



Mainstream Religions and God's Word

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible its contents. The contents of this book are based entirely on God's word and aim to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to the ultimate Master, Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and the Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His wonderful gift to us all... the Tanakh and the Brit ha'Dashah. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest in seeking the truth. There is no conspiracy theory involved in Bible truth.

Proverbs 28:9 KJV He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

When we begin to study the word of Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob it is necessary to bear in mind our dedication to the obedience of His Written Law (Torah), as you will see this progress through this book. It is a fact that you cannot love Almighty God whilst not being obedient to His commandments. 1John 5:3.

May I encourage you to read the whole work and check with your Bible to prove the harmony and context of the quoted text, if you have any questions please contact me on the email above and I will do my best to answer your question(s) but, please have in mind that the object of this book is to encourage its readers to question their faith and to draw those who are truly seeking to return to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, it is not an invite to encourage argument as to who is right and who is wrong, there can ever only be ONE truth and this book has its basis on Almighty God's word, the infallible Bible. Also, please be in mind of Yeshua's (Jesus') words; John 6:44 *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day"*. With this in mind I do not expect everyone to immediately accept this book's content but if you are truly led by the Ruach ha'Kodesh it will certainly cause you to consider its contents as they start to reveal the erroneous doctrines and dogmas of your particular religion, whether that be Judaism, Christian or Islam.

I have produced this work and I will offer it to all people of all nations openly and freely ad infinitum as instructed by the Master; Matthew 10:8 *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give"*.

We may not have the capacity to heal, cleanse, raise the dead or cast out devils today but we can certainly fulfil the latter.

Most importantly, I produced this work on the basis of the fruitage of the spirit, the object is to expose false doctrine, I do not possess the authority to condemn the people who continue to support false religion. I will leave that to a much higher authority. But I fear my Father so much that I would be considered blood guilty if I didn't warn anyone concerning the coming judgement where neither Judaism, Christianity, Islam or any other man-made worldly religion will result in your salvation, it is purely your choice as to which road you will take, to coin a phrase "its either Gods way or the highway", I pray that you make the right choice because, by the grace of the creator of the whole universe, I hope to see you in His new kingdom on the new earth.

Mark. I. Percival

PREFACE

There are a few considerations that we must be aware of before we start to research this topic. We cannot expect to arrive at an accurate overview if we allow any of our religious pre-conceptions pollute our understanding of the situations that were prevalent in the periods when both the Tanakh (Old Testament) and Brit ha'Dashah (New Covenant/Testament) were written. Jewish and gentile misunderstanding of the life and conditions of the people of those times has resulted in many erroneous translations which have mislead the honest hearted ones down a path that is contrary to the truth.

Unlike the situation we find ourselves in today, the Israelites did not have a personal copy of God's word, they had no way of finding out for themselves what the laws of Yehovah (Torah), Prophets (Nevi'im) or Writings (K'Tuvim) were instructing them to do, they relied on the scriptures being read and explained by the kohanim (priests) at the three pilgrimage festivals and were expected to memorise the contents. This method lasted right up until the 14th century CE when the Bible began translation from the Latin vulgate into the language that the common people (laity) in various countries could understand.

Although the Tanakh had been translated from Hebrew to Greek (Septuagint [LXX]), then from Greek to Latin (Vulgate, 382CE) then the Brit ha'Dashah from Hebrew/Greek to Latin, it remained very much in the realm of the clergy (learned) to interpret and instruct the laity how to follow the instructions of those that "understood" the scriptures. The "laity" were not to attempt to read the Bible, if a common person (not of the clergy class) was found with a copy of the Bible they faced extremely harsh punishment, even death.

To become a follower of Yeshua we do not have to attend any special school such as a seminary or gain a doctorate in theological studies so as to impress our doctrinal prowess upon those we consider to be of a lesser theocratical stature, the prefix "Dr" or "Prof" or the suffix "PhD" has little recognition in the seeking the will of Almighty God, the will of Almighty God far exceeds any human credentials, remember, we are ALL human and, as such are liable to error and our own agenda. It is also worthy of note that none of Yeshua's chosen disciples were of the "learned" class however, it is of vital importance that we do not attempt to understand the Bible from our own modern concepts, to give it justice we all must first learn the conditions and the way of life that those ancient people were living from a Hebraic perspective, which is vastly different to the Hellenistic vision of how the western world sees the Bible, it is a fact that God's Word the Bible is a Hebrew library that was written by Hebrews for Hebrews and the Hebraisms contained therein are often misunderstood by the Hellenistic filter the west uses to interpret the meanings. (*2Peter 3:16*).

We mostly take for granted the recent information technology explosion which has given us easy access to the scriptures, I even have an app on my mobile phone that gives

me virtual instant access to many Bible translations so we have absolutely no excuse not to get to know what the Bible tells us.

Another sobering thought is that, even if we do not accept that there is a creator that brought all things into existence, we cannot escape the fact that, whether we like it or not, we are still under His rules for example, if we are pulled over for a transgression of the traffic laws it will do us no good to say to the police officer “I don’t believe in the traffic laws” and expect to be admonished. We are all responsible for our own actions and answerable only to Almighty God, whether we believe in Him or not!

Most of what we understand about the Bible today is given to us from a Western psyche, to a greater extent Christendom has interpreted the Bible from the conditions that existed in the Roman world and not from the middle east where it all started.

As mentioned briefly above, the ancient Hebrew psyche is completely different to the “modern” Hellenistic way of thinking.

Due to their lack of understanding of the Hebrew mindset, doctrines of Christendom are based on people that did not know exactly what the apostles of Yeshua were talking about, this led to our current erroneous conclusions concerning “The Way” as it was first known. From this error stems the misconception that the apostle Sha’ul (Paul) taught a different gospel than that of Yeshua. This error becomes blatantly obvious if you take the time to actually read and compare the epistles of Paul. Instead of blindly accepting what we are told, we must be absolutely sure that we possess the accurate knowledge that enables us to walk in spirit and truth.

In all his epistles and ministry, Sha’ul NEVER contradicted the teachings of Almighty God as taught by Yeshua, he kept the law (written Torah) of Yehovah and attended all the Moedim (appointed times) as commanded in the torah. Let no one tell you that, as followers of Yeshua we no longer need to keep the law (torah) given to the Israelites by Almighty God Yehovah and instructed by Moses. The Torah is the law of the new kingdom (*Matthew 6:10*) and if you break the law of the new kingdom then you can expect to be removed from that kingdom as you would in any worldly kingdom. These are not my words, they are what Yehovah has instructed us.

Another point to consider is that, after the death of the apostle John, the leadership of what later became known as “Christianity”, fell to those who were not fully conversant with Torah, they were all men of the nations (called goyim or gentiles by the Jews), which allowed the philosophy of the Greek Plato and other philosophers to infiltrate the formation of their doctrine which is known as denomonatialism.

Yeshua (Jesus) did not come to start a new religion; he came to earth to show the wayward people the route back to Almighty God. John (son of Zechariah) called all the Israelites to repent, even the Sadducees and Pharisees because of their Oral Torah (Talmudic) practices had transgressed the law of Yehovah. Those that truly wish to follow Yeshua will keep the WRITTEN torah as he did.

It is important that some clarification as to the identification of what it means to become a follower of Yeshua. As we progress through this booklet, we will find that, if we have been in the “Christian” or “Islamic” religions that we have been misguided by those who have also been misguided by their religious doctrines and traditions of men, this has led to nationalism and boasting, both of which Almighty God takes an extremely dim view of. Christendom in particular has been at the forefront of so much heresy that it is hard to distinguish the teachings of God’s word from the paganism of the nations, there is little wonder why the followers of Islam identify members of Christendom as “infidels”.

Although Islam identify much more closely with the torah and the followers of Islam have much stricter adherence to their Qur’an they have also let outside influence leach its way into their doctrines. The Qur’an is supposedly based on the first five books (torah) of the Hebrew Tanakh but the imams, over the millennia, have also added sura’s (verses) to the Holy Qur’an in order to convert, by extreme force and even death, if necessary, those who reject their particular form of religion (*Surah 5:33*). This is in total contrast to Yeshua who taught his followers to “love your enemy”. (*Matthew 5:44*).

In light of this situation does it mean that all of us, must become Jews? Absolutely not. There is much misunderstanding within the three Abrahamic faiths concerning Jews and Judaism which I will bring out later in this study however, if you are a rabbinic Jew you will know that I will be highlighting the two torah’s that you use in your Pharisaic religion, one is the true Torah that was given to Moshe at Mt Sinai and is known as the “Written” Torah and another torah that was devised during the exile in Babylon in order to maintain worship of Adonai without the existence of the temple, this is known as the “Oral” torah and from this came the Mishnah, Talmud (Babylonian and Jerusalem) and the Gemara. If you know your religion you will also know that most of the sects in Judaism hold the “Oral” torah higher than the “Written” Torah of Moshe. For this reason you will also know why the religious leaders of Judaism hated Yeshua so much for he spoke out against the “Oral” torah, as did Sha’ul of Tarsus after his enlightenment.

When you compare all three religions you will find that there is not much difference between any of them, they have all let the Leven infiltrate their doctrines but, thanks to the Almighty God that we all share there is a way out that means life but, like Moshe told the Israelite nation at Deuteronomy 11:26-28 where He gave them two choices.

The topic of religion is one of the most sensitive and personal subjects that we can approach, in many cases one’s religion is not just a superficial idea that they half-heartedly say that they “believe”, it goes much deeper than that, it penetrates the very essence of people and causes them to act on that which they believe to be the truth. The effect of religion can either be positive or negative, the problem we face as humans, when it comes to religion, is the discernment of the identification of the path that we must chose to follow, bearing in mind the reality that “Almighty God created man, but man created religion”.

The Cambridge dictionary defines religion as “*the belief in and worship of a god or gods, or any such system of belief and worship.*” Most common dictionaries identify the word religion in the sense of a theocratic organisation, whether that be Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Hindu or the plethora of world beliefs, including Satanism however, in reality it goes much deeper than this simplified thought. Religion can be more accurately defined as the following of and worship of a person, commodity or image. In other words, the individual chooses their religion by whatever they wish to venerate making the term religion an all-encompassing description which is not just confined to an individual’s theology or spirituality, this is a common misconception.

For example, a friend of mine loves to play golf, if he has any spare time you will find him on the golf course playing his beloved game. Whilst this is, in essence not necessarily wrong for we all have activities that give us pleasure, it can be said that golf is his god. Another example would be a person that loves DIY, to that person having a nice house and garden becomes of paramount importance, or someone who adores cars, they become objects of desire to them. There is nothing wrong with wanting a nice home or a nice car, but when that desire becomes an obsession that’s where the person crosses the Rubicon, they move from simply liking to worshipping their object which gives them pleasure.

Now that we have established the definition of what the word religion is we can now discern the positive and negative sides.

I would assume that we can all see the many negative sides but we can actually bring it down to one easy explanation, it can cause a person to lose focus in terms of what is right and what seems to be right, it has the tendency to blind the individual to reality. As people seek to find fulfilment in that which they consider their religion, that religion replaces Almighty God, becoming idolatry.

In this study, as in other studies, I will concentrate primarily on Judaism and Christianity as these religions are the seed of many sub-religious groups, denominations and sects including Islam.

Let us now investigate these two religions step-by-step so we can get a clear, basic understanding of these world religions. I will bring out the main points of both as if I were to go into a detailed description of each it would take up volumes.

Is God’s Word the Bible Connected with Religion?

By this question you are most likely to have a pre-conceived answer and, like most people you would answer yes, but is this the actual case? As always, we will let the Bible answer that question for itself.

You will probably be shocked to find out that, contrary to popular belief, God’s word the Bible is not a religious book rather, it is a library of 66 books, a gift from God, His ‘Handbook of Life’ which He gave to ALL mankind, not just one section of humanity. Whilst it does identify the many pagan god’s that were worshiped by different ‘family’ groups, it positively identifies the one true Almighty God which all people of the world should worship and render Him sacred service.

This is the Almighty God whose personal name is YHVH*, creator of the whole universe and its contents both known and unknown to mankind.

According to the account in Genesis, on the 6th day of creation Almighty God created man and woman, He named the man Adam (from the Hebrew אָדָם (H121) meaning: 'Man'). The Bible tells us that all was going well until the Satan deceived Eve, she disobeys Adam by eating the produce of the tree of knowledge that was expressly forbidden, she invited Adam to partake also which unfortunately for us, brought sin and its wages of death into the world because, although Eve had disobeyed Adam, Adam had disobeyed Almighty God Himself, after Adam had been warned of the consequences it is almost incredulous that he would disobey Almighty God.

Skipping on we next come to Noah, a righteous man in YHVH's eyes for he 'walked with God' in that he kept Almighty God's instructions. He was chosen to build the vehicle that was to preserve the life of Noah and all his family, along with all the creatures of the earth.

Next in the story comes Abram who obeyed Almighty God and became His friend. It is to Abram (later to be re-named Abraham) that the covenant promise that includes all people was to come. It is a well-known fact that all these patriarchs of old, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were not Jewish, Abraham was a Syrian that was called out of Ur of the Chaldees along with all his family. It is a fallacy that Abraham was a Jew, the definition of 'Jew' is on that can trace lineage from the tribe of Judah, one of Jacob's (Israel's) 12 sons who arrived on the scene much later. And, for the record, Moses was a Levite!

The point being is that all the above people were not 'religious' in terms of today's definition, they simply followed Almighty God and did what He told them to do. To them, following God was not a religion, it was a way of life, and the basis upon which they lived their lives.

The Bible is not a religious book, it is the source of the true way of life, it is a handbook for life from our creator and saviour, an instruction manual that keeps us safe in all aspects of daily life, it answers all questions regarding the many that we ask, there is nothing hidden, no conspiracy theories, it is the word of Almighty God.

Religion came about when people started to read Almighty God's requirements using their own set of preconceptional rules, interpreting Gods word and manipulating it to suit their particular beliefs, as we will see as we read on.

Israelite or Jew?

Casting our minds back to Egypt, just before the Exodus, as we know Moses (Heb. Moshe) grew up as the adopted son of the daughter of Pharaoh, he was a Hebrew, a descendant of the tribe of Levi along with his brother Aaron and his sister Miriam. After an altercation that ended in the death of an Egyptian, Moses fled into the land of Midian where he lived as a shepherd until, at Sinai, the now 80 year old Abraham was called by Almighty God to return to Egypt and lead the Hebrew's that He was about to deliver from the hands of the Egyptians. I'm sure that you are familiar with the Exodus and the parting

of the Reed Sea (Yom Suf). The fact is that the people that Moses lead out of bondage in Egypt were not Jews, they were the Israelite Nation, the concept of Judaism did not exist at the time of the Exodus, although the tribe of Judah was obviously included in this nation, the term Jew was unknown, they were all Israelites (Hebrews). And within their ranks were people that were not in direct lineage to Abraham, these were the people of Egypt that, because of their knowledge of the Hebrew God, they attached themselves to the Israelite Nation, becoming true Israelites, to be treated as natural born Israelites. (*Lev 19:24*). After crossing the reed sea (*Yom Suf*) Almighty God guided them to Sinai where they made camp for a period of time, perhaps months or years.

This is the time when Moses was called up to Mount Sinai to receive the 613 Mitzvot, the first of these sayings (*Aseret HaDibrot*) which constitute what we commonly known as the ten commandments were handed to Moses as the representative of Beni Yisra'el.

