

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK THIRTY SEVEN.

I find it fascinating that the general consensus regarding Christianity and Judaism is that, “The Christians have Jesus and the Jews have the Law and never the two will meet”.

Is this a correct biblical position, because if so then the House of Israel will stay a divided House, forever fighting amongst itself, leading and continuing past atrocities!

Conversations about Jesus with religious Jews, especially leadership, usually start and end with, “Jesus is not compatible with Judaism”. If Yeshua was as the Christian church portrays Him, then I would have to agree. Fortunately Yeshua is not as the Christian church portrays Him and thus not only is He compatible with Judaism, but he unveils and guides us towards biblical Judaism, the faith for the Whole House of Israel. Conversations about the Torah with Christians, especially leadership, usually start and end with, “Jesus did away with the Torah, and we are now under grace, and any who try to keep the Torah are putting themselves under a curse”. With such sentiments we can easily see that if the status quo continues, then the “Two will never meet”.

In our Yeshivas and Seminaries it is generally taught that the “New Testament”, is a Christian document and that the Old Testament is a Jewish document, and that they are vastly different documents. Again, if this be true, then it is probable that “the two” will never meet. The question we should ask is, are the current teachings emanating from our Yeshivas and Seminaries [on this subject] correct? Is the New Testament bringing a new message that differs from the Old Testament? It is fair to say that both current Rabbinical Judaism and Christianity would answer yes. Once again, if the New Testament was a document expressing the theology that the Christian church teaches then I would have to agree. Fortunately the New Testament is not a document that supports the Christian theology on Torah and HaMoshiach. I would encourage any who want to explore this subject in more depth to order and read Rabbi Mordecai Silver’s book “The Torah is Valid”. None the less, let us view a common scripture that is used by Christians that the New Testament teaches against embracing the Torah of Moshe.

“But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the Law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor”.
Galatians 3:23-25 [NASB]

“Before the coming of the faith however, under law we were being kept inward, being shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. So that the law hath proved our tutor training us for Moshiach, in order that by faith we might be declared righteous; but the faith having come no longer are we under a tutor.” Galatians 3:23-25 [TEB]

From these passages Christians teach that the Law/Torah and Yeshua HaMoshiach have little in common. They teach that once you become a believer in “Jesus” then the Law is no longer valid for your life. On the surface it may look like an argument with foundation. Barnes for instance writes the following in his, “New Testament Popular Commentary”, on Galatians page 352, **“The bondage and servitude have passed away; and we are free from the burdensome ceremonies and expensive rites of the Jewish law, and from the sense of condemnation which it imposes.....Thus under the law, men were under restraints, and subject to heavy exactions. Under the Gospel, they are free, and admitted with the privileges of the sons of God”**. Barnes is saying that the Torah is a burdensome load to carry, and once you become a Christian then you can dispense with this “tutor” and live a life free of what he sees as constraint. This is just one example of foundational Christian teaching reducing the importance of Torah in the life of every citizen of biblical Israel. Yet if one digs a little deeper and employs some common sense then one will see that this Christian teaching has no foundation.

Firstly and importantly Paul is confirming the importance of the Torah. Paul tells us that it is the Torah that leads us to HaMoshiach. Let us look at how different versions of the Bible translate the word **PAIDAGOGOS**.

KJV - The law was our **school master** *to bring us* unto Christ...

NASB - ...the law has become **our Tutor** *to lead us* to Christ...

Greens LTV - ...the law has become **a trainer** of us *until* Christ....

The Scriptures - ...the Torah became **our trainer** unto Messiah...

NKJV -the law was **our tutor** *to bring us* to Christ....

Emphasized Bible - ...the law hath proved **our tutor** training us for Christ...

CJB - ...the torah functioned as **a custodian** until the Messiah came...

The NJB - the law was servicing as a slave to look after us to lead us to Christ...

