. Yet they constituted a threat to the leaders of the religious system (see for example Acts 4; Acts 12). However, the Temple system did co-exist for a period of time even as the followers of Jesus were called to be the “temples” of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 6:19).

God once more established Israel as a nation in 1948, and has been bringing the Jewish people back to the land He promised them. During this same era, through “*the sons of Zion*” He has been revealing to Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians around the world the way of life that frees them from the lies of Hellenism. Many have initially tried to fit the Hebraic foundations into their Hellenized religious system with the same lack of success the first followers of our Lord had with the Jewish religious system.

The Hebraic foundations with their focus on the *Lordship of Jesus* to extend the Kingdom diametrically oppose everything about Hellenism. The Jewish Temple was destroyed and the Jewish people couldn’t rely on a structure for sacrifice any longer. And we who live to serve our Lord Jesus have no need for religious structures as we await the Dark Days of Chastisement. When that season arrives, those who’ve been committed to the Hellenized “temple system” won’t have man-made structures either; rather, they’ll see themselves as the *Spirit’s temples* to extend our Lord’s Kingdom.

In recent decades many religious structures have been destroyed in China, Africa,

and the Middle East. The Dark Days of Chastisement coming upon this land will see similar structure destruction.

The Hebraic Foundations Will Replace The Hellenized, Anti-Semitic Religious System

After we arrived back in the US from Israel, one of the first things we began to notice was how widespread *anti-Semitism* (hostility toward or prejudice against Jews) is in Christianity. The only Bible Jesus knew and taught from was the Hebrew Scriptures—a framework which expected those who heard *to obey* because of their relationship with the Father. Their *love* of God was evidenced by their trust and obedience to His Word and His ways (see Joshua 22:5).

Yet within three centuries after Christ’s resurrection, living in Him as *loving, Spirit-filled, obedient children* morphed into a hierarchical religious system ruled by Hellenist/Greek academic superiority and Roman organizational structure. The “religion” of Christianity came into being, controlled by authorities who wielded ecclesiastical and political power to enforce their dictates and traditions.

Only the elite with wealth or position were allowed to decide what the populace should believe. Thus the multitudes became spectators expected (and often required) to attend services and pay their dues, not realizing that they’d been robbed of the privilege of wholeheartedly pursuing a Spirit-filled obedient relationship of loving and serving their Lord.

Today’s theologians and seminaries all too often follow the **academic** and **organizational model** of their predecessors. Those being trained to lead immerse themselves in analysis of the Greek and Hebrew words used in the Bible text so

they can preach correctly about them. Yet so very few have explored and shared the ancient Christian and Jewish writings that could help them to more accurately understand the context of Scripture as it would have been understood by both the Bible writers and the hearers.

Theologians neglected or, because of anti-Semitism, even refused to interpret *all* of God's Word with "Hebraic ears" of love-grounded, obedient trust that dictated a person to take action. That Father is sovereign and allowed this destructive Hellenist domination to prosper is a reality. But we know from our research that those who gave way to the ongoing lies of Hellenism as "biblical" held positions of influence as converts to Christianity in the second and third centuries. And all too many of these Hellenist converts were consumed by *hatred of the Jewish people*, the very ones to whom Father gave the covenants, the promises, and the human ancestry of Christ (Romans 9:4,5).

It is very possible that such blatant anti-Semitism within Christianity compelled our Father to keep His promise to Abraham: "*I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you*" (Genesis 12:3).

During our decades of sharing the Hebraic foundations we've become sensitive and deeply saddened to see the curse of Hellenism dominating so much of Christendom. But NOW, as our Father is keeping His promise to restore the Jewish people to Israel, He is showing His Son's own that He'll make them like a "warrior's sword" to rout Hellenism's curse.

When You *Don't* Trust In Our Lord As Our Father Abraham Trusted

One of the more devious **habitual mental deceptions** within Christianity that's

been caused by the influence of Hellenism is the failure to understand Abraham and the *paramount importance* of his life to those who belong to Jesus as their Lord. You can trace much of the denominational and sectarian division within Christendom to this one deficiency. And the sad fruit of ignoring the life of Abraham is mental acceptance of an incomplete and often distorted gospel.

We're not stating this to be critical. Rather we hope to encourage those who wholeheartedly seek the truth and want live their lives to bring glory to Father to closely examine what He is restoring. So think of this Prophetic Insight as being written *personally for you*.

It was only after several years of sharing the covenant-based Gospel during our seminars throughout this nation that we realized we needed to have it all in writing for people to prayerfully consider. So we compiled *The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*. So many we spoke with discerned that they'd never truly been born again nor had they received the Holy Spirit. And because they weren't indwelt by the Spirit, they could readily register how *powerless* their "faith walk" had been. Even some of the clergy in the congregations weren't upset when they too heard the true Gospel. Many became born again for the first time!

The most common identifiers we saw among those who had embraced an erroneous or incomplete "gospel" were these: •they still carried unforgiveness in their hearts; •they were taught that conversion was a technical step — mentally agreeing with certain Bible verses; •they were told that *belief* in God rather than complete *trust* was sufficient; •many were also required to agree with certain creedal prerequisites for joining a particular denomination or sect.