(*Children of Israel*). These commandments were to be kept by the Israelites and all those of the non-Israelite Nations sojourning with them, it was not a two-tier system and ALL people were bound to be treated the same.

Let us now consider how the Jewish religion had its start.

Jewish v Judaism?

It is a fact that today's Judaism in its many forms, hardly bears resemblance to the teachings of Moses and those that followed him out of Egypt. Let us look back to a time just before Moses received the instructions (613 Mitzvot). Judaism did not exist at this time; it did not come to the fore until the second temple was built under Zerubbabel on the commission of Cyrus the Great.

When Moses ascended Mount Sinai he was absent from the camp of the Israelites for 40 days, many in the camp considered that some mishap had befallen him and that Moses had died on the mountain. Some of the Israelites decided that they should make an idol so they could worship something that they could see, in their lack of faith they felt that they decided that they needed something visual to worship and dedicate it to Yehovah, the Almighty God that had delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptians.



Apis was the most important and highly regarded bull deity of ancient Egypt. His original name in Egyptian was Api, **Hapi**, or Hep; **Apis** is the Greek name. He is not, however, associated with the god **Hapi**/Hep who was linked to the inundation and is depicted as the god of the river.

In essence, they could not even wait 40 days before they broke Yehovah's law. It is important to remember that these people were not Jews, they were Beni Yisra'el along with the 'foreigners' (*Gentile: from Latin gentilis 'of or belonging to the same people or nation', from gēns 'clan; tribe; people, family', Pagan*) that also accepted the law (Torah) of Yehovah and had left Egypt with Moses becoming first generation Israelites and losing their "gentile" identity.

We can learn a valuable lesson from this. The rebellious Hebrews persuaded Aaron to make an idol in the form of a golden calf, similar to the one that is worshiped in Egypt, they thought that by dedicating it to Yehovah it would be acceptable to Him, oh how wrong they were! When Moses returned to the camp with the stone tablets of the law, he witnessed Almighty God's anger at the stiff-necked Hebrews that had committed this abomination, resulting in thousands of Israelites paying for their error with their lives. **From this it is evident that if we make anything an object of veneration, even dedicating it to the worship of the one true God Yehovah, it is not acceptable to Him and it could cost us our lives.**

In the reign of Solomon's son Rehoboam, possibly due to the increase of taxes in 930 BCE ten tribes split from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and became the northern kingdom of Israel with their capital city of Samaria, the tribes of Benjamin and Judah became known as the Southern kingdom with their capital as Jerusalem. This is why Samaritans were looked down upon by their Jewish brothers.

The northern kingdom committed excessive gross sins and, in 722BCE, as a result of Yehovah's judgement against them the inhabitants were removed from their land by King Sargon II after a 3 year siege. Sargon replaced the Israelites with an influx of non-Hebrew people that were settled in the land that was once occupied by the 10 tribes, these were mostly from Assyria and the surrounding areas. Judah kept its independence for a little while under God fearing Kings like Asa, Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, Jehu, Josiah and Jotham but the majority of the kings of both Northern and Southern Kingdoms were extremely bad in the eyes of Yehovah.

Now the focus switches to the Southern Kingdom as this is where Mount Moriah is situated within Jerusalem, the place of Yehovah's first temple which was built by Solomon and completely destroyed in 586BCE by Nebuchadnezzar II and his forces. Just like the tribes of the Northern kingdom, eventually the tribes of the Southern Kingdom were held captive in Babylonian exile for 70 years until the prophecy in Isaiah 44:28 was fulfilled and, after a time, construction of the second temple, under the guidance of Zerubbabel, was initiated. It is at this time that the people began to be recognised by the name "Jew", but it was not the same pattern of worship that was given by Yehovah to Moses, there were now a group that became known as Pharisees which did not exist prior to the Babylon captivity. It was this sect of Judaism that introduced the Synagogue structure and rabbinic rituals which came about because they were deprived of the Temple worship as the Temple had been destroyed. These rabbis manufactured a form of religion that is based upon their interpretation of Yehovah's torah, they introduced the fictitious 'oral' torah and the Talmud (a series of Biblical commentaries by the "sages"). This Talmud (oral torah) slowly replaced the Mosaic written Torah in importance, this became the basis of rabbinic (orthodox) Judaism that we can still see today.

Sadducees and Pharisees

The 400 years between the last prophet, Malachi and the coming of Yeshua are relatively silent in scripture. This period is when Alexander the Great and his armies were sweeping through the middle east and Jerusalem came under the control of the Greek empire. Although Alexander was sensitive to the Jewish nation, when he met an untimely death at 32 years of age, the Greek empire that he had built was split into four provinces that were governed by four of Alexanders generals, Cassander, Ptolemy, Antigonos, and Seleucus, Judea became part of the Seleucid Empire.

In 175BCE the Seleucid Empire came under the control of the notorious Antiochus IV Epiphanes, he was a despot and hated the Jewish people and their refusal to worship the plethora of Greek god's. In an effort to force the Jews to abandon their worship of the one True God Yehovah, he placed a statue of Zeus in the temple and sacrificed swine on the alter, banning circumcision and other torah laws that had been given to the Hebrews. This action proved to be the final straw for the priests and people triggering the Maccabean revolt. In 161BCE Judas Maccabeus, the leader of the Jewish revolt made a treaty with the roman republic which finally drove the Seleucids from the land. When the Romans were thanked and told that they could go home, they declined this offer, deciding to stay thus Judea swapped from a Hellenistic to a Roman province. In 30 BCE Emperor Octavian showed great favour to Herod the Great by confirming him as King of Judea on the island of Rhodes.

Among many other things, Herod the Great, as he was called, was a formidable architect, he extended the temple from the humble rebuild by Zerubbabel to what we understand as the temple mount today, although the temple was finally destroyed in c70CE by Titus.

The Pharisees were members of middle-class Jewish families that were committed to upholding the rabbinic laws as instructed in the Talmud. The Sadducees, on the other hand, hailed from the Jewish aristocracy. The Sadducees, therefore, were exposed to a more secular education than the Pharisees, and even acknowledged *Hellenism*. The main difference between the Pharisees and Sadducees concerned the understanding of the function of the oral torah in Jewish society. Leaders among the Pharisees were referred to as Rabbi (*teacher*), while most of the Sadducees functioned as priests in the temple and were members of the *Sanhedrin*. (The Levitical priesthood was now more or less defunct as all tribal records that were kept in the temple were destroyed along with the first temple and it was uncertain as to which tribe a priest belonged too). The Sadducees maintained that the first five books of the Bible, otherwise known as the *torah*, were the greatest authority on God's will for the Jews. For the Sadducees, all other laws or texts outside the sacred torah could not be counted as part of the Law. In contrast, the Pharisees believed that God did not just provide the Jews with the Written Law, but also the "oral law".

The Written Law was the torah, while the Oral law comprised of oral traditions and revelations that were given to Jewish sages who came after Moses. Essentially, the Pharisees believed that God permits men to interpret the torah by exercising their reasoning abilities to apply different laws to existing problems. The Pharisees also differed

from the Sadducees in the matters concerning the resurrection. The Pharisees believed in heaven and hell, and taught that man would be judged on the basis of his adherence to the torah and his works while on earth. The Sadducees did not believe that man would experience resurrection after physical death.

The Pharisees believed that God would send the promised messiah who would bring peace to their world, rid them of Roman rule and restore the kingdom of David. They also believed that all circumstances that affected the lives of Jews were divinely ordained. They rejected foreign ideologies and philosophies contained in Hellenism, and created numerous laws to keep the Jews from interacting with non-Jews (*goyim*) on a daily basis. The Sadducees however, did not believe in a coming messiah, and held that man has freedom of will, and creates his own circumstances.

Quite frankly, concerning this “oral torah”, I am extremely suspicious when anyone tells me something that is purported to be the truth but cannot be supported by sufficient and clear scriptural evidence. In matters as important in scripture we have to be absolutely convinced that an instruction originates from Almighty God and has undeniable evidence in Tanakh/Brit HaDashah, this demonstrates the importance of discernment. Originally the “oral law” was not transcribed, instead it was transmitted from father to son and from teacher to disciple (thus the name “oral law”). Approximately 1800 years ago, Rabbi Judah the Prince concluded that because of all the travails of Exile, he was fearful that the contents of this rabbinic “oral law” would be forgotten if it were not to be recorded. He, therefore, assembled the scholars of his generation and compiled the Mishnah, a (shorthanded) collection of all the oral teachings that preceded him. Since then, the Oral Law has ceased to be purely “oral” and as time passed more and more of the previously oral tradition was recorded. These records are known as the Mishnah, compiled between 200–220 CE by Rabbi Yehudah haNasi, and the Gemara, a series of running commentaries and debates concerning the Mishnah, which together form the Talmud, (Babylonian and Jerusalem versions).

There is no support for such an “oral torah” in the Tanakh, the only commandments that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai are the 613 mitzvot or written commandments which were personally given to Moses to be observed by, not only Jews but all people that wish to worship and glorify the true Almighty God Yehovah, the creator and rightful sovereign of the universe. By the introduction of the so called ‘oral’ torah they gave themselves licence to ‘interpret’ the torah to suit their own ends, this is an extremely dangerous position, and one which Yeshua was diametrically opposed. They added to the (oral) torah in an effort to ‘ring fence’ the laws with extra laws that placed an almost unbearable yoke on the Jewish nation. This is what Yeshua was talking about at Matthew 23:13, they “shut up the kingdom” by their excessive additions to torah, the things that were not written in the commandments that Moses carried down from Mount Sinai, they are called ‘Takkanot’, the rabbinical additions to torah. The principle that we should all adhere to is that, if it isn’t recorded in the TaNaKh then it’s not Almighty God’s word.

Anyone that follows traditional, rabbinic-based Judaism is not following the word of Almighty God, in fact, this is in opposition to Him, they are fighting against God Himself, just as Gamaliel told the religious leaders. **Rabbinic Judaism and its man-made traditions are NOT the way to salvation.**

Is Christendom the way to salvation?

What about Christianity? Do the many thousands of denominations and sects guide us to salvation? Do they adhere to all the Bible principles that Yeshua taught or do they, as in rabbinic Judaism, invent their own 'oral torah' in order to mislead many millions of faithful followers?

In order to answers to these questions, we must leave our personal beliefs on the shelf, beliefs that we have been taught, perhaps from a very early age, so as not to let them influence our Bible reading, this is called exegetical reading, where we allow the Bible to speak for itself rather than us reading meaning into the scriptures that is filtered by our religious denomination and what we ourselves understand to be correct. It is a must to continually question our own understanding and, when we realise that we are in error, we must have courage enough to replace the old with the new, by this we make progress and strengthen our faith. (2Corinthians 13:5).

The Early Church (30CE to 99CE).

Let us examine a Biblical fact... the Greek texts known as the New Testament or New Covenant (Brit HaDashah) indicates that Yeshua died around 3pm on the 4th day (Wednesday on our modern calendar), (*Mark 15:34, 37*) and placed into the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea before the feast of unleavened bread commenced at sundown on the 4th day. The next day, is noted as a 'High Shabbat' and no work could be done on this day. Yeshua spent 3 days and 3 nights asleep in death and Almighty God raised Yeshua from the dead on the third day which would be the weekly Shabbat on the 7th day (Saturday). The Bible relates that when the women came to the tomb before sunrise on the first day of the week (Sunday) they found the tomb already empty. Christendom teaches that Jesus died on Good Friday and was raised on the Sunday, no matter how much mathematical gymnastics you use you cannot fit 3 days and 3 nights between Friday and Sunday!

What we can call the true 'Early Church' was founded 50 days later when Yeshua's closest disciples and many other disciples of Yeshua received the gift of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) that came upon them, in other words, they were baptised with the Ruach Ha'Kodesh in the temple as they were teaching on Solomon's Porch on Shavuot.

During this time there came onto the scene an extremely zealous Pharisee named Sha'ul of Tarsus, he studied torah under the guidance of Gamaliel, one of the most respected and knowledgeable teachers of the Pharisaic religion. The Bible tells us that

Deuteronomy 18:18 KJV I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Sha'ul was an extremely vigorous opponent to the Apostles and those believing that Yeshua was the mashiach that had been mentioned by Moses.

(Deuteronomy 18:18). Sha'ul of Tarsus was implicated in the stoning of Stephen. In Acts 8:1 we read that Sha'ul was "...consenting unto his

[Stephen's] death." And this sparked a vicious pogrom against the followers of Yeshua. Sha'ul became a leading figure in the anti-Yeshua movement and much feared by the disciples. In his efforts to bring those followers of Yeshua back to Jerusalem for trial by the Sanhedrin, he asked for letters of introduction from the High Priest to present his legal authority to search for and detain the followers of 'The Way' as it was called then, and return them bound to Jerusalem. I'm sure that you know what happened to Sha'ul on the road to Damascus. As Sha'ul neared the city a vision of Yeshua appeared to him and asked him "*why are you persecuting me?*". (Acts 9:4). Sha'ul was blinded by Yeshua until Ananias was instructed by Yeshua to remove Sha'ul's blindness. The result was that this former zealous persecutor of the believers in Yeshua became himself a believer, not only a believer but he had been uniquely selected by Yeshua himself to spread the gospel to the pagan nations (gentiles), this was an astonishing turn of events, Sha'ul, one of the most devout Pharisee scholars, made a complete 'U' turn and was baptized into the death of Yeshua.

From their base in Jerusalem the gospel started to spread further afield. In around 41CE Sha'ul and Barnabas set out on, what is commonly referred to as the first missionary journey. They set out for Cyprus from Antioch in Syria and landed in the port of Salamis on the eastern coast. They started to teach in the Synagogues and progressed throughout Cyprus spreading the gospel to all that would listen. It is here that Sha'ul met the proconsul Sergius Paulus, who became a believer and Sha'ul baptized him and his family. It is interesting to note that, until this time, Sha'ul had always used his Hebrew name however, after this meeting he became known as Paul. This would seem to indicate how Sha'ul, now Paul, received his Roman citizenship, it would stand to reason that Sergius Paulus adopted Sha'ul into the Paulus family through the common Roman practice of adult adoption known as *adrogation*.

As history shows, the apostle Paul made a further two journeys, travelling to Greece, Galatia and Macedonia (now Turkey) spreading the gospel of Yeshua with similar zeal that he once showed in the opposition to Yeshua's gospel message. Thorough his sufferings, beatings, shipwrecks and

Apostle: (Greek: ἀπόστολος: (G652) apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os) n.1. a delegate. 2. (specially) an ambassador of the Gospel. 3. (officially) a commissioner of Christ, "apostle" (with miraculous powers) [from G649]).

imprisonments, he was successful in bringing many people, both of the nations and Jews to follow Yehoshua.

A New Religion?

What we must also bear in mind when we are studying the scriptures is that Yeshua was not sent to create a new religion, his primary goal was to cause the Israelites to repent and return to Yehovah as the rabbinic Judaism had strayed so far away from the torah by their concocted “oral torah” that taught rules above and beyond what was written in the torah that was given to Moses. You will hear that many in Christendom talk about a “replacement theology”, Yeshua did not “replace” the torah and usher in a new style of worship, on the contrary, he came to restore the true worship as practiced by the Levites and nation of Israel in the times of Moses to the destruction of the first temple. Sadly, we learn from history that the Jewish religious leaders, due to their self-righteousness and use of their oral torah, were blinded by their doctrines and traditions so much that did not recognise all the signs of the mashiach that they had waited so long for. In their assumed supremacy and self-importance, they rejected Yeshua and missed the opportunity for salvation, thus the focus turned to the nations. They considered that Yeshua didn’t ‘fit’ their conception of what mashiach should be. This is a valuable lesson for us today, a warning that we should not rely on our own understanding, no matter how much we think we know, we can always be wrong and ready to adjust our beliefs according to scriptural truth.

