

Fast Tracking The Hebraic Foundations

Introduction

When we were part of the organized religious system, you could describe us as “evangelicals with a Pentecostal experience.” But after returning from Israel in 1994 having received the Hebraic foundations from our Father, we became simply followers of our Lord Jesus as His family and beloved slave/servants. Even though we had attended a prestigious seminary a number of years earlier, we readily realized that the Hebraic foundations had absolutely nothing in common with the Hellenist and Romanist Christianity which white European, anti-Semitic theologians had created over the centuries. It grieved us as we recognized that so many years of reversionism and syncretism by theologians did far more to divide Christianity than to unify us under the Lordship of Jesus.

While at seminary Mike studied the creeds and religious history of the major denominations and sects. But a decade and a half later our Father made known to us the Hebraic foundations — foundations that enabled those who first put their trust in our Lord Jesus to be so spiritually powerful and relationally intimate. It took us about 18 months of transformation from what we had formerly held to, and what our Father was now restoring to His people. During this time we fervently sought the Holy Spirit’s guidance in deprogramming us from our prior teachings. Then we went through Scripture all over again with the Hebraic understanding of our Lord’s first followers, until we became what we call “Kingdom-minded”.

We bring this up because as you learn, confirm and apply these foundations to yourself and your own family, it will require from you a firm devotion to Jesus as Lord of your life to enable you to comprehend what it is that our Father is restoring. A little reminder: our Father began to restore the Hebraic foundations to His gentile children after giving



Jerusalem back to His Jewish people in 1967 (Luke 21:24). Over the years, we have been sharing these truths in advance of the Dark Days of Chastisement which this nation will soon be experiencing. Are you one of our Father's children who He wants to be prepared in advance of this upcoming time of tremendous deprivation and disappointment and despair? Then we hope the links we list below will be a help to you.

Please realize that as you apply the Hebraic foundations and their relational priorities to your way of life, you are going to experience a dramatic challenge to many practices and presuppositions in your own faith walk. For instance, a deceived understanding of God's Word has most likely soaked into you over the years. Where did this intentional misleading come from? As we've noted previously, it was developed by anti-Semitic European theologians who labored to minimize and even nullify the importance of the Older Testament and all things "Jewish". This sad state of affairs means that you and those journeying with you will need to discern from the Holy Spirit how to remove the old garment of anti-Semitic Hellenist/Romanist influence and put on what was intended by our Lord Jesus to be the living enactment of His Spirit through each of His family. Collectively walking in these truths as a communal way of life can be potentially divisive if you don't have confirmation of the Holy Spirit and mutual discussion in applying them to each relationship you have and each decision you make.

Fast Tracking

Below you'll find various resources which tie directly to the issues we address. We've included links so you can easily access them.

1. There were two streams of Judaism in Israel before Jesus became man: the *Hebraic Stream* and the *Judaizing Stream*. The Hebraic Stream were relational in their regard for one another, meeting in homes long before the coming of Jesus. They sought to relate to God as their ancestor, the Hebrew Abraham, did — a relational response of obedient trust which the earliest followers of Jesus sought to live by. By contrast, the Judaizing Stream were rule keepers who added to the Law more "fences" of obligations just in case someone might inadvertently sin. Not having the intimate relationship with God as "friend" which Abraham enjoyed (Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23), those among the Judaizing Stream accepted that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah but still had no sense of relational closeness with Him or with one another. The Pharisees who ignored relational intimacy were the Judaizers whom Jesus confronted. And it was the Judaizers whom Paul confronted among the Galatian believers.

•In Lesson 8 of our 50-lesson series, *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*, we discuss the difference between *The Hebraic Stream Versus The Judaizing Stream*, <<https://restorationministries.org/download/o8.lesson8.pdf>>

2. The European theologians of the Reformation emphasized individual repentance and salvation, which often removed a new believer from his former relationships. And while each person must come to the realization of their need to repent and trust in Jesus as Lord of their lives, the Hebraic understanding of a relationship with Jesus within the body of called-out ones is collective, more akin to a tribal understanding. Before Jesus became man, the Holy Spirit was already at work in the Hebraic Stream, prompting

them collectively to uphold communal righteousness because they were in spiritual relationship with each other as Jews. Later, our Lord's first followers met in their homes as a "fellowship family" like a "spiritual clan" within the larger "tribe" of Christianity in a region.

It was within the home of each family and the collective home fellowship family that confronting sin and upholding righteousness was primary. They knew how essential this was in order for our heavenly Father to hear and answer their prayers. If one person in the fellowship family was holding onto unconfessed sin, then none of their prayers were answered until each person repented of any darkness and was cleansed by the Holy Spirit (1John 1:5-10).

Wherever the two of us live, we pray first for our Lord to raise up followers of Jesus who walk repentantly before Him. And when we enter into fellowship with others as a faith family, we state our conviction this way, and ask them to do the same: "My family and I will do nothing to hinder your prayers from being answered by our heavenly Father. We can't promise you that we won't sin, but we will be quick to repent and to walk in righteousness so that our Father will hear and answer each of our prayers."

•In Lesson 6 of our 50-lesson series, *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church: Upholding Communal Righteousness*, <<https://restorationministries.org/download/o8.lesson8.pdf>>, we discuss the basis for answered prayer.

3. Beginning around 200 years before the birth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit inspired the Hebraic Stream that they must be born from above, which is also called being born again. For those within the Hebraic Stream it was a moment of separation from reliance on the centrality of religious practices, to a trust-based, obedient relationship with God which their ancestor Abraham had abided in. And it's no small matter that Abraham is called the father of all who put their trust in our Lord Jesus (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:6-9).

