

# The Way Of Our Lord Is Being Restored

## Reality 23. Cherish A Personal Connection With Our Lord As Abraham Did

### Make our Lord's way of confirming and applying truth your way!

Our heavenly Father is in the midst of restoring the Hebraic foundations throughout the world. But the very people these foundations are intended for are often their own hindrance. Studies show that the human brain suffers from what is called a **"confirmation bias."** (This bias is vividly portrayed in Acts 7:54-57.) New information that differs significantly from what's already stored in your mind is often discounted or rejected without you finding out if the new information is true and valid. Many of the religious leaders at the time of our Lord Jesus were obsessed by their confirmation bias against our Lord and the claims He made about Himself. Our Lord described them (as well as many Christians who find themselves imprisoned in anti-Semitic theologies and religious practices): *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these Scriptures [the Hebrew Testament] bear witness about Me. But you refuse to come to Me that you may have life"* (John 5:39,40).



As Christians today study the Scriptures, most filter what they read through the theological bias of the people who instruct them. Far too many have never fully entrusted themselves heart and soul to being ruled by our Lord Jesus. Instead, they swallow whatever a "professional teacher" tells them about Jesus. Don't be this way!!! Your safeguard concerning truth and the validity of applying God's Word to your life emanates from the assurance of our Lord Himself to you:

*"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven (that is, you avoid what God doesn't want you to do), and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (which means you do what's right in His sight). Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them"* (Matthew 18:18-20).

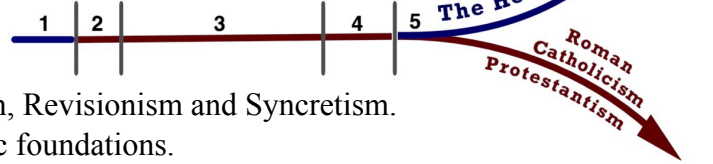
As a born-again follower of Jesus, it's vital that you're absolutely confident in HIS PRESENCE through His Spirit. HIS SPIRIT is your indwelling Source for confirming truth, for guiding you in truth, and for providing the spiritual power and grace which enable you to make God's Word YOUR WAY OF LIFE. And it's through discussion with 2 or 3 that your resolute determination is made clear. As Jesus says, *"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34).

### An Overview Of What's Being Restored And Why

This is the first in a series recapping our previous materials and highlighting the vast differences between the **Hebraic foundations** of the earliest followers of Christ which our heavenly Father is restoring, and the **anti-Semitic theological creedal systems and practices** that entered Christianity over the centuries. 🖐️ Theological anti-Semitism is anything which stands against or minimizes the momentous importance of the Older Testament in relation to the true Gospel and the Lordship of Jesus. Anti-Semitic distortions of the authentic meaning of God's Word were introduced into Christianity through **Nicolaitanism, Hellenism, Revisionism** and **Syncretism**. (Later in this series we'll discuss how these unbiblical influences have so harmfully impacted Christianity—and even the fullness of your own relationship with Jesus as your Lord.)

## An Abbreviated Timeline Of Christian History

1. For several generations after the Ascension, the Hebraic foundations flourished as a way of life for Jesus's followers who lived with the same trusting obedience as their spiritual ancestor, Abraham.
2. Then religious/philosophical practices of Nicolaitanism, Hellenism, Revisionism and Syncretism became entrenched within Christianity by the "Church Fathers." Also, Emperor Constantine declared himself "Vicar of Christ" and established Christianity as a state religion.
3. The Roman papacy exerted domineering rule over Roman Catholicism, being modeled after the autocratic control of the Roman Empire.
4. The Reformers restored several Hebraic truths but retained elements of Nicolaitanism, Hellenism, Revisionism and Syncretism.
5. God is now in the process of restoring the Hebraic foundations.



The prophetic core of the foundational truths our heavenly Father is restoring arises from His words through Zechariah: ***"I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword"*** (Zechariah 9:13). You'll find in this series that the foundations that enabled the first followers of our Lord Jesus to be so spiritually powerful and relationally intimate have nothing in common with the split-up Christianity that anti-Semitic theology has devised.