Many in Christendom teach that the gospel according to Paul is in conflict with the gospel of Yeshua, they use various scriptures in an attempt to show that Paul was, at worse, antisemitic.

Is this true? Was Paul at odds with the leaders in Jerusalem? Was he teaching a ‘different’ gospel than that of the other apostles, namely James and Peter? In order to answer this question, we must examine the grounds for the accusations.

It is important to note that, whilst Paul and the apostles were alive there is no account that any of the Apostles accusing Paul of teaching another gospel other than that which Yeshua taught, if Paul had been deliberately misleading the people he was teaching I feel sure that it would have been recorded in the canon (*2 Cor 11:4*), but this is not the case, Paul was actually justified in his work by both Peter and Luke. (*2 Peter 3:15; Acts 9:28*). Paul was eventually martyred in Rome by beheading, he remained a true torah obedient Apostle of Yeshua to his last breath.

It is a fact that all Yeshua’s early disciples were Jewish, Yeshua himself being a Jew, he was raised in the Pharisee tradition, they all observed torah and attended the synagogue every Shabbat (sundown Friday to sundown Saturday) on the 7th day and they all kept torah throughout their lives as the Bible record shows.

When you read the epistles of Paul, we soon find that, although to those who are not fully conversant with torah can be led into the erroneous conclusion that Paul was teaching against the torah of Almighty God, on the contrary, **the actual focus of his attack is**

directed to the false torah (talmud) of the Pharisees and not God's written torah. It is a fallacy to assume that the law of Yehovah that was given to Moses has been superseded somehow, although the instructions concerning the ceremony for atonement of sin has changed due to Yeshua's ransom sacrifice once and for all time. We no longer require a physical temple as the use of animal blood for atonement has been completely abolished by Yeshua who gave his perfect life as a ransom sacrifice once and for all time, we can be sure that all the other torah commandments remain just as relevant and effective to this day and beyond, until the end of this wicked human system. There is only one that has the authority to change the torah, that is Him who gave it, Almighty God Himself.

(For more information concerning Paul and torah see Appendix A).

We must remember that the apostles in the Jerusalem congregations were teaching the gospel to their Jewish brothers whilst Paul, Barnabas and John Mark were teaching the

Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Jeremiah 7:23 KJV But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

1 Corinthians 7:19 KJV Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

1 John 5:2-3 KJV By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ⁽³⁾For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

same gospel to the gentile nations (non-Jews). Although the teaching remained the same, the technique was slightly different as the people were not conversant with the laws of Almighty God. We must also remember that, until Moses received torah from Yehovah Himself, there was no written torah in existence, neither did they have the privilege of using the brit HaDashah to spread the gospel in the early days, the Brit ha'Dashah did not come onto the scene until after 100CE when Yeshua's apocalypse to John had been completed.

We can be certain that all the early congregations that Yeshua's closest disciples established kept the commandments (torah) of Almighty God just as Yeshua and all his disciples did. So, what happened? Why were things changed a few years after John's death?

As Christianity started to take shape in the mid-1st century, the increasing influence of the gentile (pagan) leadership in the growing Christian movement started to gravitate away from the teachings of Yeshua where it had its roots. Perhaps it was partly due to the growing hatred of the Jewish nation by the Romans. To extricate themselves from the "Jewish" religion the "*gentile*" leaders of Christianity at the time started to form an alternative religion separate from the Hebrew religious principles that was at its core, this new religion became known as "Christianity".

This idea started to catch on and by the mid second century Christianity came under the influence of a group of extremely outspoken and Platonic influenced 'Church Fathers'. These were all from the nations (gentiles) that had little or no experience or understanding of the Tanakh (Old Testament) on which the instructions of Yeshua were based.

I personally hate the term "Old Testament" as this implies that it has been superseded by the "New Testament" (Greek scriptures). Nothing could be further from the truth, Yeshua taught from the Tanakh thorough his ministry, he quoted many scriptures to illustrate the gospel, he didn't go to Acts, Corinthians, Galatians or any other Greek scriptures, they simply were not there. **The whole brit HaDashah (new covenant) is entirely based on Tanakh.**

When did Christianity Start?

During the 2nd century many sects started to appear. Even in this early stage we can see separatists attempting to grasp power. Adoptionism, Arianism, Docetism, Ebionites, Gnostics, Marcionism and Montanism all raised their ugly heads.

It can be said that the ‘official’ universal (*Catholic*) religion of Christianity commenced at the council of Nicea in 325, almost 300 years after the death and resurrection of Yeshua and overseen by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. This is when the Nicene Creed was accepted as the guide for the Christian church in fulfilment of the prophesy of Acts 20:29, 30.

This was only the beginning of the greatest apostasy of all time, throughout the ages Christendom’s false teachings have spread like leaven and poisoned the whole lump. The religious leaders have adopted their own pagan traditions and oral torah to keep the honest

Deuteronomy 18:9 KJV When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

hearted people under their influence. They have adopted many pagan rituals and re-branded them as catechisms that have been ordained by Almighty God, this is

blatant Blasphemy of unimaginable proportions. The pagan festivals of Christmas, Easter and Halloween are referred to as abominations in Almighty God’s word. In terms of the Bible teaching, do you think that we should be supporting these unscriptural festivals? Make no mistake, by taking part, no matter how small, we are condoning these pagan festivals, something which is an abomination to Almighty God Yehovah and His son Yeshua, just like Sha’ul at the stoning of Stephen. Can you see Yeshua guiding children round houses while they ‘trick or treat’ their neighbours dressed in all manner of demonic garb? I don’t think so. Read Jeremiah 10.

Changing the name of a pagan festival to a festival that appears to honour Almighty God Yehovah does not change the essence of the festival, for example, if I asked you “how many legs does a dog have?” you would probably say four, and you would be absolutely correct, but if I told you that we are now going to call the tail a leg and ask you the same question, what would your answer be? You may say five, but you are just following what you have been told, the dog still has four legs, by calling the tail a leg it doesn’t actually make the tail a leg! Do you see the point?

Deuteronomy 12:30-32 KJV Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. ⁽³¹⁾Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. ⁽³²⁾What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Yehovah does not take too kindly to the renaming of pagan festivals and adopting them into His worship, remember the Hebrews Golden Calf incident that they named as a festival to Yehovah? Remember what happened to them?

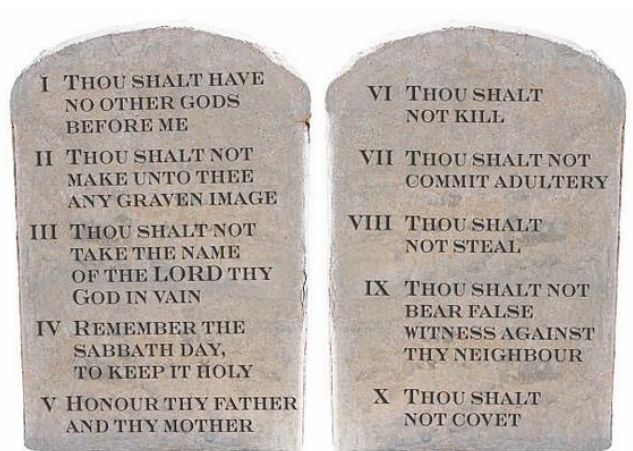
It was also at this time when the non-Biblical theory of the trinity, first mentioned by Tertullian (another Gentile) which became embedded in the doctrine of Christendom's theology.

All through its sordid history the Catholic (universal) church has added, removed, twisted or changed Almighty God's instructions, one of the most audacious changes they made is to move the 4th commandment concerning the 7th day sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, to the first day of the week Sunday, claiming it to be "the day

of the Lord", yes it is the day of a lord... the lord of the Sun!

What authority do they presume to possess that would enable them, sinful men, to even suggest that they could change the Holy Shabbat as blessed by Almighty God Himself, to a day that is a veneration of Helios (the Greek Sun god). Do you see how subtle lies can infiltrate and pollute the pure worship of Almighty God? They even put haloes round the heads of saints in paintings.

The use of idols and icons is rife in Christendom, no matter what name or reason you give, a crucifix is idolatry, veneration of icons and statues are likewise idolatry as far as God's word the Bible is concerned, ANY use of such is a direct violation of the second commandment, this is why the Catholic church removed the second commandment and split the 10th into two to make up the 10.



Ten Commandments as given to Moses



Catholic Ten Commandments

All Change.

It can be said that the start of the Protestant reformation officially commenced when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31st 1517. Martin Luther was, at the time a Catholic monk and his 95 theses was aimed at starting a debate on the sale of indulgences, he never intended to start a theocratic revolution. The protestant movement had actually started before this act of Luther, protestant supporters grasped the opportunity to make Luther's actions at Whittenburg the focal point of their protest against the Roman Catholic church, the rest is history however, the newly forming Protestant religion held on to many Catholic doctrines such as the trinity, infant baptism, eternal punishment in hell, Sunday worship, the immortal soul and many other practices instead of returning to the pure teachings of Yeshua from all those years ago.

The lineage of the true gospel still exists, but is it not found in today's Christendom or Judaism, there are still people that wish to follow what Yeshua (יֵשׁוּעַ) the Son of Almighty God Yehovah (יְהוָה). In 325 the Catholic sect officially broke away from the true church of Yeshua and the Apostles. In 1517 the sect of Protestantism broke away from the Catholic sect, since then there have been many thousands of sects splitting from Catholicism and Protestantism ever since and it will continue, the lie will be perpetuated until Yeshua ben David returns.

Can we return to God on His terms?

As rabbinic Judaism bears little resemblance to the teachings revealed to Moses, Christianity that we know today bears little, if any, resemblance to the gospel that Yeshua and his disciples taught. The religious leaders, instead of correcting errors, have adopted them into their doctrine, the wealth of all Catholic denominations is evident by the lavish decorations and land that they own whilst many of their adherents suffer in abject poverty. This is also true for the mainstream protestant churches too and I am convinced that the whole system of global false religion is heading for Gehenna.

There are many honest and sincere hearted people that truly wish to follow Yeshua and be pleasing to Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Yeshua. The question is, are you truly searching for the truth? Are you willing to open your eyes to the truth that can only be found only in the Bible?

I can tell you this, that Almighty God will not tolerate the false teachings and doctrines of men as they continue to spread their 'other gospel'. It is time to get out of all forms of false religion and return to the truth.

Like todays rabbinic Judaism, the doctrines and teachings of Christendom will never bring you salvation, neither will the teachings of Islam. Despite their claims to be "inspired" of God, all three of them are truly based on the teachings and doctrines of men and not Almighty God's word and His word plainly shows.

Salvation does not come from an earthly source, the traditions and doctrines of any worldly religions are, to the greater part, based upon mankind's interpretation, this interpretation is, in turn, based on mankind's assumptions of how God's word the Bible is translated and this translation is subject to outside (pagan) influences and perceptions that they have. Let us examine a teaching that demonstrates this line of thought.

A Tale of two halves.

When you read God's word you will notice that it has been divided into two sections the TaNaKh (an acronym of Torah [Law/Instruction], Nevi'im [Prophets] and K'tuvim [Writings] commonly known in Christendom as the Old Testament) and the Brit ha'Dashah (the New/Renewed Covenant, commonly known in Christendom as the New Testament). It is most important that you recognise the authority of the two sections as this is absolutely vital in your search for the truth for it is impossible to understand the Fathers intentions and draw close to Him without a clear understanding of both. As in a good novel, reading the first half and omitting the second you would not know the purpose of the story as you would not know the end likewise, if you only read the end, you wouldn't know the character personas or how and why they arrived at their conclusions.

To study Gods word in a manner that makes it much easier to understand we must forget that the Bible is in two halves, by splitting things you create the illusion of contention causing us to chose which section we like the most. This is what has happened in Christendom in order to lessen the importance of the Hebrew scriptures (TaNaKh) in favour of the Brit ha'Dashah. This is known as "dispensationalism" where certain sections of the TaNaKh are regarded my Christendom as dispensed with. This is a dangerous concept, be of no doubt that both "sections" in their entirety, have a symbiotic relationship, they cannot survive without each other and you can be sure that the entirety of God's word is equally potent as it has been throughout history, this will continue to be the case until Yeshua returns, of this you can be certain.

The TaNaKh contains all the teachings, commandments, advice, genealogies, information and prophesies that are mentioned in the Brit ha'Dashah, it is the section that Yeshua and all the Apostles taught from and it is the sections that Sha'ul referred to in 2Timothy 3:16, 17 when he told us that "all scripture is inspired of God". It has to be as the Brit ha'Dashah had not been written until after Sha'ul's martyrdom so NEVER treat the "Old" testament as just a book for the Jews, it belongs to us all as do all the writings therein. It is also the section that has been less "edited" as it has enjoyed the protection of the Jewish patriarchs throughout the millennia unlike the Brit ha'Dashah.

The Brit ha'Dashah is in complete harmony with the TaNaKh in that it contains the wonderful good news (Gospel) concerning the culmination of Almighty God's plan for the future of mankind up to its explosive conclusion. Unfortunately, we do not possess the original manuscripts and, whilst it is true that we do not have the originals of the TaNaKh, the TaNaKh was copied onto Torah scrolls which were read in the Synagogues by scribes who were so dedicated and meticulous that they copied word for word, jot for jot and title

for title. In contrast, when the Brit ha'Dashah was copied there were already sects starting to appear that had ideas that were based on their particular beliefs and philosophies, unlike the Jewish scribes they were inclined to eisogise (read into) the Greek text of their copied versions. When Jerome translated the Greek and Aramaic into Latin in his Vulgate it was already questionable. (*See the information booklet "Which Bible Translation" for more information*).

All is not lost though, if you have a sound understanding of the TaNaKh and guidance from the Ruach ha'Kodesh you will be able to recognise the interpolations and omissions in the Brit ha'Dashah, the simple rule of thumb is, if something does not agree with the TaNaKh then you can be sure that the translation of the Brit ha'Dashah you are reading is in error.

Measuring Christendom's New Testament.

Most of Christendom teach that Yeshua (Jesus) can be identified as 'the word of God'. Most people except this as being true, that Yeshua is the word of Almighty God that was made "flesh" without actually studying what this "word made flesh" (John 1:14) really means, in other words they are ready to believe, just by being told and accepting this as truth but, when we remove the preconceived idea that Yeshua is, quite literally a physical 'word' we find that, in any form of logical reasoning, including spiritual, that a physical word cannot exist, just as time is a non-physical entity so is "word" so it is totally illogical to associate "word" with "flesh" in a literal context. One of the most

John 1:1-3 KJV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

misinterpreted portions of scripture is found at John 1: 1-3. This is a classic example of the intrusion of early theology into the scriptures. How in one's wildest imagination can the word (Gr. 3056 "Logos") be identified as a person? John is simply referring to the creation story in Genesis, nothing else, he does not imply that the word mentioned is a person separate from Almighty God as does

Christendom who teach that the Word here refers to "Jesus" this is eisegesis, the practice of reading into the scriptures in order to force a misleading interpretation, the icing on the cake is that the translators even capitalise the "w" in "word" to assume a persona.