To those within the Hebraic Stream, to be born again meant spiritual rebirth. Being "born from above" was a shift from following the letter of the law and manmade religious traditions to daily choosing love-grounded, obedient trust in their Father. Because the whole concept of being born from above had been around the Jewish community for at least two centuries, Jesus was surprised when Nicodemus professed ignorance of this new birth: "*Are you a teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?*" (John 3:10).

From the perspective of the new Covenant and new life in Christ, being born again is the point at which you shift from religious observances being the center of your spiritual life, to putting your full trust and reliance in Jesus as your LORD. As your Head, Jesus guides and empowers your daily life through His indwelling Spirit. This is the way of Kingdom Living.

•We share our own life stories of Kingdom living as the characters "Jack and Dee" in our Kingdom Living Today series: <<https://restorationministries.org/kingdom-living-today.html>>

4. The authentic life-giving Gospel which the first followers of our Lord Jesus embraced is nothing like the false gospels that began to pop up in the teachings of the Hel-

lenist “Church Fathers”. The bitter fruit of these pagan-influenced writings are the over 38,000 competing denominations and sects within contemporary Christianity. In sharp contrast, the Gospel of the New Covenant which our Father offers us in Jesus is both unifying and intricately connected to the marriage covenant.

• Please read more about this in *The Gospel Of The Covenant Is The Pilgrimage To Salvation* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/gospofcov2.pdf>>

5. Keep in mind that there were no clergy in the earliest Church. The role of clergy in Christianity was adapted from the religious practices of pagan Hellenism in the second century. And the clergy system which has been in place throughout the world is the outgrowth of Nicolaitanism, a practice which our Lord hates and has promised to war against (Revelation 2:6,15,16). On this subject see:

• *I Hate Nicolaitanism* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/i-hate-nicolaitanism.pdf>>

• or, *God’s Clergy-less Kingdom* <[https://restorationministries.org/download/god-sclergylesskingdom%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/god-sclergylesskingdom%20(1).pdf)>

6. Before clergy began to dominate Christianity in the second century, the Kingdom which Jesus came to establish on earth was to be equipped and given unity through the mutual cooperation of anointings:

*“And Jesus Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **shepherd-teachers**, for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together **by what every joint supplies**, according to the **effective working by which every part does its share**, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”* (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Our Lord’s first followers would have understood these anointings because they were already an integral part of the Hebraic Stream before the birth of Jesus. These roles were already in place among the Hebrews.

• An apostle (Heb. shaliach/Gk. apostolos) was a person sent forth to an appointed place on a mission. This is not a position of dominance either through ecclesiastical position or anointing. An apostle is a person used by our Lord to complete a specific mission. The Twelve, then Paul, received special commissioning from Jesus. But note other believers who are referred to as apostles, such as Andronicus and Junias (Romans 16:7), Barnabas (Acts 14:14), and Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25).

• An evangelist (Heb. magid/Gk. euaggelistes) was a synagogue planter and repairer. This person not only shares the Gospel, but also gathers together a faith family

which he will leave in the responsible care of the elders, the older shepherd/teachers in their midst. Timothy and Titus preached because they were both evangelists and faith family planters: “*But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry*” (2 Timothy 4:5), and, “*The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you*” (Titus 1:5).

- A prophet (Heb. esha’elohim or nabi/Gk. prophetes) was one to whom and through whom God spoke for the benefit of His people, often confronting unconfessed sin so they might repent. Prophets generally functioned beyond the confines of the Hebrew synagogue, while Paul expanded that function to include prophetic messages shared within worship gatherings in the gift of prophecy.

- A shepherd/teacher. (Heb. zaken/Gk. poimen) was a gray-haired man of leadership who imparted wisdom and counsel to a specific group of people. As a teacher (Heb. rab/Gk. didaskalos) he rightly divided the Word, and through dialogue helped bring clarity to others in applying God’s commands as a way of life.

Please understand this important distinction: The older man of wisdom, the shepherd/teacher, didn’t preach at the followers of Jesus. Preaching is for the *evangelist* to use with unbelievers. The shepherd dialogued with followers of Jesus who often sat in a circle. As they talked, he helped his flock apply God’s commands to their personal life.

- For the difference between teaching and preaching See *Spot 5. Dialoguing vs Preaching: Who’s Talking?* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/5.spot-on.pdf>>.

- Please read *Pastoring By Elders* for a more complete understanding of the shepherd/teacher and how his role applies to home fellowships: <<https://restorationministries.org/download/pastoring-by-eldersr.pdf>>.

- You can learn the dialogue process of applying God’s commands by reading *Christian Halakhahs—Loving Jesus Through The Way You Apply His Word* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/christian-halakhahsr.pdf>>

Finally, our Father shows regard for families and the varying cultures in the world. Each family or culture who walks in Christ has the right to apply God’s commands to their own way of life, discerning from the Holy Spirit and God’s Word which family or cultural practices violate His commands and which don’t. White European ecclesiastical leaders took upon themselves this privilege which our Lord Jesus gave to all who put their trust in Him. The result of this domination was that as Christianity spread around the globe, syncretistic pagan practices were adapted and became hallowed within European Christianity. These unbiblical practices were then mandated in other cultures.

In wonderful contrast, the scriptural Hebraic foundations give back to each family and culture their privilege and responsibility to apply God’s commands to their way of life so that He may be praised and the Name of Jesus lifted up in all nations (see Revelation 7:9).