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...the grafting of the "wild olive shoot" into the old stump enables the new shoot to now share in "the nourishing root of the olive tree"

The Salvation Series To Be Grafted In

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a citizen of the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:19)

*"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, **do not be arrogant toward the branches.** If you are, remember **it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.** Then you will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief (in Yeshua as the Messiah), but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if YHVH did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. **Note then the***

***kindness and the severity of YHVH:** severity toward those who have fallen, but YHVH's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for YHVH has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree." Romans 11:17-24*

What does it mean to be "grafted into" something? The Greek word translated into the English "grafted" is **egkentrizo** (**click on highlighted words to view content**) and means "to cut into for the sake of inserting a scion (a young shoot or twig of a plant)" and clearly, indicated by the same usage given to it in *Sha'ul's* (the Hebrew apostle Paul) letter to the Romans at the start of this article, does not mean a "replacing" or "negating" of the original as the religion Christianity asserts. Context is everything when trying to divide the Truth contained in scripture properly. *Sha'ul* says in the **opening verses** of this same chapter that the Father, YHVH, **has not rejected** His Family, Israel. In fact, he says a bit further in this same letter that the very reason the Messiah became a servant to the circumcised was "...to show YHVH's truthfulness in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs and in order that the Gentiles might glorify YHVH for his mercy" (**Romans 15:8-12**, quoting from **2Samuel 22:50** and **Psalms 18:49** to support his conclusion). Contrarily, Christianity teaches that all Hebrews "rejected Jesus by crucifying Him" and, as a result, a "new" covenant was born on the day of Pentecost whereby Christianity is now the recipient of all the covenantal blessings and promises of the Hebrew God, YHVH. Known as **Replacement Theology**, it has become the "mainstream" view of most Christian theologians today. However, both of these ideas are not consistent with scripture. To say that all Israelites "rejected the Messiah" (the underlying theme of Replacement Theology) is to ignore the masses of Hebrews that followed Him everywhere during His Life and, afterwards, continued to embrace His Life. To underscore their statement, most Christians point to the episode in Pilate's courtyard to where those in attendance clamored for Barabbas' freedom thus sentencing Yeshua to death. But, those who "rejected Him" that day were, in fact, very few in number and most certainly did not comprise the whole of Israel. At the **Gabbatha** (since renamed **the Lithostrotos**, in Greek meaning "stone of pavement" so called because of the carvings on the huge stones which made up the flooring) in attendance that day were the priests and elders of the Pharisees as **Luke 23:13-18** and **Luke 24:20** support. While there may have been some, generally speaking, it was not the common "men of the street" crowded into that plaza but those in league with those who had turned Yeshua over to Pilate to begin with (**John 18:28-32**). It was only a select few of those comprising the ruling council of chief priests and Pharisees who felt threatened by Yeshua's presence with an agenda of seeing Him removed that were gathered there that day to make sure He was crucified.

Most Christians have been taught that Christianity (**the Church**) was founded at Pentecost and will point to **Acts 2** as the scriptural validation of this belief. What is interesting about that statement is - that is not what those words of scripture say. Words mean things. So, if we can set aside all the theological rhetoric surrounding this subject for a brief moment and just look at the words on the page for what they say and mean - we find quite a different picture presented than what is commonly accepted.

"And they were all filled with the breath of Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem **Hebrews, devout men from every nation under heaven**. And at this sound the multitude came together and they were bewildered because each one was hearing them speak in his own **DIALECT**." Acts 2:4-6

Understanding that the reason there were Hebrews from every nation there that day is key to understanding what these words mean. This was the Hebrew Feast of *Yom Shavu'ot* (replaced by the English word **Pentecost**) that Hebrews to this day travel great lengths to Jerusalem to attend. To know that simple fact puts a whole different light of perspective upon these words. It was here that 3000 **Hebrews** were added to that very day (**verse 41**). Each Hebrew community in each of those nations had a different dialect of Hebrew they spoke from the influence of the language of the nation they were in (click to see **Acts 2:6** in the Original Greek Interlinear Version to verify it was Hebrew *dialects* - not different languages). According to the words written, even in the English translation - with the exception of a few proselytes to the Hebrew faith mentioned in **verse 11**, there is *nothing mentioned* about any **Gentiles** being in attendance that day. For us to arbitrarily place Gentiles into that context becomes *eisegesis* (reading *into* the text) rather than *exegesis* (reading *out of* the text). History tells us there were no "Christians" around for at least another 250 to 300 years. Peter's sermon on **Yom Shavu'ot** (day of Pentecost) was entirely Hebraic, copiously quoting from the prophets and David, which would have meant little to any Gentiles in earshot (had there been any). To understand who the 5000 added to those of the Way mentioned in **Acts 4:4** were, you need to begin in **Acts 3** to see that Peter and John were addressing **Hebrews** assembled in Solomon's porch. It was 5000 **Hebrews** who were added to the Way that day - again, no mention of Gentiles being present. Also, the Hebrew phrase *ruach ha kodesh* (reading right to left is Hebrew for "*the holiness of spirit*") is widely considered to be the equivalent to the English "Holy Spirit" appearing in their bibles. This is incorrect as there is no capitalization in Hebrew; thus, there is no personification, no third person "**Holy Spirit**". What is the holiness of spirit? Holiness is the Nature abiding in Spirit, Who is YHVH. Holiness of spirit is something that is *cultivated*. What was given to those present that day was the "breath of Life" of the Father, YHVH, as it originally given to **the first Hebrew**, Adam - fulfilling **His promise**.