When we look at this verse with a Hebraic mindset, we can see that the word of God is His SPOKEN word, nothing more and nothing less. Yeshua IS the Apostle of his Father, (Hebrews 3:1) and, as such Yeshua ONLY spoke the word of his Father, it is in this context that Yeshua can be identified as the Word of God, just as all the patriarchs Avraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all the true prophets that spoke the Word of God.

For those with the gift of discernment the clear translation of John 1: 1-3 can be found in Genesis where each step of the creation process begins with "And God Said". To me this indicates that it is God's SPOKEN word and not some scripturally unidentified person speaking.

The creation account... Genesis v Christendom's interpretation of John 1: 1 – 3.

Genesis 1:3 **And God said**, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:6 **And God said**, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

Genesis 1:9 **And God said**, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

Genesis 1:11 **And God said**, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Genesis 1:14 **And God said**, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Genesis 1:20 **And God said**, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Genesis 1:24 **And God said**, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

Genesis 1:26 **And God said**, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

If we examine the grammar of each verse, we find it completely nonsensical in its presentation...

Verse	KJV Text	Meaning
1	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.	No, in the beginning was God with His word! Yes, by necessity, God and His word exist together. No, the word was God's word. (Genesis 1).
2	The same was in the beginning with God.	Master of the obvious. If there is no person present there will be no word. A word (speech) cannot exist if there is no speaker.
3	All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.	The "him" here is referring to Almighty God... "Him".

The identity of the “*Logos*”

Now for the bombshell... I too believe that Yeshua is indeed “the word made flesh” but not in the context of an impossible concept. Throughout history there have been many people that must be considered as “the word made flesh”, these include all the righteous people mentioned in the Bible record, people such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Miriam and ALL the prophets that spoke in the name of Almighty God right up to the last and greatest prophet of all time Yeshua. They all spoke in the Name of Yehovah, they were all the “*Logos*” of Him, that's exact definition of what a prophet does! In this respect they can all be rightly identified as “the word made flesh”, they did not speak from their own understanding, rather they all spoke as instructed by the Ruach Ha’Kodesh as Almighty God Yehovah spoke through them.

Furthermore, we are also told that Almighty God is divided into three sub-god's God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost and, like the previous example, most people accept this teaching as truth because it was formulated from the earliest period in the development of the Christian church, in other words, they believe in a tradition of men. The concept of a triunial "godhead" existed long before Christianity came into existence, we can find this teaching in the religions of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Babylon so Christendom cannot claim trinitarian theology as theirs alone, after all, the trinity theory was not adopted into the Christian ecclesia (church) until the mid-4th century CE. The Mashiach Yeshua certainly did not teach it, neither did any of his Apostles and followers.

But is this tradition based on accurate knowledge of the Bible and sound reasoning?

Whilst on his earthly ministry, Yeshua spoke quite plainly on matters concerning Almighty God, especially on the qualities that He displays, Yeshua wanted all people to come to KNOW God, to draw close to Him and to worship Him ALONE, in fact, he taught us all how to worship Him and he based all his ministry on this principle, to Yeshua the sole worship of Almighty God Yehovah was the single most important basis for his ministry. The word "Know"^(G1097) in a Hebrew mindset means something entirely different to our western understanding, to "know" someone or something is an extremely intimate expression the imparts a joining together on a spiritual level that is its very essence of being.

Given that our messiah (anointed) held these views, he would not have left out such an important matter as to the nature of Almighty God as given in the trinity. Yeshua came to earth to reconcile all mankind to the creator of all things, he published His name in all his works and gave glory to the 'One True God' [*echad*] (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:30).

If the trinity doctrine were true, I find it extremely hard to believe that, during his ministry, Yeshua never mentioned a triune godhead, even the concept of what we as humans call the trinity is not mentioned in the Bibles entirety. Neither did he mention that Almighty God had a 'modal' nature as if He was some sort of schizophrenic entity that could either be God the Father or God the Son, this is totally preposterous and dishonours Almighty God so profoundly. I feel sure that, if Yeshua was here today, he would have reacted to these abominations with the zeal he had when he vented his anger driving all the dishonest money exchangers out of the temple.

We must never lose sight of the fact that, no matter the timescale of a lie, it will always remain a lie.

G1097 γινώσκω [ginōskō]
"ghin-oce'-ko"

A prolonged form of a primary verb; to **"know"** (**absolutely**), in a great variety of applications and with many implications (as shown at left, with others not thus clearly expressed): - allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.

If you want to know the true identity of Yeshua it is easy to find, there is no hidden mysteries, everything is hidden in plain sight for those who truly search for the truth, it will be revealed to those who ask, his true identity is revealed in Hebrews 3:1.

Hebrews 3:1 KJV Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle and High Priest** of our profession, Christ Jesus;

...which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures

2Peter 3:16

There are many, many more examples of false doctrines of Christendom, far too many to mention in the scope of this work, the golden rule is that, if it is not specifically and clearly taught in the Bible, separate yourself from it for it is a lie. Do not believe misquoted scripture sound bites, those who flip around the scriptures in a vain attempt to prove something that really is not there, this is called eisegesis meaning that you read something INTO the scripture, something that it does not actually mean, and is being read out of context.

For example, the scripture found at Luke 23:43 where Yeshua was talking to the convict being executed with him, the convict said to Yeshua, “...*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*” And Yeshua replied “...*Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*”

Why is this scripture important? It is important because it highlights a misunderstanding of Yeshua’s words. The original Greek account is written in all upper-case letters (capitals) with no spaces and the original scribes did not use punctuation.

The way we read it in most, if not all our Bible translations today, by placing a

Matthew 12:40 KJV For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

comma after the word “you” it comes directly into conflict with Yeshua’s words found at Matthew 12:40. This comma was inserted by the translator to support the erroneous theory of life after death. The Bible clearly states that when a person dies, they

cease to exist ANYWHERE, they are, in effect, completely and unutterably dead in the strongest sense of the word. If we assume that the added comma was in its correct position within the text, it would make Yeshua a liar, something that is categorically untrue. Ask yourself, how could Yeshua be with the convict on the same day they both died? Yeshua was in the sleep of death for three days and three nights before his Father awakened him. If the comma was inserted after the word today, it would make the whole sentence much clearer. “...*Verily I say unto thee to day, shalt thou be with me in paradise.*” This goes to show that the convict had been forgiven of his sins and, at the resurrection, he would be a part of the new Kingdom. Do you see how, by inserting a comma in the wrong place can change the entire understanding of the verse?

Is there a true way to receive salvation?

The answer to this question is a resounding YES! But it does require work on our behalf.

To start with, I desire to make it absolutely clear that I do not aim any criticism to any individuals that are members of and worldly religious bodies, their membership tells me that they recognise their spiritual need and are searching for the truth. Even atheists have religion. Religion can be defined as anything that you believe in and worship, it is not limited to the spiritual realm, if you pursue wealth and riches that that becomes your religion. We must remember that it is mankind that created religion.

However, what I do attack is the false teaching and doctrine of most religions, this is where the problem really takes root. Any religion that does not recognise Almighty God is the singular, supreme and omnipotent creator of all things needs to seriously consider their position before it is too late.

We have already discussed the two main monotheistic religions Judaism and Christianity and found that they have fallen short of Biblical requirements, the fact that there are so many different denominations in both religious systems are indeed proof of this shortfall.

I have not mentioned the other mode of monotheistic worship, that of Islam, the simple reason being that, although it is common knowledge that the Islamic religion is said to be based on the torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) it is a relatively 'new' religion when compared to Judaism and Christianity (on which has its roots in all the Hebrew scriptures.) According to Islamic texts and tradition, an angel named Gabriel visited Muhammad in 610 CE, while he was meditating in a cave. The angel ordered Muhammad to recite the words of Allah and this is where I see a problem. To be perfectly honest, I am extremely sceptical when I read that someone has had a

The Love of God

1 John 5:2-3 KJV By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ⁽³⁾For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

'visitation' by an angel, this angel tells them things that are, in many cases, contrary to the teaching of the Tanakh. This occurrence is usually directed at a single person and there are no witnesses to the event, then the angel tells them to go and tell others and disappears leaving

nothing to qualify the miraculous visitation. This situation always rings alarm bells and sounds warning klaxons in my mind.

Is it only me or do you see a similarity in another religious denomination that came into existence on the 6th April 1830? Just like Muhammad, a man named Joseph Smith had a similar experience where he was approached by an angel [*Moroni*]. Moroni revealed to Smith that he had been selected to translate the Book of Mormon, an alleged sacred text that was written around the 4th century and named after Moroni's father, Mormon.

According to Moroni, this spiritual book contained information about the ancient people who inhabited the Americas. He revealed that the book was inscribed on golden plates which no one other than Smith has ever seen to this day. (Alarm bells are now ringing again!).

Salvation and Grace

Irrespective of what your religion teaches you, there is a fundamental difference between salvation and grace. Many denominations in Christendom teach that we are now under the grace of Almighty God, which is very true.

Matthew 5:45 KJV: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

All people, irrespective of their race, skin pigment or beliefs, are included in this wonderful free gift of grace for we are all sinners when it comes to Almighty God's standards and there is absolutely nothing that we can do to change that fact. Yeshua told us that our Heavenly Father "...maketh His sun to rise on the

evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." In other words, Yehovah is not partial when it comes to grace, he shows His loving kindness to all people of the world, whether they realise it or not.

This is where some confusion becomes apparent, many of the religious denominations that recognise that we are under grace, fail to realise that all people have been under the grace of Yehovah even before the appearance of Yeshua, it is not a new thing that became available when Yeshua came onto the scene, if it were that the coming of Messiah Yeshua ushered in Almighty God's grace, then how would we be able to explain the lives of all those people that did not know Almighty God? The fact is that they were "under grace" shows that the grace of Almighty God Yehovah.

There are many theories that attempt to explain why Yehovah sent His only begotten son Yeshua into this ignorant and sinful world of mankind. The parable of the tenants at Mark 12:1-12 explains it most eloquently. The owner of the vineyard is Almighty God Yehovah, the owners' servants are the prophets, the owner's son is Yeshua and the bad tenants are those who are entrusted with the upkeep of God's word but desire the glory and riches for themselves, they have changed the instructions that the owner had given, even adding and removing the owners' instructions. The truth is that, Yeshua came to bring the written torah of Almighty God back to the people so they may "KNOW" Him and be saved by Him. Let us be clear, observing the instructions alone will not "save" a person, salvation is a wonderful gift that will be given to those who prove true to His commandments, consider what Yeshua revealed to his servant John... *"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done"*. Revelation 20:12. The important part to consider is "**according to what they had done**", this implies action is required on the part of the person. It is true that, at present, there is no person that can rightfully say "I'm saved", salvation is not guaranteed, even if you confess your belief and faith in Yeshua as the Mashiach. The ones that will be "saved" are identified in Matthew 24:13. Read it!!!

Yehovah was at work prior to the coming of Messiah. For example, the inhabitants of Nineveh could hardly be identified as keepers of the torah. We know from the Bible account that they were exceedingly sinful which caused Yehovah to adversely judge them with the destruction of their city and all its inhabitants. However, he showed His grace to them in that He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Ninevites of their impending doom, unless they repent and turned to Almighty God. What was the result? After the reluctant prophet Jonah arrived in Nineveh he started to warn the people of their pending destruction, as a result of this warning, all the Ninevites, from the King to the common people, repented and turned from their sinful ways and the result was that, because of their contrite repentance, Yehovah did not destroy Nineveh at that time (which angered Jonah, but that is another story).

The inhabitants of Nineveh were certainly not Jews but Yehovah magnified His lovingkindness and grace through the actions of the repenting Ninevites. Due to their realisation that they had broken the law (torah) and their subsequent repentance, they were able to avail themselves of Yehovah's mercy which saved them and their city from complete destruction.

This event shows that being under grace does not guarantee salvation. Prior to the arrival of Jonah, the Ninevites, although they were committing acts of gross sin, they were still under grace but they were destined to destruction because of the offences that they had committed against Almighty God Yehovah. It is through His grace that He sent Jonah to warn them. If they had chosen to ignore the warning given by Jonah, we can be sure that they and their city would have been destroyed.

The Ninevites received salvation because they repented and turned from their sinful ways, not because they were under grace.

It is dangerous to assume that being under grace guarantees us of salvation, the example of the Ninevites gives us the insight to the meaning of grace and salvation. The Ninevites were granted salvation because they repented of their sins and turned to Almighty God Yehovah, leaving behind all their sinful ways.

If we are to receive salvation, like those repentant Ninevites, the true followers of Yeshua must turn to Almighty God Yehovah and repent and turn from their sinful ways, believing in the value of Yeshua's ransom sacrifice for the atonement of sin and keep Almighty God's commandments (torah).

How about Islam?

One of the main reasons why I reject Islam is that I cannot condone any religious body that would encourage us to break any of Yehovah's commandments. Sura 9:5 tells Muslims to "... *fight and slay the Pagans [non-Muslims] wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent [accept Islam], and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful*". Just contrast this statement with what Yeshua (a prophet recognised by Islam) told us in Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27. This is known as the 'Sword Verse' in Islam. Whilst it is true that in the Tanakh, Yehovah instructed the Israelite army to destroy the idolatrous nations that were occupying Canaan, these nations had already received judgement from Almighty God for the abominations and gross sins that they had committed, the Israelite army was carrying out that righteous judgement.

Matthew 5:44 KJV But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Luke 6:27 KJV But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,...

If I were to compare the three monotheistic Abrahamic religions by their application of Biblical principles with 100% adherence being the goal, I would say that Rabbinic Judaism* and Islam would score around 38% to 40% whilst Christendom would hit around the 22% to 26% mark.

*Including all sects of Judaism that uphold the non-inspired "oral" torah.

Why so many different denominations?

2 Timothy 4:3 KJV For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Today there are currently around 40,000+ different denominations in Christendom that profess to be following Jesus, this number is most certainly on the rise as people create a 'user defined' form of worship that suits their particular beliefs. This is not at all surprising, Paul told us this would happen in

the last days. 2 Tim 4:3 so we should not be shocked. It is human nature to 'shop around' to find what we consider to be a suitable form of worship, just as one would look to buy new clothes. This is a good thing if our search is based on the right criteria when we search, we must search in the spirit and not what we think to be correct.

Luke 9:23 KJV And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

The reason why there is so many different denominations that all claim superiority of the next is quite simple, the best way to hide the way to true worship has been hidden in a plethora of counterfeit religions, just like a true pearl is hidden in thousands of pearl-coloured fake beads. Where do all these counterfeit religions originate? Just ask yourself who does not want you to find that 'pearl of great value'? the Satan. It is a sad fact that many in the clergy class do not even realise that they are being manipulated by the Satan,

A guide to finding the right path is to ask yourself these few questions:

By using this simple checklist, you can quickly identify the main points concerning the core beliefs of a denomination that you are studying. If the answer to any of these questions is ‘no’ then the alarm bells should start to ring.

In matters of such importance, we need to be sure of what we are worshiping as we do not want to come to a situation at the end of days when Yeshua says to us “I do not know you...” (Matthew 25:12).

Our decisions now will play a large part in the outcome of our salvation, we simply must make the right choice before time runs out.