In this Prophetic Insight we want to help you examine your own faith walk from God's point of view, an example of which was vividly displayed in Abraham and made possible to all who embrace the true Gospel. Like many of you, we began our religious life having been taught a sectarian understanding (Mike, devoutly Roman Catholic; Sue, vaguely Protestant).

It was only after we *discussed Bible truths* through the Spirit's insight and by His grace *applied God's Word* to our lives with a Hebraic understanding could we discern •the depth of Covenant relationship our Father wanted with both of us in union with Jesus, and •His stipulation that we totally trust Him as did Abraham. That's led us to a covenant-based relationship with our heavenly Father in His Son and with each other in our marriage.

He's also opened our eyes to the significance of our patriarchal forbear who is a role model for relating to our Father in a way that pleases Him. Let's look into this.

“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?” (Romans 4:1).

Abraham clearly grasped an indispensable truth that the God Who created everything required his trust in order to be considered righteous by Him: *“Abraham trusted God, and it was credited to him as righteousness”* (Romans 4:3).

For centuries throughout Christendom the Hebrew word for “faith”, *emunah*, has been wrongfully translated merely as “belief.” Yet *emunah* requires far, far more than just the thought process of mental agreement! *Emunah* is the emotionally-filled conviction that demands **total trust in God!** *Emunah*



emanates from deep within your heart, on par with Abraham's trust which equated to unquestioning obedience.

To truly **trust** God calls for wholeheartedly yielding *yourself* to Him unconditionally. Did you get that? Trust is wholly yielding your right to your very self to Father for His purposes in and through you! Surrendering your all in that kind of yieldedness to the loving Lordship of Jesus can't go unnoticed in your life. That loving trust will be evidenced in your Spirit-led choices, decisions, and actions. **There's no trust if that trust doesn't lead to action!**

Put another way, your trust-based actions reveal the responsive trust in your heart. It's your love-based, grateful actions *after* you're born again that confirm you belong to your beloved Master, Jesus. James not only confirms this truth; he also uses Abraham as a model for your own faith-driven actions:

“Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham trusted God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith [emunah] without [your actions] is dead” (James 2:21-26).

This anecdote from our past is worth repeating because you get an insight into what threatens religious leaders dominated by **habitual Hellenized mental deceit:**

After reading our book, *Restoring the Early Church*, a denominational leader told us, “We can't have our people *trusting Jesus* as

you call for. That would cause mayhem! We need to *control and direct* the spiritual activities of the people in our congregation.”

The Hebraic foundations reveal how you can live with Jesus as Lord of your life in total trust. But be warned: if you wholeheartedly trust in Jesus, the Hellenist religious establishment will turn against you just as the Jewish religious system did against Jesus.

Our Father Is A Covenant-giver and A Covenant-keeper.

The anti-Semitism that was produced by the influence of Hellenism on Christendom has obscured the Scriptural manner in which our Father relates to mankind—through *covenants*. Without understanding a covenant-based relationship, those who would follow Jesus as their Lord have little understanding of the relational responsibilities which that covenant requires.

Central to what our Father is restoring around the world through the New Covenant is a love-grounded, trust-founded, obedience-proven relationship with Him and with Jesus as Lord of our lives.

The word *covenant* can mean “to come into union with.” The Covenant our Father offers invites you to *live in union* with Him through His Son by the indwelling Holy Spirit. When you embrace His Covenant, you are expressing your heart’s desire to *do His will* and to be *transformed in love and character* to become more like Jesus until the time of your salvation when your name is read aloud before the host of heaven.

The New Covenant isn’t a complicated relationship to understand. But academically-focused theologians who haven’t understood the *relational nature* of our Father’s Covenant have distorted the true Gospel into a myriad of contradictory false gospels which lack the

love and power of the Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. The sad result throughout Christendom has been that so many identify themselves by their religious practices and traditions rather than by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and their trust-girded obedient actions.

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

Let’s focus now on God and His relationship with Abraham, and how that affects your faith walk today. We also want to help you understand the devious **habitual Hellenized mental deceit** of many of today’s contradictory “gospels” and religious practices and traditions.

•Habitual Hellenized Mental Deceit #1:

Religious teachers and preachers use the *academic model of instruction* rather than the *Hebraic lifestyle discipling method* of Abraham, Jesus, and Paul.

Our Father specifically chose Abraham because He knew that the patriarch would “*direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just*” (Genesis 18:19). Abraham could only have accomplished this purpose through demonstrating to his household a *trust-based life*. Right actions undergirded by responsive trust in God represents *Hebraic instruction* modeled by the first Hebrew, Abraham. **Hebraic instruction requires role modeling whatever you teach.** This is the core of biblical discipleship: a way of life that pleases our heavenly Father and is caught, not taught. A *way of life* can’t be acquired just through academic instruction alone, whether from podium or pulpit.

You might say that Hebraic instruction is more akin to military training than to the tidily-packaged academic approach of Hellenized Christianity. The military starts out with diverse individuals from any number of

backgrounds and life histories. Then, through instruction, role modeling, and experience-based training, the individual is transformed into a person who is aware of his or her *responsibility to a larger cause than themselves*, and a depth of *responsibility on behalf of other people* that most civilian occupations wouldn't entail except for those in which people risk their lives to serve others.