It is important we understand this word **PAIDAGOGOS** in light of Christian theology proclaiming the Torah is no longer valid for those who believe "Jesus" to be Messiah. According to Zodhiates in his Complete Word Study Dictionary, at the time Yeshua and Paul were walking the earth, a paidagogos was a slave who conducted the boys from home to the school. Barnes on page 351 in his New Testament Popular Commentary on Galatians also says that the paidagogos was **"a slave or a freedman to whose care boys were committed, and who accompanied them to the public schools"**. Barnes goes on to say, **"It is true, that when the paidagogos was properly qualified, he assisted the children committed to his care in preparing their lessons"**. In using the word **paidagogos** Paul is telling his audience how crucial the Torah is in leading people to the correct path of redemption through HaMoshiach Yeshua. The Torah is not then discarded like some old piece of used furniture no longer fit to use, may it never be. No, once we have been led and guided to school, we then engage in even greater study of Torah. This is the very reason The Master Himself said!

"Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. In truth I tell you, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, is to disappear from the Law until all its purpose is achieved. Therefore, anyone who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but the person who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:17-19 [NJB]

We know that Judah was given the divine responsibility of keeping and guarding the Torah until HaMoshiach comes, then it is He who will show us how we should live according to the Torah. The word translated as **complete** [in the above version] in this context means to fully explain the Torah. Yeshua did this by Word and action. He both taught and lived the perfect Torah. Without the Torah we cannot be led to HaMoshiach, and when we are led to HaMoshiach we begin in earnest our study of Torah. Without embracing both Torah and HaMoshiach, we the Children of Israel, cannot receive the prophecies outlined in Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

"and I will make them one nation in the land, and on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. And

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.” Ezekiel 37:22-24 [NASB]

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the House of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Jeremiah 31:33 [NASB]

Could it be any clearer that we Children of Israel are required to embrace both HaMoshiach and Torah becoming echad as a nation, committed to HaShem? Paul is confirming that the Torah is vital and it is the Torah that is the voice of HaMoshiach, calling us home.

“And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.” John 10:16 [NASB]

May we suggest that **“this fold”** was those from Judah, and those that were described as **“other sheep”** are from Ephraim? I say this because it follows the pattern described in our texts from Ezekiel and Jeremiah. We hear the voice of HaMoshiach through the Torah, and that applies to both Houses of Israel.

Before we finish this article, let us return to the role of the paidagogos and quickly review his function. It can be likened to that of a guardian leading the student to their Master. It is said in ancient Greece that the well off had a house slave whose job it was to guard the children to and from school. That slave also taught those children the basics of what was needed to distinguish between right and wrong. This can be likened to the Ten Words - known by most Christians, playing a role in bringing them to HaMashiach. However obedience to them continues and the expansion of them needs to be learnt.

The passages in Galatians have nothing what so ever to do with teaching believers that once one has faith in Yeshua as Moshiach then the Torah is no longer valid. Paul is simply saying that once you have been lead to Yeshua, by the Torah, then that function has been played out and you should not look to it for your redemption. It was the paidagogos that led you to HaMoshiach, the One who brings you back to the Household of HaShem. It is our disobedience of Torah that has us in a position needing redemption, and it is foolish to think after redemption we can discard the very instructions of HaShem that paved the way for us to come home. We must remember that the purpose of the letter to the Galatians revolved around the battle for authority. Paul was trying to bring these foolish Galatians back to the true Torah - HaMoshiach Yeshua and the written Torah as given by HaShem to Moshe, not the rules and regulations of learned men. I have no doubt both Kingdoms of Israel will receive some serious revision and teaching from HaMoshiach when He rules as King over His nation Israel. We have had our vision distorted and clouded by allowing it to be sullied with our

foolish pride. Instead of following and embracing HaMoshiach and the Torah of HaShem, we have replaced them with our own “messiahs” and “torah”. This should never be, and perhaps it is time we took a step backwards and engaged a paidagogus to lead us to the House of HaShem and HaMoshiach.

Truly there is no God like our God, the God of Israel and no nation like the Nation whom He elected.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

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