By using this checklist, you will quickly find that there are very few, if any, denominational churches that will fit the requirements of this

STATUS CHECK CRITERIA

- 1. On what are its teachings based?**
Are they from God, or are they largely from men? (2 Tim. 3:16; Mark 7:7) Ask, for example: Where does the Bible teach that God is a Trinity? Where does it say that the human soul is immortal? where does the Bible tell us that the dead go to Heaven, Hell or Purgatory?
- 2. Consider whether it is making known the name of God.**
Yeshua said in prayer to God: “I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me out of the world.” (John 17:6) He declared: “It is Yehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.” (Matt. 4:10) Has your religion taught you that ‘it is Yehovah you must worship’? Have you come to know the Person identified by that name—his purposes, his activities, his qualities—so that you feel you can confidently draw close to him?
- 3. Is true faith in Yeshua Christ being demonstrated?**
This involves appreciation of the value of the sacrifice of Yeshua’ human life and of his position today as heavenly King. (John 3:36; Ps. 2:6-8) Such appreciation is shown by obeying Yeshua—sharing personally and zealously in the work that he assigned to his followers. True religion has such faith that is accompanied by works. —Jas. 2:26.
- 4. Is it a way of life, or is it largely ritualistic formality?**
God strongly disapproves of religion that is merely a formalism. (Isa. 1:15-17) True religion upholds the Bible’s standard of morality and clean speech instead of weakly going along with popular trends.
- 5. Does it observe the sabbath on the correct day?**
Irrespective of what you have been told by religious traditions of men, that Yeshua did away with all the commandments of Moses, the sabbath law is not a law that was given to Moses, it existed long before Moses’ day. The sabbath was initiated at Genesis 2:3. **This 7th day** was to be set aside as a holy day for the true worshippers of Yehovah and no one has the authority to change this God given commandment. (the 4th Commandment.)
- 6. Does it produce the true fruits of the spirit?**
What is the fruitage of the spirit? Paul identifies what this fruitage is in Galatians 5: 22, 23 “... fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance. Against these things there is no law. Can it demonstrate that it produces this fruitage to the full?
- 7. Is it truly separate from the world?**
Yeshua said that his true followers would be “no part of the world.” (John 15:19) To worship God in a manner that he approves requires that we keep ourselves “without spot from the world.” (Jas. 1:27). Can that be said of those whose clergy and other members are involved in politics, or whose lives are largely built around materialistic and fleshly desires? —1 John 2:15-17.
- 8. Does it use any forms of idolatry in its mode of worship?**
The use of any form of idolatry, including the use of any image(s) is strictly forbidden in the Bible. (*Deuteronomy 5:7,8*). This would include any forms of statues, images, icons and symbols such as a crucifix. The true followers of Yeshua do not need any such items to believe, they can see who they worship through the Holy Spirit or Ruach Ha’Kodesh.

list. You may say to yourself... *well, they fit most of the criteria!* Would you make such an important decision based on the fact that they fulfil ‘most’ of the list? To accept their doctrine on this basis would be foolish indeed, for example, if you were thirsty and I offered you a glass of water and told you that it only contained a very small amount of poison, would you still drink it?

The chances are that you would rightly reject this poisoned water as it would damage your physical health. We must do the same with our spiritual health. Far too many times we forget that our spiritual health is just as important, if not more so, as our physical health, maybe even more important as in this worldly system, our physical health should be of less importance than that of our spiritual health, physical health is limited to our lifespan but our spiritual health can truly be everlasting.

Please bare in mind that the object of this book is not to ridicule, poke fun at or approach anyone with the intent to cause contention or to profess a “mightier than thou” attitude and there is nothing that I have done in the past that could ever qualify me for salvation, please be assured that, by producing this book, my intention is to call out all forms of false religion, it’s the teachings of religion that I, like my Master are so vehemently against that ultimately lead to death, not the individuals who support these religions, I wish no one to be destroyed.

For those that are members of a particular religion, denomination or church, are you willing to be brave enough to ask yourself these questions? Do you have the courage to challenge what you have been taught? Do you see the errors that you have been told? If the answers to these questions in ‘yes’, then you will be truly following Yeshua when you remove these false doctrines and traditions of men and follow what Yeshua taught us all, you will find true peace and love, I guarantee it.

Truth verses Religion.

Most religions teach that, to understand the deeper meanings of their particular faith, people must rely on the scholarly judgements and rhetoric of their learned spiritual leaders that have been qualified in their denominational religious beliefs. Yeshua pointed out that the religious leaders of his time “...*sit in Moses seat*”, in other words he identified their authority as given by Moses, and when they spoke torah (not rabbinical teachings), the people were to observe the scriptures that they were reading, but they were to reject their additions to the written torah that they had produced as takkanot or “oral” torah, the teachings of men rather than of Almighty God, Yeshua did not condemn any of the religious leaders, Sadducee or Pharisee for what they did, rather, **he condemned them for what they did not do.** The same can be said for the religious leaders of our day. (Matthew 23:2-4).

Matthew 23:2-4 KJV Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ⁽³⁾All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. ⁽⁴⁾For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

The Hierarchy of the Church of England

The Church of England is a member of the Anglican Communion, which is a worldwide family of Christian churches

Background

There is a broad range of theological practice and thought in the Church of England. Like all Christians, there is a belief that there is only one God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Bible contains the core of all Christian teachings and is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Nicene, Apostles and Athanasian Creeds are prevalent in their worship.

Leadership

The Church of England is organised into two provinces or regions: Canterbury and York. Each is led by a head or Primate who has absolute ecclesiastical jurisdiction in his area - the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. A province is made up of a number of dioceses. These are in turn divided into parishes, which are at the heart of the Church of England. Each parish is overseen by a parish priest, usually called a vicar or rector. They may be assisted by a curate or a deacon or a parish worker.

A parish church is run by the priest, working with a Parochial Church Council.

In structure, the Church is hierarchical - it's like a pyramid with the Queen at the top, followed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Primate or first bishop of all England.

The Church is led by bishops but governed by its own parliament, the General Synod. The Synod is elected from clerical and lay people and meets twice a year.

It's worth remembering too that the Church of England has a law-making role in the UK. Twenty-six bishops, including the two Archbishops, are members of the House of Lords, where they're known as the Lords Spiritual.

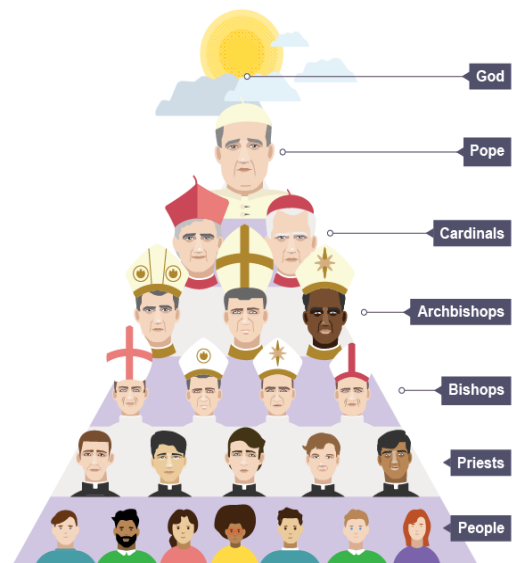
Role of the British Monarchy

As Monarch, the Queen retains the title Defender of the Faith and is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. As such, she appoints archbishops and bishops on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Queen also has a special relationship with the Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian.

Let us consider the structure of hierarchy of the Christian religion, although other religions may have slightly different names and structure many of the structural ideas can be applied to these other religious bodies.

In the two main denominations of Christendom, namely Catholic and Protestant we can see that both religious systems are very much comparable, this is not all that surprising as the Protestant



religion emerged as a sect of Catholicism or 'the Mother' church, Catholic means 'universal'. It would be true to say that Protestantism is Reformed Catholicism.

The hierarchy of the Catholic church is illustrated, everyone from priests to the pope does not have a secular job, they are funded from tithes and governmental endowments, extensive land revenue and many other forms of revenue including donations by the laity. The pope (*pontifex maximus*) is the head of successive levels of qualification from cardinals down to parish priests, in other words, priests bow to bishops, who bow to archbishops, who bow to cardinals who bow to the pope. The pope is said to be considered as the "vicar

[substitute] of Christ" He is said to possess the divine power to alter divine law and

scripture. (*Not a Biblical teaching*).

It is also interesting to note that the title “pontifex maximus” was the title of a series of Roman emperors from Augustus onwards.

The protestant hierarchy is mostly similar but, instead of a pope as the ‘head of state’ the Anglican ‘Church of England’ has the monarch as its supreme leader.

In view of worldly governments and political systems, this theocratic arrangement fits nicely into the overall Theo-political agenda. Both Catholic and Protestant sects have emissaries that serve in the political establishment of their respective countries and they mirror almost exactly the system of the Sanhedrin of Yeshua’s time.

With this in mind, can you imagine Yeshua sitting on the Sanhedrin? Do the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John clearly show and discuss Yeshua’s worldly political views? The answer to this question is No! rather Yeshua told us that the kingdom of Almighty God is no part of this world as recorded in John 6:15, he realised that the people wanted to seize him and make him king by force, but Yeshua quickly withdrew into the wilderness. What a contrast to what we witness today.

John 6:15 KJV When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Yeshua himself gave us guidance on this issue. We read at John 17:11 that “*And now I [Yeshua] am no more in the world, but these [my apostles] are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*” Yeshua means here that although his apostles are physically in the world we see a little further on that they are no part of the kingdom of this world because this world hates them. John 17:14 “*I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*” The kingdom that Yeshua was referring to is the kingdom of Almighty God which Yeshua himself will rule for 1000 years, the one which most of Christendom pray for in Matthew 6:10. When interrogated by Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judea as to calling himself ‘king’, Yeshua replied that, *his kingdom was no part of the world*. John 18:36. Even at this stage he was defending God’s kingdom.

Who are disciples and apostles?

Christendom teaches us that there were 12 disciples that Yeshua personally chose, Paul did not fall into this category, instead he is referred to as an Apostle. Let us look at the Greek meaning of these two words more closely.

Most Christians today accept that there were 12 disciples and, according to common belief, a handful of Apostles such as Sha'ul (Paul), Barnabas, Luke etc, but when we look at the actual meaning of these Greek words, we see a whole different context. This is what

Disciple – [G3010] - μαθητής (math-ay-tays') n.

1. a learner, i.e. pupil [from G3129].

Apostle – [G625] - ἀπόστολος (ap-os'-tol-os) n. 1. a delegate. 2. (specially) an ambassador of the Gospel. 3. (officially) a commissioner of Christ, "apostle" KJV: apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

happens when we take our 'religious' goggles off and examine the scriptures for ourselves.

We can plainly see that there are not just twelve disciples, the meaning of Disciple is a "learner"

or "pupil" of the teacher that they are learning from, it bears no mystical powers or any other linguistical connotations. This means that everyone, irrespective of nationality or rank, if they are following the greatest teacher of all time then they, by definition become disciples of Yeshua. What about being an Apostle? Christendom teaches that an Apostle^(G652) is a special person that

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ⁽²⁰⁾Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

possesses unique powers from Almighty God, they are an elite group that people who have

G652 Apostle (ἀπόστολος, [apostolos] ap-os'-tol-os a delegate; specifically an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ ("apostle"), (with miraculous powers): - apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

been given special authority by God. Is this correct? No, we can see by the Greek meaning of 'Apostolos' that what we now refer to as an Apostle, is an ambassador, delegate, messenger and 'he that is sent'. If you share the truth with others you, by likewise definition, become an apostle. Matthew 28:19,20.

The fact that, as a true follower and student of Yeshua, you are now a disciple. This certainly adds much responsibility for those that are, should we say, 'arm chair' Christians. We find now that we have to actually do something instead of just lounging around and convincing ourselves that 'once saved always saved'. With this blessing also comes responsibility and that's what most people do not like. We become responsible for our own actions, no one else will stand in for us on the last day when we face the ultimate judge of the universe, and although we read that salvation is a gift from Yehovah, we have to live our lives as proof that we are worthy to receive this wonderful gift. Don't be fooled into thinking that Yeshua did it all for us and that we do not need to do anything else but sit back and believe in God. The Satan and his demons already believe! James 2:19.

In Biblical terms the words "belief" and "faith" have so much more meaning. This will be another area that I will expand at a later stage.

Identifying and following the truth.

Do we really need to attach ourselves to a particular denomination to receive Almighty God Yehovah's blessing? Do we need a plethora of priests to confess our sins to? Does God's word the Bible instruct us that we must find other mediators between Almighty God and us? What does the Bible really teach?

Romans 3:10 KJV *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one"*... this includes all of us, no matter what title we have or how many letters we have behind our name, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals and the pope are included in this category, they are all men, and all mankind is equal before Almighty God. We are ALL sinful humans that are under the curse that Adam brought down upon us, we can do nothing to escape from this curse by ourselves and we remain in bondage to it, the only way we can ever hope to escape this terrible curse is to turn to the one that paid that ransom price of our release from that captivity. That one is Almighty God Yehovah's only begotten son Yeshua. If you follow men, no matter how well respected they are, you will always fall short, a pupil can never be greater than their teacher, so if the teacher's doctrine is errant, then likewise will be the error of the pupil.

It is a good practice to adopt the style of the Bereans (Acts 17:11), they eagerly welcomed Paul and Barnabas and listened intently as to what they had to say, then they checked and studied the scriptures to prove that what was being taught was the truth. Did you notice that they examined God's word, they used it as the tool it was designed to be and we can be sure that if they had found any error in Sha'ul's message, they would have made it known publicly. **We read that, after they had confirmed the authenticity and correctness with the scriptures, many of them believed.** (Acts 17:12). Did you notice that they didn't go running to the local rabbi to check whether they should believe, **they instinctively turned to the only authoritative source... the scriptures.** This is indeed what our approach should be.

We can be sure that Almighty God's inspired word found in the Bible is more than sufficient to point us to true salvation (2 Timothy 3:16,17), we need no other source to augment its contents, there are no hidden codes or conspiracy theories, just the plain truth, but you have to work to find it and that's where many fail. Most people like to be fed the message of the gospel but they feel that they do not have time to study, they prefer to leave that to others but there is danger in that method as the information they receive is someone else's interpretation of what they consider to be truth. It would indeed be irresponsible to just take my word about the gospel in like manner, I do not want you to take what I say in this work on face value, make it your goal to be like those noble Bereans, prove it to yourself that you may come to the knowledge, I am just acting as a guide to point you to that narrow path, I too am a sinful human with no special powers, only the gift of grace from Almighty God Yehovah and the deepest love for Him and His son Yeshua Ha'Mashiach.

What is required to become a true follower of Yeshua?

Many sects and denominations in Christendom teach that the torah (תּוֹרָה [H8451] - towrah (to-row') (or torah {to-row'}) n-f. 1. a precept or statute, especially the Decalogue or Pentateuch KJV: law), has been done away with, they bounce around scripture to find sound bites in an attempt to justify their theory. One of the favourite scriptures used in this

Matthew 5:17 KJV Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.^(G4137)

Fulfil – [G4137] πληρόω leroo (play-roh'-o) v. 1. to fully, completely fill. 2. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow). 3. (figuratively) to fully supply, satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.

For context let us look at Matthew 3:15 KJV And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil^(G4137) all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

This verse uses the same “fulfil”^(G4137) as in Matthew 5:17, are we to assume that righteousness is now abolished too?

way is found at Matthew 5:17 where Yeshua says that he came, not to destroy, but to *fulfil*. They assume that the word “fulfil” means to destroy, terminate or negate. Is this correct?