Further, if Gentiles had already received the infilling (not baptism) of the breath of Life at *Shavu'ot*, then why was there such a commotion made over that event seemingly happening *again* at the house of the righteous Gentile, Cornelius, **eight chapters** (several years) later? We can be fairly certain of the time frame from what we are given in **Acts 11:28**. Understanding that *Shavu'ot* took place a few weeks after Yeshua's death at age 33 and Claudius Caesar became Emperor of Rome in 41CE, then **Peter's vision** and his visit to Cornelius could have been at any time between 35 and 40CE. Also, notice the similarity in description of Cornelius in verse 2 as that of the Hebrews in Acts 2 above being "...**a devout man** who feared YHVH with his entire household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to YHVH."



...Cornelius' house

Cornelius was a Gentile already actively involved in the *Hebrew faith*. Despite Christianity's claim that the event of Pentecost was solely for them, what happened on *Yom Shavu'ot* was the fulfillment of the **Promise** of the Restoration of YHVH's Kingdom by the indwelling of YHVH's Spirit into the hearts of His Family *of Israel*, creating a "new" Temple for YHVH to dwell in - from **without to within**. When a person becomes a citizen of any kingdom in the world, there is no question about whether that citizenship includes a behavioral observance of the laws governing that kingdom. Why would anyone think that citizenship in YHVH's Kingdom is any different? Scripture tells us that Gentiles are grafted **INTO** the Hebrew Kingdom of YHVH of which Yeshua is **presently the King of** - not the other way around. Yeshua even proclaimed it to be **His Father's Kingdom**. If Christians say that they are citizens of YHVH's Kingdom, then what gives them the audacity to pick and choose which of His instructions and definitions apply to them?

Could it be they are following the **tradition of men** instead of the Words of the Son? "But, what about all the millions who have followed Christianity for the past 1700 years - were they all deceived?" is often a common retort given by those who want to justify their position in defiance of the Words of YHVH. Just because a belief becomes popular does not make it Truth. Many millions of the Islamic religion over centuries have died believing Allah is a supreme god - are they also exempt from the Truth of scripture simply because they believe wholeheartedly in a popular cultural phenomena?

So, just where does Christianity come up with the idea it has a claim on the promises given to the patriarchs *of Israel* apart from that Family? For that answer, we have to research some history. In its earliest years, *haderek nozerim* (Hebrew for the Way of the Nazarene) composed a somewhat tolerated subset within larger Israel. After the national tragedy of the destruction of the Temple in 70CE, however, evidence of formal persecution of the followers of **the Way** by the religious rabbinical leaders can be detected. This included the addition of the (infamous) **Birkat HaMinim**, a "blessing" (composed by the Sanhedrin at Yavneh) that was added to the weekday *Amidah* which invoked a curse on followers of the Way of the *Nozerim* (as well as the Essenes). Hebrews unwilling to recite the *Birkat HaMinim* were suspected of heresy and subject to *cherem* (excommunication). This rift between the followers of Yeshua and Rabbinic Judaism was intensified during the bloodiest of the Hebrew-Roman wars, the *Bar Kokhba* Revolt (132-135 CE). The Hebrew sage Rabbi Akiva convinced the Sanhedrin at Yavneh to support the revolt and actually regarded its leader (Simon Bar Kokhba) to be the Hebrew Messiah. Since the Hebrew followers of Yeshua could not support such a claim (and therefore could not support the war), the divide between Rabbinical Judaism and the early followers of the Way became sealed - each becoming cloistered in their respective communities. Concurrent with the rejection of *the Way of the Nazarene* by the rabbinic leaders of ethnic Israel and, with more and more Gentiles coming to faith over the next several hundreds of years, the Hebrew roots of Yeshua began to be forgotten. This "forgetfulness" was solidified by the aggressive promotion among various Gentile Christian teachers of the first few centuries who, *influenced by Greek philosophy* (read **My Big Fat Greek Mindset**, [part one](#) and [part two](#) for an in-depth look at how most come to see the scriptures from an altered viewpoint), advocated severing themselves from the historic Hebraic root. The Gentile "Church" then came into prominence as a distinct entity from Israel, with its own mission and purpose - thus "replacing" the Hebrew root with a new religion. Sampling the teaching of many of the early Gentile Christian leaders, considered the "fathers" of modern Roman Catholicism reveals the "Gentilization" of what became known as the Greek *ekklesia*:

- **Marcion of Sinope** (110-160 CE) was a Hellenist steeped in the ideas of Plato and Gnosticism and wanted to separate Christianity from any connection with Judaism and the Torah.
- **Justin Martyr** (100-165 CE), an early Christian apologist, wrote his "Dialogue with Trypho the Hebrew" in which he claimed that God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid, and that the Gentiles had replaced them.
- **Tertullian** (160-220 CE) was another Gentile Christian apologist who blamed the Hebrews for the death of Jesus.
- **Origen** (263-339 CE) founded a school in Alexandria Egypt that taught the allegorical interpretation of Scripture. Origen was heavily influenced by neo-Platonic Gnosticism. He was also an anti-semite who accused the Hebrews of plotting to kill Christians.
- **Eusebius** (263-339 CE) wrote an influential history of the church that blamed the calamities which befell the Hebrew nation on the Hebrews' role in the death of Jesus.
- **John Chrysostom** (344-407 CE) denounced Hebrews in a series of sermons to Christians who were taking part in Hebrew festivals and other Hebraic observances.
- **Jerome** (347-420 CE) produced the Latin translation of the Bible which became the official bible of the "Catholic Church" which had now become the sole patriarch of Christianity. He said, Hebrews "...are incapable of understanding Scripture and should be severely punished until they confess the true faith."
- **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430 CE) spiritualized the kingdom of God and introduced amillennialism thinking into the Gentile Church. Augustine maintained that the Hebrews deserved death but were destined to wander the earth to witness the victory of "Church" over synagogue.

As you can see, these "fathers of Christianity" had a deliberate agenda of separation from anything Hebraic and whose philosophies eventually became the foundation of that religion - something Yeshua **absolutely denied**. Besides these Gentile "Church" leaders who rejected the Hebraic root of faith, various Catholic Church Councils of the third and fourth centuries likewise rejected Hebrew influence within the Church, completely abandoning the Hebrew influence of the Way of Yeshua. These include the Council of Elvira (306 CE), the Council of Nicaea (325 CE), the Council of Antioch (341 CE), the Council of Laodicea (434 CE), and so on. These councils went so far as to forbid Hebrew and Christian intermarriage, the observance of Pesach (Passover) and worship on **the Sabbath day**. The Reformers tried to return the Gentile Church to its early roots, but sadly this did not involve a return to the *Hebrew* roots of the original followers of The Way. Instead, in changing some of the positions advocated by Martin Luther (1483-1586) nailed to the door of the Catholic Church, he kept everything



else the Catholics embraced. His frustration with Hebrews unwilling to embrace his own interpretation of Protestant Catholicism caused him to become one of the bitterest anti-Semites in history. His writings described Hebrews as "worse than devils." Hebrews were "poisoners," "ritual murderers," and "parasites," who should be expelled from Germany. He even went so far as to rouse the mob to "burn synagogues to the ground," and seize Hebrew holy books. Later on, Adolf Hitler would tell Germany that his Final Solution was just an attempt to finish the work that Luther had begun.

You might say, "Well I don't believe what these guys say. I don't even know who they are"; but, if you believe there are two parts of the Book, a "new" covenant or testament and an "old" one, then you are operating under the influence of these men and their teaching because that concept did not exist prior to their injection of it into the Christian religion. It can not be

found in the words of Yeshua or in any of the epistles. The subject of Christian anti-Semitism is vast and should be soberly studied by all serious seekers of Truth. In order for these "Christian" ideas of Replacement Theology to coincide with scripture so as to be accepted by their followers, a redefining of the words and terms contained in scripture becomes necessary - even to the extent of **renaming** their new replacement god to "Jesus" and the downplay of YHVH to a "**God of mankind**" instead of Who He is consistently called in scripture from Genesis to Revelation - the Holy One of Israel.

*"If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, **but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness.** I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. **Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: I will not lie to David.** His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." Selah. Psalm 89:30-37*

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To Be Grafted In - a discussion



???Questions???

Please feel free to email me at harold@hethathasaneer.com. While not claiming to have all the answers, it would be an honor to partake with you of what Spirit is uncovering.

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