**2 thru 4, above:** From the mid-second century onward Christianity departed its Hebraic foundations, beginning with non-Hebrew "Church Fathers" such as Clement, Origen and Justin. These men were virulent anti-Semites. And the combined influence of these **religious intelligentsia** fashioned a new theology for Christianity based on Plato's pagan philosophy. Forceful in both speech and writing, these influential men not only denounced the Jewish people (Abraham's Hebrew descendants). They also introduced into Christianity a wide array of pagan beliefs and practices. Among these were •Plato's cosmic dualism which decisively (and unbiblically) disconnected the physical world from the spiritual •Nicolaitan rule by professional clergy and elimination of the priesthood of all believers which God's Word calls for (Revelation 1:6; 5:10, apperceiving Exodus 19:6) •"church" buildings commensurate with pagan temples •emphasis on creedal belief systems and traditions instead of biblical doctrine as a way of life •minimizing the Lordship of Jesus by confining His main role to Savior. For multiple centuries after the influence of the "Church Fathers", theologians and church councils staunchly remained anti-Semitic as they constructed their particular creedal systems and religious practices.



**5, above.** Now our heavenly Father is undoing their wrongs and replacing them with His truth.

### Why is the Patriarch Abraham so vital for us today to understand?

The Bible tells us that Abraham is THE FATHER of all who put their trust in Jesus:

*"Therefore the promise is based on trusting so that it may be according to grace and be firm **to all Abraham's seed**—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are **of the trust of Abraham, who is the father of us all**"* (Romans 4:16).

*"And if you are Christ's, then **you are Abraham's seed**, heirs according to promise"* (Galatians 3:29).

Anti-Semitism purposely eliminated the crucial importance of this relational connection to Abraham for us who follow Jesus as our Lord. Today our heavenly Father is reaffirming this pivotal Hebraic understanding from the first Hebrew, Abraham. Abraham's trust-filled, obedience-based WAY OF LIFE reveals the WAY our Father requires ALL His children to live. This isn't a belief system based on intellectual assent as anti-Semitic theology asserts. Rather, it's your trust-filled way of life

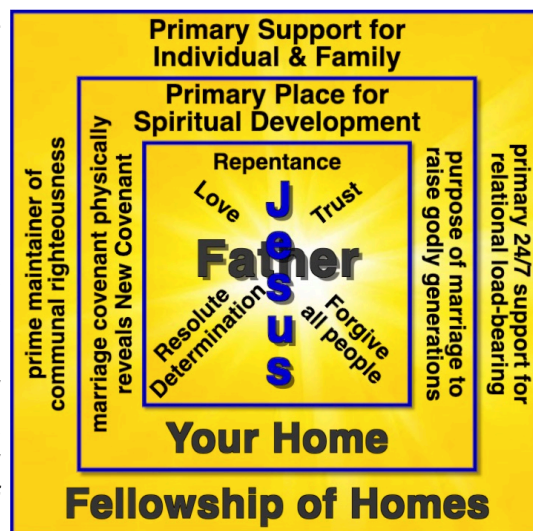
that's demonstrated in your love-grounded obedience to His commands and His divine purpose for you (John 14:15; Ephesians 2:8-10). The presence of the Spirit of Jesus within His followers—the genuinely born again—empowers us to live this biblical WAY OF THE LORD by His grace.

Even without the Holy Spirit dwelling within him, Abraham had a responsive and obedient relationship with the God he trusted. If God said it, Abraham did it. And consider this: Abraham and his obedient and trusting way of life was so precious to God that He presented the Good News to the Patriarch in advance: *“And the Scripture [the Older Testament], foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by trust, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed’”* (Galatians 3:8).

## Being genuinely born again is the genesis of the New Covenant relationships

The Hebraic earliest followers of our Lord Jesus clearly understood from the Older Testament—the Hebrew Scriptures—that our God is a Covenant-giving, Covenant-keeping God. The true Gospel is contained within the New Covenant that was made possible by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. But anti-Semitism has created a misplaced emphasis on their gospel of getting you “saved”, rather than an intimate relationship with our Father and Lord Jesus that the true Gospel entails.

The diagram at right represents the relational connect- edness of our Lord’s earliest followers. It emanates from •the preeminent New Covenant relationship with our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus as you abide in the Holy Spirit. Repentance, love, trust, resolute determination, and forgiving all others are the biblical stipulations for having this relationship. •Next is your Home, THE primary place for spiritual development. Your home is where your marriage covenant represents in the physical realm the spiritual New Covenant you have with our Father and Lord Jesus. •Your Fellowship in Homes supports the two center relational priorities. Your home fellowship not only provides relational load-bearing; it also maintains communal righteousness so that our Father will hear your prayers. We’ll delve more deeply into each of these priorities later in this series.