This is a good reason to be extremely careful when we are told what someone else thinks it means, we could easily become mislead into thinking that Yeshua somehow superseded (destroyed) the law and the prophets. Rather, the use of “fulfil”^(G4137) in both these statements, Yeshua meant that he was the very epitome of the fullness of the law (torah) and righteousness. So, be warned, never accept anything on face value!

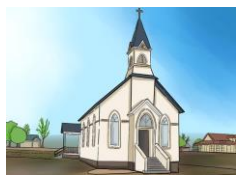
This is only one example; this is the tip of the iceberg. When you start to dig deeper you will start to find many discrepancies between the doctrines of men and what the Bible has to say. Some religions even go as far as to teach that it is wrong to question the doctrines of their particular brand of faith... show me where it says that you must not

question what you are told from the Bible! Be assured that it is most certainly not heresy or apostacy to question what you are told, if this were the case then the Bereans were heretics for, they questioned Paul on his teaching before many of them came to Yeshua, they wanted to be sure that what Paul was telling them was in line with Almighty God's will as recorded in the Tanakh before they came to believe in and accept Yeshua as the promised Messiah.

When it comes down to the basics, we can clearly see that the true followers of Yeshua will display their faith by demonstrating that they keep the law (torah) however, from our study of Almighty God's word we know that salvation is not a result of following the torah rather, those that are true followers of Yeshua follow the torah, not for their salvation but **because** of their salvation. Luke 11:28; John 4:15; 1 John 2:3-5; Acts 21:24; 1 Cor 7:19; 1 Timothy 6:14; James 1:22.

What is a Church?

Which of these would you consider to be a church?



or



Many people today understand the church as a building. But this is not a biblical understanding of ‘church’. The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία [G1577]- *ekklesia* (ek-klay-see'-ah) *n.* 1. (properly) a "calling out". 2. (concretely) a

called-out assembly of citizens. 3. (specifically, of Christ) the community of the Redeemed of Christ whether being on earth or in heaven or both. {used only of people, not a location, structure, etc. Of Christ, used only of the Redeemed, not of the unredeemed in their midst} [from a compound of G1537 and a derivative of G2564] Root(s): G1537, G2564. Compare: G4864 See also: G2822), which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.”

The root meaning of ‘church’ is not that of a building, but of the people, the body of messiah. It is ironic that when you ask people what church they attend, they usually identify a building. Romans 16:5 says, “Greet the church that **is in their house.**” Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

The church (*ecclesia*) is the figurative body of Yeshua, of which he is the head. Ephesians 1:22–23 says, “*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*” The body of Mashiach is made up of all believers in Yeshua from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until Mashiach’s return. Biblically, we may regard the church in two ways, as the universal church or as the local church

A church consists of everyone, everywhere, who confess a close relationship with Yeshua. “*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink*” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Mashiach and has received the Ruach Ha’Kodesh as evidence. All those who have received the prospect of salvation through faith and obedience to Yeshua comprise the church.

In summary, the church is not a building, sect or denomination. According to the Bible, the church is the body of obedient followers of Yeshua ha’Mashiach— comprising all those who have placed their faith in Yeshua for salvation (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Churches are gatherings of people who walk in the footsteps of Yeshua. What we consider to be a church is a building where believers can gather to fully apply the “body” principles of 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of Yeshua Ha’Mashiach that reflects perfectly the Father.

When we examine the Biblical account of the early (pre-church fathers) church we find that they would gather in the homes of other believers in small groups to hear the teachings of Yeshua and to receive news from other congregations. We must remember that these early congregations (*ekklesia*) did not have the use of the synoptic gospels or the gospel of John, they would read from the Tanakh and the letters that Sha’ul wrote to the congregations to upbuild each other,

singing praises, breaking bread and bringing blessings on the name of Yehovah and His son Yeshua. (*Romans 16:5; Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20; Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:42*). History shows us that there were no dedicated buildings for the early believers to worship until the middle of the second century.

Who are the Israelites?

This is a most confusing question, Christendom teaches that, to be a true Israelite you have to be Jewish. On the other hand, many Jews believe that you cannot be an Israelite unless you convert to Judaism in its fullest sense. Both these teachings are emphatically incorrect. The reality is that, unless you subject yourself to Almighty God Yehovah by living in His mitzvot (instructions), whether Jew or not, you cannot be an Israelite. You can call yourself a lawyer but, unless you study and practice law, this title is meaningless.

The scriptures that are highlighted in the adjacent information box are really the pivotal points as to the identity of who Israelites of today are. In short, the much learned “Hebrew of Hebrews” Paul tells us that anyone that accepts Yeshua as the messiah, they become an Israelite just as a ‘natural born’ descendant of Jacob (Yaakov). They are not Jewish or Christian, we all become members of the house of Israel (Yaakov) and, as such we have an equal share in the promise that Yehovah gave to Abraham. (*Genesis 22:18*).

GRAFTED IN

Romans 11:11-24 ESV So I ask, did they [*Jewish Religious Leaders*] stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass [*fall: G3900*] salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ⁽¹²⁾ Now if their trespass [*fall: G3900*] means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! ⁽¹³⁾ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ⁽¹⁴⁾ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ⁽¹⁵⁾ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ⁽¹⁶⁾ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ⁽¹⁷⁾ 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,** ⁽¹⁸⁾ 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. ⁽¹⁹⁾ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ⁽²⁰⁾ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ⁽²¹⁾ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ⁽²²⁾ Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ⁽²³⁾ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ⁽²⁴⁾ 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.

true believers and are baptized in the name of Yeshua, it is then that they become a true Israelite.

When a person, irrespective of their nationality or previous religious beliefs, accepts the Biblical Yeshua (not the Yeshua that is taught by the doctrines of men) by study, obedience to the written torah and accurate knowledge, they become

In the kingdom that Yeshua announced all people will be equal, there will be no Jew or Gentile (*Galatians 3:28*). In other words, we will all worship the one true Almighty God Yehovah together as the complete body of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach, in love, unity and harmony. What a wonderful prospect. We will be ONE Nation that worships ONE Almighty God, Yehovah, the creator and true sovereign of all He created.

To some this idea of being 'grafted in' is going to be difficult to understand, this is because, for centuries Christendom's religious leaders have either mis-understood or, at worse, altered the scriptures to fit their particular form of religious doctrine.

From the second century onwards the non-Hebrew "church fathers" sought to distance the new religion that they created away from its Hebraic roots in order to gain control of scripture interpretations that suited their neo-platonic ideas. We see this in the many interpolations that the religious leaders have inserted or sections that they have removed, they even insert incorrect punctuation in an otherwise un-punctuated Greek text to change its meaning. The most prolific of these 'alterations' can be seen at 1 John 5:7 this is called the Johannine Comma (also known as the Comma Johanneum or the Heavenly Witnesses). The text marked in orange is the interpolated portion, this was obviously inserted in support of the false trinity doctrine and does not appear in the earliest copies of the Greek manuscripts. There is an explanation to this concerning Erasmus and his production of the Latin vulgate, in his first edition this orange text is omitted. When questioned he said that he could find no Greek manuscript that had or implied this theology, he is quoted as saying that "unless I can see a Greek text containing these words, I will not change the text". Lo and behold, sometime later the Catholic religion produced a text that miraculously contained these extra words. I don't know about you but, to me this sounds extremely suspect and I believe, like most Bible scholars, that it is a forgery as the contextual parameters are not conducive with Biblical hermeneutics.

1 John 5:7-8 KJV For there are three that bear record *[in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁽⁸⁾And there are three that bear witness in earth],* the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

Another much more subtle addition that has an immense impact on the understanding of the verse is found at Luke 23:43 and concerns the positioning of a comma. As we know, the early Greek manuscripts are all written using upper case

Luke 23:43 KJV And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

(capital) lettering with no punctuation or spaces between the words. It is also important to note the particular religious bias of the translators when they attempt to translate the Greek (or Hebrew) early texts.

We see the

scripture in Luke where the translator has inserted a comma between the words "thee" and "To". By doing this the reader is lead to believe that the convict was going to be with Yeshua "in paradise" on the day they both died.

To one who is not fully knowledgeable in the Bible

this might seem a perfectly acceptable statement however, those that have taken the time to study the teachings of the Bible, we find that it is in contradiction to what Yeshua

Matthew 12:40 KJV For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

taught. In terms of what Yeshua taught concerning his death, it would be impossible for the convict to be with Yeshua in paradise on that particular day as Yeshua had told his disciples that he, on his death, would be in the grave (Sheol/Hades) for three nights and three days and that he would be resurrected by his Father on the third day. Another factor to consider is that, if the convict was to be with Yeshua on that same day then it would negate the need for resurrection on the last day.

There are many, many more false doctrines that permeate the whole religion of Christendom, all these false teachings are man-made and in conflict with what the Bible and Yeshua taught his followers.

At this stage you must ask yourself... does my life reflect that of the life of Yeshua? Does my religion teach what Yeshua taught 100%? Do I keep the commandments of men rather than keep the commandments of Almighty God? If the answer to any of these basic questions is 'No' then this indicates that you need to re-examine your stand before Almighty God, this is extremely serious position and one that, if you are to survive the coming tribulation then you must address with haste.

Many people that have accepted Yeshua as their saviour seem to think that they can lay back and do almost anything they see fit to do, they are under the false and deluded impression the they have been saved and lean on the erroneous mantra that states 'once

Revelation 21:27 KJV And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:19 KJV And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

saved, always saved', I have some news for such people... you have NOT been saved until your name is in the (lamb's) book of life.

One of the most valuable teachings to remember is that, though Yeshua offered himself as the atonement sacrifice that replaced the animal atonement offerings once and for all time as prophesied in the Tanakh, this act of sacrifice DID NOT mean that all peoples sins were forgiven now and in the future, rather, it opened the way by which all our sins can be forgiven. Do you understand this point? **Yeshua died so that it was made possible for our sins to be washed away in the blood of the lamb.** (*Revelation 7:14.*)

As humans all of us have the natural tendency to sin, it is in our nature, this is why we need to repent and ask for forgiveness. No matter who we are and what social status we may rise to, we are all subject to the sin in our flesh that Adam introduced into the world by his disobedience. This is why it is so hard for us to live up to the righteous standards that are set before us in the Bible, hence my previous comment that if you find being a follower of Yeshua easy then you're not doing it right.

Paul had the same problems and temptations that we all possess, just like us, for him it was also a perpetual struggle that he contended with each and every day and he tells us how to handle these temptations and fleshly desires that we all possess in Romans 7:7-25.

We can see from Paul's example that no one is free from sin, all of us have to endure the constant bombardment of worldly cardinal desires which promise pleasure and happiness now rather than wait for the kingdom of Yehovah, this is where strength of faith really shows itself.

There are two types of prosperity, physical and spiritual. The Bible always speaks of prosperity in the spiritual sense, this usually brings Yehovah's blessing and, as a result, it usually reaps physical benefits too in that it brings shalom and contentment to the person that prospers in a spiritual sense, it does not guarantee health, wealth or possessions for we all exit this world with what we brought into it. To a true follower of Yeshua, prosperity in this life is recognised by the measure of contentment in their lives. Remember, whatever we possess now or in the future will always belong to Almighty God.

The Kingdom of Almighty God

As we have seen from this short study into religion that, if we look more closely into whatever religion we follow (even atheism is a religion by definition), we find that sadly none of them adhere to the teachings of Almighty God as highlighted by His son Yeshua. The religious leaders direct those that recognise their spiritual needs down the wrong path, the path that is spacious, easy and wide. No matter how much a person studies, if they are studying with their denominational filters that are the doctrines and traditions of men, they will guide others onto the same path as themselves. (*Compare John 9:39-41*). Those people that teach the doctrines of men rather than the instructions (torah) of Almighty God Yehovah, although we assume, by their theological studies and scholarly standing, that they can see (spiritually), just as the religious leaders in Yeshua's day however, Yeshua told his listeners that the basis of their religious leader's theology focuses on the traditions and doctrines of men, they are 'blind guides' (*Matthew 23:1-36*). Although they gave the impression that they had spiritual insight, they were, in fact, spiritually blinded by their traditions. What happens if a blind man guides a blind person? They both usually come to some sort of disaster eventually.

When we read the Tanakh a little deeper we start to realise just how much it foreshadows the coming kingdom of Almighty God Yehovah. Many of us do not realise just how important the Tanakh really is, we often dismiss its contents as superseded by the so-called new covenant (Brit HaDashah) that was heralded by Yeshua. This could not be further from the truth. All through his ministry Yeshua quoted from the Tanakh, all his teachings were based on Tanakh, he was a torah scholar of the highest degree, the renowned Gamaliel would be a kindergarten child in comparison to Yeshua. Yeshua's knowledge and application of scripture was recognised throughout the kingdom of Judea and Samaria, even the religious leaders acknowledged his scriptural prowess, that is one of the reasons why they became afraid of him and wanted to kill him, for he was exposing their false doctrine and traditions of the oral torah.

Matthew 6:33 KJV But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Throughout his ministry Yeshua's primary theme was the kingdom of God, this is the kingdom that all Christians pray for when they recite what they know as 'the Lord's Prayer' (*Matthew 6:9-13*) however, it is a fact that many people do not realise the gravity of what they are praying for, especially

in v10. In this verse we are praying for Yehovah's Kingdom to come, not in heaven but on earth. (*Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:5*).

When on earth, **Yeshua introduced a new covenant that replaced the Mosaic covenant, not the Mosaic law.** Here is where many people become confused, they assume that a covenant is linked to the commandments, this is the reason why Christendom believes that we no longer have to observe the commandments that were given to Moses. A covenant is entirely separate and independent from the commandments. A covenant cannot change the statutes of the commandments rather; the commandments are a legal base for a covenant.

Isaiah 65:17 KJV For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Revelation 21:5 KJV And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

When we compare the Biblical meaning of covenant with commandment, we can clearly see the difference. Yeshua did indeed usher in the new (messianic) covenant

The New or Renewed Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 KJV

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:**

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

however, what he did not do was to negate the commandments (torah) of Almighty God Yehovah. (*Matthew 5:17*). This means that when we accept Yeshua as messiah, we become members of the family of Israel, we become Israelites (see 'Grafted In'). To follow Yeshua in entirety, we must keep the commandments of Almighty God, just as he and his followers did in the beginning, we cannot 'cherry pick' those commands that we particularly like and ignore the rest, we must unreservedly accept that we must follow the commandments as these form the basis of the requirements for us to enter into the kingdom. It is reasonable to assume that, if we travel to another country, we will abide with the rules of that country insofar that these rules do not cause us to compromise our position with

Almighty God. The same observance of these rules is expected if we are to enter into the kingdom of God. Those who do not comply with the rules will be rejected, the choice is ours to make. It is not easy for any of us to keep all the commandments, this is due to the sinful tendencies that we all possess however, if we are truly sorry and show true Godly sorrow, recognising that we have transgressed the law, we can be sure of forgiveness because we fully appreciate the value of Yeshua's ransom sacrifice for the atonement of our sin(s).