The almost universal *spiritual passivity* that's produced by Hellenism has resulted in very few within Christendom who live a way of life in which the Lordship of Jesus is evident. If asked, most would tell you that they are drawn more to the **social comfort of their faith community** than to any admonition to daily die to self-rule and follow Jesus as His beloved slave/servant (*doulos/diakonos*) — a role which permeates Newer Testament writings. People who live for themselves and aren't known *by HIM* as His own (as He warns in Luke 13:24-28) don't have His indwelling Spirit. They don't belong to Jesus (see Romans 8:9) no matter what they've been falsely led to believe.

•**Habitual Hellenized Mental Deceit #2:**

People have been falsely taught that "church" (*ekklesia*) is a place to gather or services to attend.

Scripturally, the *ekklesia* are *people* whom Jesus has *called out of the world system with its self-pleasing goals and values* to be born again as His beloved family of slave/servants who love and obey Him in return. If you've embraced the New Covenant through repentance and trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then YOU are His "body part" in His collective body (Romans 12:5): THE church. The church is seen in YOU wherever YOU are each day.

Being *called out* to serve God isn't a Newer Testament phenomenon. The first person God *called out* to live in trusting obedience to Him was the Hebrew, Abraham (Gen-

esis 12:1). God gave the patriarch an eternal covenant (Genesis 12:2,3), and Lord Jesus was called his promised seed (Galatians 3:16). The Gospel was told to Abraham in advance (Galatians 3:8), and everyone who trusts in our Lord becomes Abraham's child (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7). Can you now see the significance of Abraham in our Father's divine plan for mankind?



Your true forefathers in the faith:

Before the first coming of Jesus, people in the **Hebraic stream of Judaism** yearned to walk in the relational intimacy and obedient trust in God which had been lived out by Abraham. ALL of the faith practices seen among the followers of Jesus in the Newer Testament were already part of the faith enactment of the Hebraic Stream **before** His incarnation. Eagerly awaiting His arrival, these faithful only needed His atonement for their sins and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. These were the first who became His *called-out* followers who preceded you.

•**Habitual Hellenized Mental Deceit #3:**

Many theologians erroneously teach that you're saved the moment you agree with certain Bible verses.

But nothing could be further from the truth. *Salvation* in the early Hebraic church of Lord Jesus was recognized as a **faith-based pilgrimage**. Salvation ultimately takes place when a follower of Jesus stands before the Judgment Throne and hears his name declared before His Father and the hosts of heaven (see Revelation 3:5).

As Scripture makes clear, a person is not considered "saved" at the *beginning* of their

faith journey but at the completion of their pilgrimage when they've "endured to the end" (2 Timothy 2:12; Mark 13:13; Matthew 10:22). Your **CONVERSION**, the moment you're truly born again and become new by the Holy Spirit, is really the first step in your pilgrimage OUT OF the world's values and goals, and INTO the Kingdom's values and purposes for your life.

Your **TRUST-BASED UNION** with Jesus is the Spirit's glue of grace that enables you to endure until you stand before Him. Entry into that process means you trust that the **SHED BLOOD OF JESUS** paid the penalty for your sin. The ongoing pilgrimage process requires that you **KEEP ON TRUSTING** — a trust that is demonstrated through your choices and actions.

•**Habitual Hellenized Mental Deceit #4:**

Most religious teachers misconstrue the truth that a person is not saved by works by missing the truth that one's actions prove a person's trust.

If you've understood Father's stipulations for embracing His New Covenant, then you realize that through His grace your sins have been atoned for by the sacrifice of Jesus. By that same grace you're filled with love, trust, and the deepest appreciation a human can express toward a gracious God. These heartfelt emotions fill you with gratefulness which, through His indwelling Spirit, impels you to learn His commands to *put into action* in your life.

Summing Up What It Means To Value The Significance of Abraham

God intended for Abraham to be a blessing to many nations. And through Jesus that blessing is spreading around the world (see Galatians 3:14). The patriarch didn't *earn* a relationship with God or *improve* his relationship with God by



doing good works. The same holds true for us today who follow Jesus. We trust in the shed blood of Jesus as full payment for our sins. Nothing we do earns us any further acceptance.

So, you might ask, why does a born again person want to know God's law, His good and righteous instruction? Because when you love and trust in Jesus, you want to know what He considers right living from His perspective, and what He calls sins against Him. And, His commands and statutes and laws define all sorts of ways you *express your love* for Father and for Jesus, and your love for other people (see John 14:21,15:10; 1John 5:2,3). You are His vessel to display His love through your actions as His blessing to others.

Yes, like Abraham your trust must be evidenced through your actions. Father ratifies His Covenant with you in union with Jesus through sealing His children and giving us the Holy Spirit in our hearts (2Corinthians 1:22). The Spirit's presence within you gives you the guidance, the will, and the power to act according to His good purpose (Philippians 2:12,13). And, the indwelling Spirit will always lead you to be doing your part in fulfilling Father's will on earth.