Before our Lord Jesus became man, the Holy Spirit had been preparing the Hebraic Stream of Judaism – the faithful who sought to relate to God as their ancestor Abraham did. This was different than the Judaizing Stream which added rule upon rule to people's lives in order to be accepted by God. Rather, two hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit inspired the Hebraic Stream to insist that a person be born from above and experience a spiritual rebirth. This was a revolutionary change moving from reliance on religion to a wholehearted relationship with God like that of Abraham. The faithful of the Hebraic Stream awaited the arrival of the Messiah and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The heart devotion to God that's expressed in obedient trust as seen in the Newer Testament was already part of the spiritual life of the Hebraic Stream.

Savor for a moment two specific qualities—love and trust—which pointedly depict an authentic relationship with our Father and our Lord Jesus. Our Lord commands the same foundation of love for His followers as was given to the Israelites: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”** (Matthew 22:37). The foundation of this all-encompassing love requirement is found in Deuteronomy 6:4,5: **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”** The Hebrew word for love, *ahav* (ah-hahv’), means that you're filled with devotion

and delight and passion for the one you love. In our discussion here, you long to be in union with your heavenly Father, a union of spiritual intimacy when the Spirit of Christ enters you. The meaning of the Hebrew letters of *ahav* is **“a window into the Father’s heart.”** You can see within "our Father's heart" in Exodus 20:6 when He promises to show His love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments—the same parameters Jesus sets for His own (John 14:21). This intense relational commitment of love is at the core of the true Gospel. Our Father shares Himself with you through His Son as His Spirit abides in you.

Let's look at your need to trust in God. Abraham’s trust-based obedience is the standard by which our heavenly Father evaluates everyone who embraces the New Covenant in Jesus. The Hebrew word for the depth of trust that our Father commands His children is *emunah*. *Emunah* means far more than just belief or intellectual agreement. Many translations use “believe” and “belief” in a way which falls far short of the trust that’s evidenced by your obedience. The Hebrew root for *emunah* means “to jump off a cliff.” It’s a trust that flows as an emotional response from your heart as Abraham’s did. Your trust evidences that you perceive your ALMIGHTY Father’s love for you. And your willing dependency on Him ultimately puts to death your own ambitions, plans, goals and even fretting as you fully yield to Him in trust.



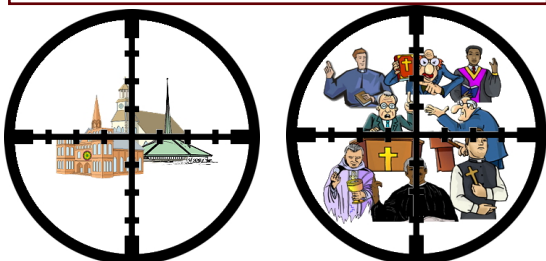
### **Constantine relegated Christians to be passive spectators, not active participants**

Paul notes that our Lord’s earliest followers got together to fellowship in homes where *“each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up”* (1Corinthians 14:26; Romans 16:5). These were participative gatherings in which the Holy Spirit variously manifested Himself through those who had come together for that purpose. It is fellowship within homes, both among our Lord’s earliest followers and today around the world, that provides the deepest fellowship and penetration of the true Gospel into the spiritual darkness.

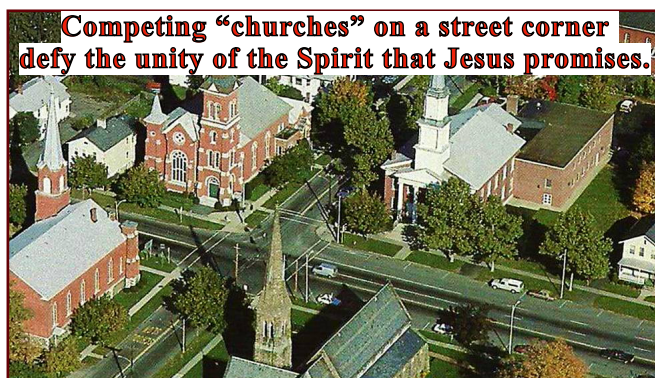
Emperor Constantine disregarded the Hebraic foundations and established religious “stage performances” in public buildings where attendees were spectators. A clergy system modeled after the pagan Hellenists and supported by cosmic dualism became the only accepted norm. Even the architecture of the religious structures reflected Plato’s dualist influence. Use the resources below to see how cosmic dualism's damaging effects may have influenced your own collective gatherings!

- The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation, Part 1. Do You Live As A “Cloistered Christian?”
- Discussing How To Restore The Early Church, Lesson 16, The Loss of Our Hebraic Roots
- Reality 4. Is Your Life In Bondage To The “Halo Effect?”
- For a more complete understanding of the true Gospel which our Lord’s first followers embraced, read: The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation.

**The misguided focus of Nicolaitanism, Hellenism, Revisionism, Syncretism**



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