Whilst on earth, Yeshua was a man, he had all the traits of a human, he was tested to the limit by the Satan and, by his righteous stance he proved the Satan the liar he is. Yeshua was subjected to all the temptations and fleshly desires that we all have, he was not some form of Greek demi-god like Christendom portrays, at any time Yeshua could have succumbed to all the traits of the sinful flesh that we all suffer and, in this manner he is well aware of our weaknesses and fleshly desires that all humans have. The Satan knew this, make no mistake, the Satan and all his demons knew the true identity of Yeshua and his uniqueness, they knew that they could tempt Yeshua with the possibility that he could lead him to sin, otherwise he would not have attempted to talk him into submitting to the desires of his flesh, Yeshua could have capitulated and failed in his special mission at any time but, to our great joy and gratitude, he kept his perfect stance and rejected the Satan, remaining loyal to the Father to his death.

Now Yeshua is sitting at the right hand of his Father Yehovah, waiting for all his enemies to be subjected to him as a foot stool for his feet. Yeshua is now lifted up in all glory, the glory that he now shares with our heavenly Father Yehovah. Yeshua has been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth. Yeshua is the King of the Universe and our one and only High Priest (Kohen Gadol), the only means by which we can approach our heavenly Father and creator of the entire universe, both known and unknown to mankind. We do not need any human priests or any other human intermediary's between us and Almighty God Yehovah, only one... Yeshua.

We do not need specially dedicated buildings in which to worship, we as individuals are the Holy Temple, we do not need an earthly temple any more, this is why it is important we do not defile our temple as we await the coming of Yeshua benDavid.

The true followers of Yeshua will always “seek ye first the kingdom of God...” (*Matthew 6:33*), by doing this we show that we are true believers, we keep the

Luke 17:21 KJV Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Covenant vs Commandment

COVENENT

[H1285]- בְּרִיתִי briyth (ber-eeth') n-f. 1. a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh) [from H1262 (in the sense of cutting (like H1254))] KJV: confederacy, (con-)feder(-ate), covenant, league.

[G1242]- διαθήκη diatheke (dee-ath-ay'-kay) n. 1. (properly) a disposition 2. (specially) a contract (especially a devisory will) [from G1303] KJV: covenant, testament.

COMMANDMENT

[H6680]- צִוָּה tsavah (tsaw-vaw') v. 1. (intensively) to constitute, enjoin. [a primitive root]. KJV: appoint, (for-)bid, (give a) charge, (give a, give in, send with) command(-er, -ment), send a messenger, put, (set) in order.

[G1785]- ἐντολή entole (en-tol-ay') n. 1. injunction, i.e. an authoritative prescription. [from G1781]. KJV: commandment, precept

commandments God's kingdom already, this is what is meant by Yeshua's words in Luke 17:21. Yeshua's true followers are already in the kingdom as they already obey its rules.

So, Where do I Go From Here?

When those of us realise that, for many years we have been misled concerning the contents of Almighty God's word as recorded in the wonderful gift that Almighty God Yehovah has given to us freely, the library of books we refer to as the Bible, we can choose one of two paths to follow. It is now time to ask ourselves...

1. Do I wish to unlearn all the false teachings and misleading theories, leaving behind the traditions of men, rewind my belief system and study God's word to find out the real truth concerning the worship of Almighty God Yehovah in the way that He approves and, thereby know that we are indeed pleasing Him? Or...

2. Do I continue in the belief system that I feel most comfortable with, even if it contains some false doctrines and puts the traditions of men above the scripture?

We can see that the whilst the choice is simple enough, the decision you make at this stage is not so easy, now we realise that we have to make a life-changing decision as to the direction we wish to take. This decision will be one of the most important that you will ever make, your salvation rests upon which ever path you wish to choose, one leads to life and the other path leads to destruction, we must choose wisely and I would hope that you choose option 1.

If you choose option 2 then I am afraid that, at the end of this worldly system, you will be on your own. Yeshua was absolutely clear as to the fate of those that do not follow the commandments, his exact words are recorded for us in Matthew 7:21-23.

Matthew 7:21-23 KJV Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ⁽²²⁾Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ⁽²³⁾And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me,

You can be sure that, to believe in Yeshua and follow him, you **MUST** obey his commandments, to do this you must know what those commandments are else, how are you going to follow them?

1 John 2:2-6 outlines what is expected of those who profess to 'know' and 'believe' in Yeshua, this clearly identifies what it means to 'know' Yeshua, we cannot claim to 'know' him whilst we disobey what he told us to do, this would be a gross insult to Yeshua. It does no good to anyone if we just say that "I believe in Yeshua (Jesus)", these are just words in the air.

1 John 2:2-6 KJV And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world. ⁽³⁾And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁽⁴⁾He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁽⁵⁾But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. ⁽⁶⁾He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

You will know when you are doing things correctly as you can expect the world (*system*) to ridicule and even persecute you for your adherence to the scriptures. You will probably be opposed by those that are closest to you, family and close friends will probably reject you but, fear not for you are storing up treasures in heaven rather than treasures on earth, this worldly system will soon be replaced by the kingdom that we have always prayed for. It would be good to meditate deeply on these two cited scriptures, we must continually check ourselves as to what we believe, to see if we are still in the truth. (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Those that choose option 1 above have chosen wisely however, we now have another problem. In the scriptures we are encouraged to meet together and to build each other up, supporting our brothers and sisters in Yeshua and receiving encouragement and confidence from them too. There are few greater joys than to be able to study the scriptures together, upbuilding each other in love and fine works, works that we know are pleasing to Yeshua and our heavenly Father Yehovah.

As we know, salvation is not based on works, it is a wonderful gift given by the grace and lovingkindness of our creator, it was made possible for



us to grasp this undeserved gift when Yeshua gave his life as a periphery sacrifice that replaced all the animal atonement sacrifices once and for all time. But, as we now know, the evidence of our faith is shown by our way of life, in other words by our works, for example, Abraham was identified as being righteous by his works. (Genesis 15:6; James 2:21).

When we chose the right path, we will find that we no longer wish to share our previous religious practices as we have now proven to ourselves that such false worship is unacceptable to Almighty God and none of us wish to displease Him.

The book of Revelation is a wonderful book, it is full of symbolism and, as such it is known to be a rather difficult book to understand as the reader must be fully conversant with Bible prophesy and the symbolism contained both in Tanakh and Brit ha'Dashah. One of the most prolific names mentioned in the book of Revelation is identified as a harlot "Babylon the Great". This harlot is noted as a "mystery" in Revelation but, when we perform a deeper study into the identity of this harlot, it positively identifies this harlot as the world empire of false religion.

BABYLON UPDATE

The neo-Babylonian empire was conquered by Cyrus about 2500 years ago. That conquest brought a permanent end to the Babylonian empire. As for the city of Babylon, it began a long process of decline after Cyrus' conquest and is said to have been completely deserted by 800 AD. The city was buried in sand until the late 1800s, when archaeologists rediscovered the site. The city began a new life as an archaeological site, although progress has been stymied by wars that have occurred during the past few centuries.

Babylon, as a people, as a nation, and as an empire, has ceased to exist or function in any way shape or form. The city itself was buried under sand for centuries. It is very safe to say that these facts lend credence to the prophecies of Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Throughout the ages, this harlot has fornicated with the leaders of this world, she has given them the power and license to perform so many atrocities and abominations that they have become “drunk with the wine of her fornication”. Revelation 17:2; 18:3.

The Bible tells us to clearly to **“get out of her my people...”** (*Revelation 18:4*). This Babylon is not the city of Babylon located in Iraq; this is an abandoned city and the Babylonian empire was conquered by Cyrus in 539 BCE never to rise again as the Bible told us. (*Isaiah 13:19, 20; Jeremiah 50:39*).

From this we can easily deduce that any reference to the Babylon the Great of

Revelation 18:4 KJV And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Revelation cannot be applied to the city or empire of Babylon, all the evidence points to the Babylon that is mentioned in Revelation is none other than

the world empire of false religion, this is rather ironic as most of the doctrines of these false religions originate from the physical Babylon that was incorporated into the Persian empire in 539 BCE. As the ancient city of Babylon and its empire suffered Almighty God’s judgement, so will this manmade diabolical world religious system.

Babylon the great is not just limited to Judaism and Christendom, this Babylon includes ALL religions in the world that do not recognise the one true Almighty God Yehovah and His son Yeshua. No one knows when this will happen, there has been many speculative theories but, when nothing happens then someone will come up with another theory, even claiming that they have had it revealed to them by Almighty God Himself. Pay no attention to these wild speculations that only serve to dilute the coming of Yehovah’s kingdom and lull people into a false sense of security, they will cry wolf too often.

Matthew 24:36-39 KJV But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ³⁷But as the days of Noe [*Noah*] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe [*Noah*] entered into the ark, ³⁹And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

There is no person or group of people that can ever predict the time of the coming of God’s kingdom, that is left purely in the hands of the creator Yehovah, but you can rest assured that it will come when all the prophesies have been fulfilled.

As we can see, no one is able to predict the end with any accuracy, the Bible gives us signs to look out for like those found in 2 Timothy 3:1-9 but we must be careful of these composite signs so as not to mislead anyone, as many of the religious sects have done and continue to do as they seize the opportunity to increase their membership which also increases their revenue as in the cease of Jehovah’s

Witnesses.

I have often wondered why there is so much speculation on the end time prophesy as to when it will happen, just ask yourself, is it really that important that we should know when the end time will happen? Suppose we did manage to find out the exact date of this

earth moving event, would it make any difference as to our salvation? Why do so many people get so involved in the prediction of the coming of Almighty God's kingdom? It is a complete waste of time and effort, rather use the time to prepare yourself for the inevitable, thinking as if it is coming in the next few minutes then you will be like the ten bridesmaids that Yeshua mentioned as recorded in Matthew 25:1-13. Your lamps will be full of oil and the wicks trimmed and ready.

Whilst I am alive, I will always endeavour to keep in expectation of that assured event, what does it matter if I fall asleep in death before Yeshua returns? If that is Yehovah's will then so be it.

Will I ever find a place of true fellowship?

I have spent many years of searching to find a group that truly follows what the Bible teaches, this is one of the hardest tasks that we can ever encounter. Our choice of those that we decide to fellowship with is so important in a spiritual sense. I have found that, in my search, many of the religious denominations and sects appear to be following the biblical principles however, when studied a little deeper, they reveal that they have subtly adopted many of the false teachings of Christendom, things like modalism and the immortality of the soul, which are not Bible teachings, rather, they originate from the traditions and doctrines of men. In this case it is far better to fellowship with Yeshua on your own than to fellowship with that cup of slightly poisoned water. Matthew 18:20 highlights the advantages of fellowshiping with true believers and I totally agree, but if none can be found then we must not compromise, Yeshua will NEVER turn us away, even if we are alone.

It is not all 'gloom and doom', I have found fellowship groups that do teach accurately from the pages of the Bible, groups that I would be most happy to associate and fellowship with but unfortunately, they are many, many miles from where I live which poses an obvious problem, making Hebrews 10:25, 25 almost impossible to fulfil.

In this day of high-speed internet connection this situation is somewhat overcome, we can 'fellowship' with our brothers and sisters in a virtual meeting and exchange upbuilding comments and teachings but it can only be a poor substitute for the privilege of meeting and fellowshiping with them on a personal face-to-face basis.

This situation must be comparable with those early groups that Paul and the apostles encountered. When we find ourselves in a position where there are little or no potential brothers and sisters in our area who share the desire to truly follow Yeshua, those who desire to rid themselves of the religious false teachings and traditions of men and truly turning to the Bible for guidance we can follow the example of the believers that "heard the word" in those early days. They started congregations themselves! These early congregations of believers in Yeshua met in the houses of their brothers and sisters, and it would be following their example if we did the same. There is no need for a special building for worship as we have previously discussed.

If you cannot find any suitable "Israelite" (*not Jewish*) congregations in your area, why not start your own? There is nothing like gathering to midrash together and to upbuild each other.

Almighty God Yehovah does not change and He does not compromise, the Bible clearly shows that all the followers of the Brit Hadasha kept the commandments of Almighty God just as did Yeshua all the days of his life. They did not compromise anything. As we discussed earlier, the covenant changed and the laws were adjusted to take into account the abolishing of the atonement sacrifices but you can rest assured that all the rest of the law did not change.

A Question of Responsibility

When we look at the general worldly society (including ourselves) it is a fact of life that most, if not all people do not readily accept responsibility for many of their actions. With this world of liturgy, if something goes wrong, we are all too ready to shift the blame onto someone else in an attempt to divert our responsibility like a thief that blames society for their lack of funds, this maybe the reason for the thief's actions but it was the thief that had the choice whether to commit a crime. In the UK this is comically known as the "Hot Potato" syndrome.

Whether we are aware of it or not, as we go through the day, we are faced with many decisions that affect our lives, or others' lives, whatever we choose it is our responsibility to make that choice wisely. Wisdom can be defined as knowledge that is correctly applied therefor, the root of wisdom is the gaining of knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge that we accrue in a manner that is acceptable, not to mankind but to Almighty God Yehovah.

In this current worldly system, many people that do not possess a spiritual quality and reject the existence of an Almighty creator of the universe have just one law, that is the law of the flesh which tells us that "if it feels good... do it!" or "do as thou wilt". This can also be applied to many people that consider themselves righteous and "born again", it can be said that this type of person suffers from spiritual schizophrenia, having two modes in their journey through life, allowing themselves to be deceived into thinking that they can live their lives by switching between the two laws that Paul identifies in his letter to the Romans in chapter 7 which are the law of the spirit and the law of the flesh..

It is obvious that, if we succumb to our fleshly desires, we put ourselves under the influence of our carnal desires which are in direct opposition to that of the law of the spirit and we become an opposer (Satan) to God's righteousness. On the other hand, those that chose to follow the law of the spirit will reject those carnal desires and maintain their integrity to Almighty God.

There is not one person that has inhabited or will inhabit this earth that has not been subject to this war that is raging within all of us, even Yeshua was subject to carnal desires, if it were not so it would have been pointless for the Satan to tempt him as he did. This is one of the reasons that it is difficult to maintain our integrity to Yehovah. At birth we are born into sin, there is not one righteous person when we are compared with Yehovah's standard of righteousness, that is why we are now under His grace.

Given that we are “born” into sin we have to “mortify” (kill) our fleshly bodies (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5) and be resurrected in the spirit, this is the true meaning of being “born again”. (John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23). If we wish to walk in the spirit, we must deny our carnal desires for we cannot be servants of both. (Matthew 6:24).

This is possibly one of the most difficult decisions that we will ever make in our lifetime, if we win one battle, we can be assured that it will not be the end of the war and you, like myself will find it a constant battle, this is why it is so difficult to stay on the road to salvation. We must endure to the end if we desire to be saved. (Matthew 24:13).

The Satan does not have to tempt us with evil, he knows fullwell our weaknesses and he exploits them so proficiently, he hardly has to lift a finger to tempt us as, by making an unwise decision, we condemn ourselves.

Whether we believe in an Almighty God or not, there is no escaping the fact that, at the end we will all have to answer for our actions. There will be no one for us to blame as, by grace, we have been given the opportunity to make the right decisions. As discussed in this book, grace will not be forever, it is a transitory condition that has been granted by our loving heavenly Father and disseminated by our King and High Priest Yeshua to allow us the time and opportunity to repent and return to Almighty God Yehovah.

The true followers of Yeshua will be ones that display the fruitage of the spirit, they will also openly display their love for Almighty God by making that love evident in their daily lives continually.

As we know, the love of Yehovah is that we keep His commandments (1John 5:3). This means that we must not only keep the “ten” commandments but we must also observe the correct day for the Sabbath and observe the seven holy convocations.

Your ultimate salvation is not based upon what religious organisation, denomination or sect which you follow, it is ultimately down to you as an individual to determine the truth, that truth has been divinely given to us in the form of the Tanakh and the brit ha’Dashah, you can and will find it if you take the time to study His word without any denominational influence.

Irrespective of which religion or philosophy you are committed to, if the way you follow claims to love Almighty God but teaches that you do not have to keep God’s commandments then, quite frankly and by definition that particular religion or philosophy is lying to you. Anyone that professes to love Almighty God and His son Yeshua (Jesus) and does not keep Almighty God’s commandments, although they say they have love for God, they are liars. That sounds pretty harsh but, by Bible standards it is the truth and unfortunately this affects all Christendom.

FRUITAGE OF THE SPIRIT
Galatians 5:22

- LOVE
- JOY
- PEACE
- PATIENCE
- KINDNESS
- GOODNESS
- FAITH
- MILDNESS
- SELF-CONTROL

It is not sufficient for anyone to simply say that “I love Yeshua (Jesus), in this world of lies and deceit anyone can say that! If someone says to you “I love Yeshua (Jesus) how can you know for certain that they are telling you the truth? The answer is by the way they live and keep the written torah (commandments) in their lives. Read John 14:15.

In the world there exists three “spirits” these are the spirit of the flesh, the spirit of the world and the Holy Spirit, the first two go hand-in-hand whilst the third is diametrically opposed to the first two and this is the basis for the battle we have within our members. No one can be responsible for your actions, no one can make you do something that you do not want to do, the choice will always be yours to make and you become responsible (answerable) to the choice you make. It is up to you the individual to discern the truth from the lies that you may gain salvation, do not follow anyone on earth, the only one you should follow is Yeshua for he is “the way, the truth and the life” and the only way you can enter into God’s new kingdom with the blessing of everlasting life in worship of the one true God Yehovah.

Conclusion

Throughout this study we have concentrated mostly on Christianity and Judaism as these two are most closely related. Although Islam is said to be based upon the writings of Moses when we examine the writings of Muhammad ibn ‘Abdullāh (Muhammad) we find that many of his writings contain an element of truth however, some sura’s are way off the mark, as we find in sura 9, the sword sura. This identifies the Qur’an as a writing of a man as it does not express Almighty God’s purpose for the universe He created.

We have found that today’s Judaism does not represent the pure worship of Almighty God as taught by Moses, by the inclusion and additions to the oral torah, that pure worship was polluted and became a totally different torah than that which was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This oral torah תּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּעַל־פֶּה is based upon the writings of the sages and, from this emerged the Mishnah which was compiled in the early 3rd century CE and Gemara, Talmud (Babylon and Jerusalem) this is the oral torah that Yeshua and all the Apostles, including Paul, were so vehemently against, not the written torah תּוֹרָה שֶׁבִּכְתָב that was given to Moshe (Moses) on Mt Sinai.

Joshua 24:15 KJV And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD (*YHVH - Yehovah*), choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

We have also found that Christianity is far removed from the teachings of its founder Yeshua, when John, the last apostle that was in the presence of Yeshua died, the “grievous wolves” that were prophesied in Acts 20:29, 30 started to infiltrate the true ecclesia, making their mark upon the fledgling congregations. They slowly introduced pagan teachings into the pure worship that was taught by Yeshua ha’Mashiach through the Apostles. This has resulted in so many false teachings and doctrines that, if those faithful

Apostles of Yeshua were alive today, it would truly make their eyes water. There are many more things that I could mention as evidence that would condemn all these false religions, far too many to recall in this short exposé on religion and I will leave that up to you to prove to yourself and come to an accurate knowledge that is truly Bible based. In the words of Joshua "...which will you choose"?

Appendix A

The Apostle Paul

Sha'ul (שאול) was born in the Cilician town of Tarsus in c.5CE. He was brought up in a devout Pharisaic Jewish family from the house of Benjamin.

Tarsus was a major Mediterranean port, it had been in existence several hundred years prior to Sha'ul's birth. It was renowned for its university. Tarsus was the most influential city in Asia Minor, a centre of trade and commerce where many differing cultures met and this would set the scene for Sha'ul's early life. In Christianity it is assumed that Sha'ul was a Roman citizen however, there is no written evidence that Sha'ul, at this stage in his life was such. It is much more logical that Sha'ul received the name Paul when he was officially adopted by the Roman governor of Cyprus Sergius Paulus, this would have given Sha'ul automatic Roman citizenship although he could not marry into the senatorial class.

As a youth Sha'ul transferred to Jerusalem to further study both oral and written torah under one of the most influential Pharisaic rabbis of the time, becoming a disciple of Gamaliel. His wisdom in the traditions of rabbinic Judaism increased and he himself became a notable scholar, he was completely zealous for the Jewish faith, (*Philippians* 3:5,6) this is evident by his presence at the stoning of the first martyr Stephen. From this time onwards he became one of the principal persecutors of the followers of Yeshua. As we know, this all came to an abrupt halt on the road to Damascus when Yeshua appeared to him and his followers and told Sha'ul that he had plans for him.

The religions of Christendom (and many of its sects), teach that Sha'ul (now known as Paul), taught that the followers of Yeshua did not have to keep the torah (instructions or commandments) given to Beni-Israel (*children of Israel*) by Almighty God at Mount Sinai however, closer and more intense study reveals that this is absolutely not the case. We find that the law that Paul refers to, especially in Galatians is aimed directly at the oral torah called takkanot by the Pharisees. Acts 15:1 we read "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said, except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses*, ye cannot be saved. These "men" were Judaizers, members of the Pharisees that believed in Yeshua (Messianic Jews), these were the people that Sha'ul was speaking against, not the torah. The circumcision was not given to Moses, circumcision was already happening to the family of Abraham even before Moses came onto the scene. Circumcision is part of the Abrahamic covenant.

Although the religion of Judaism claims to be keepers of the torah, the fruit they produce is far from what the torah instructs, Judaism today is based on the rabbinical teachings which are mostly based on the oral torah talmud. most followers of Judaism break even the simplest commandments, they will wear a kippa in compliance with **rabbinic law**, but do not wear Tzitzit, a commandment for all Israelites. On the odd occasion you will see that if they do wear the Tzitzit it is all white (Ashkenazi Judaism). The covering of the head (at any time) dishonours the man's head (1 Corinthians 11:7) whilst an Israelite is commanded to wear Tzitzit on the corners of their clothing that complies with Numbers 15:38.

Tzitzit

Numbers 15:38 KJV Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

Pauls alleged opposition to torah is a misunderstanding, like his master Yeshua, Sha'ul was in opposition to the oral torah of the Pharisees, but it is recorded in the Brit ha'Dashah that Sha'ul kept the written torah to the letter and taught the written law to the new followers that once were gentiles. There is much scriptural evidence to show that all the early congregations kept torah and the 7th day sabbath as commanded in God's word. (*Genesis 2:3*).

Just as those pagan early church fathers were ignorant of the written torah, prominent followers of rabbinic Judaism are ignorant of the context of the Brit ha'Dashah, this is evident by their lack of perception of its importance. The fact is that there is not one word in the Brit ha'Dashah that was written by a gentile, even Luke was a Hellenised Jew before he turned to Yeshua.

We know that salvation is a wonderful gift from our loving and tender Father Yehovah, keeping the torah is not the path to our salvation. When Yeshua gave his life that we may be released from our bondage to sin, he made this gift freely available to those who would follow him and believe in him. The way that true followers of Yeshua avail themselves of this wonderful gift is by keeping His commandments (torah). We are not saved by torah rather; we keep torah because we are saved.

Appendix B


Pronunciation of the Divine Name

The divine name of Almighty God is shown in many bibles in what is known as the ‘tetragrammaton’, this is made up of the four (tetra) consonants in the Hebrew alafbet (alphabet) consisting of Y[yod] H[hey] V[vav] H[hay] or YHVH. Prior to the coming of ‘modern’ Judaism the full name of Almighty God was regularly used in temple worship. The most divine name was considered to be that sacred that it could not be spoken and thus the tetragrammaton was substituted for the full letters with their subsequent vowel markers of Sh’ma, Cholam and Kamatz. The rabbis took it upon themselves to hide the most divine name should anyone use it out of context (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11). Many of the Jewish copies of Tanakh replace YHVH with Hashem (meaning ‘the Name), Adonai or Elohim.

Most Christian Bibles replace YHVH with “The LORD” as opposed to “the Lord” which refers to Yeshua such as in (Psalm 110:1).

By doing this they have hidden the true name of Almighty God, a situation which was never His intent for we need to call on His name if we are to be saved, how will we do this if we don’t know His name?


Fortunately, a well-known Hebrew scholar Nehemiah Gordon began a study to find the true name of Almighty God. As he was studying the Aleppo Codex, he began to find the divine name YHVH where the scribes had, perhaps unwittingly, written the vowel markers in places. These vowel markers revealed the true pronunciation as YeHoVaH.



=

(Ancient Hebrew)

(Modern Hebrew)



= YeHoVaH using vowel

שָׁמָ	חֹלָם	קָמָץ
•	יֵ	יֵ
Shva	Cholam	Kamatz

We can now pronounce the most Divine name as being Yehovah. The name Jehovah is very similar to the Hebrew translation but is grammatically incorrect as the letter ‘J’ did not exist in the Hebrew alafbet, and didn’t appear in the English alphabet until 1643, similarly, the name Yahweh which is also in common use is also grammatically incorrect, many translators translate the “vav” as “wow” but the ancient Hebrew text pronounces the vav as “v” rather than “w” which did not appear until after the exile in Babylon.

Appendix C

The Torah Explained

This is quite a topic to discuss, there are many differing ideas that abound in religious circles, all of which do their bit to add to the confusion concerning what is, quite a straight-forward and simple set of commands, the history of which is traditionally traced to Moses at Mount Sinai.

With so many differing concepts it is so easy to become confused as to what torah is, its relevance to us today and is torah still to be observed and, if so, by whom?

טוֹרָה towrah (to-row') (or torah {to-row'}) n-f.

1. a precept or statute, especially the Decalogue or Pentateuch

[from H3384]

KJV: law.

Root(s): H3384

As we can see from the Strong's concordance that the Hebrew word "torah" means a 'precept' or 'statute' and, in this context, they are the instructions given by Almighty God to enable those who wish to please Him can do so by adherence to His torah.

If we wish to leave our country of birth and emigrate to another country, we would expect that, to be an acceptable citizen of the country we were to

emigrate to, we would agree to keep its laws and uphold its statutes as, if we didn't, we can expect rejection and subsequent deportation.

That is a reasonable request and it is also a Biblical command too, except where their laws and statutes conflict with Almighty God's laws and statutes.

Most, if not all those that profess to believe in Yeshua (Jesus) are aware of what is commonly identified as the 'Ten Commandments' however, many fail to realise that there are actually 613 commandments listed in Torah, many of them focus on different situations and professions for example, one of the commandments state that *"Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together."* Deuteronomy 22:10 KJV. In the urban area that I live there is very little chance that this 'mitzvot' will ever apply to me, but that does not negate this instruction, it may apply to someone that does plough with animals.

The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other Gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Respect your father and mother.
6. You must not commit murder.
7. You must not commit adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You must not give false evidence against your neighbour.
10. You must not be envious of your neighbour's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Why was the torah needed?

When the Israelite nation were released from bondage in Egypt, they began their 40+ years sojourn in the wilderness. Prior to this exodus, Yehovah showed His power over the Egyptians and their god's by releasing ten plagues or judgements upon the Egyptians, insulting their false gods in the process.

He continued to show His power when He parted the waters for the fleeing Israelite nation and drowning all the armies of Egypt that were perusing them.

Although the Israelites were eye witnesses to the infinite power of Almighty God, many of them took it upon themselves to decide how they should worship Almighty God Yehovah, they decided to rebel against Moses, they were jealous of his position and did not trust on Yehovah to save them from their situation. The result was that Yehovah rejected them and was about to destroy the whole Israelite nation, it would have been so if it were not for the intervention of Moses and his pleading with Yehovah.

The torah was given because it was obvious that the Israelite nation needed divine guidance to assist them in making the right choices in all their dealings. Unfortunately, as history proves, even with this divine help the Israelite nation were still unable to keep torah, the result was the captivity of both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) being taken into Babylonian captivity. Not forgetting the dispersal of the Jewish nation after the destruction of the temple, a term which lasted from c70CE to 1948CE when the area of Palestine was returned to the Jews.

It is quite clear that, if people are left alone to trust their hearts it can only lead to sin and destruction as we are all imperfect. Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Who was the torah given to?

Most Christian denominations consider the torah to be non-applicable to the followers of Yeshua (Jesus), we are told that the torah was given to the Jews only. Christendom tells us that the law (torah) was made null for Yeshua's (Jesus') followers for he had 'fulfilled the law' (*Matt 5:17*). In support of this they introduce scriptures that, at face value, do seem to suggest this theory however, as in all things, to get the true meaning of any statement, it is of vital importance that we familiarise ourselves with the context and situation of the times before we make any fundamental decisions based on the evidence we are given.

Fulfil

πλήθω pleroo (play-roh'-o) v.

1. to fully, completely fill
2. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow)
3. (figuratively) to fully supply, satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.

What many denominations do when they put forward assumed scriptural references to support their theory is that they 'cherry pick' verses that seem to be in support of their theory. This is similar to a person that uses cut out letters and sentences from newspapers to send a ransom note to hide their handwriting. By using this method, you can easily make things seem to be true when, in fact they are the opposite.

End

telos (tel'-os) n.

1. (properly) the point aimed at as a limit
2. (by implication) the conclusion of an act or state (a termination)
3. (literally, figuratively or indefinitely) a result
4. (immediate, ultimate or prophetic) a purpose
5. (specially) a tax or levy (as paid)

[from a primary tello "to set out for a definite point or goal"]

In his letter to the Romans 10:4 Paul tells us *that* “*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*” If we read only this verse, we actually miss the context of what Paul was saying. What Paul is actually telling us is that Yeshua is the very epitome of the law and those that wish to follow him will also keep the law as he did. The word “end” does not mean “termination” as most in Christendom teach.

The truth of the matter is that torah was not given just to the Jews, the torah was given to the nation of Israel because they had sinned.

As we have learned, the true followers of Yeshua, although once gentiles, we have now been grafted in to the commonwealth of Israel and, as such we are obedient to our Master Yeshua, we love him and we know the reason why we love him and we prove that love by keeping His commandments.

The torah of the Pharisees. (Rabbinical Judaism)

During his ministry Yeshua had a constant battle with the Jewish religious leaders of the time. Most, if not all his miracles, teachings and parables had a hint of their form of worship, a worship that was far removed from the worship that was initiated in the wilderness which lasted up until the destruction of the first temple built by Solomon. It can be said that rabbinic Judaism formed whilst in Babylonian captivity, being deprived of temple worship and all the rituals that were associated with the temple, the religious leaders had to formulate something that they considered to be worship that Almighty God would accept. They could no longer perform animal sacrifices, even if they did, they would not be accepted by Almighty God for they were not in His prescribed location. They came up with the idea of the synagogue meetings where they could gather on Shabbat, reading from the scriptures and commenting on them.

Why did Yehovah punish the Southern Kingdom and send them into exile as he had done with the other ten Northern tribes earlier? It was simply because they were a sinful nation, Yehovah withdrew from them and allowed them to be taken into Babylonian captivity by Nebuchadnezzar. Yehovah had removed His spirit from them as a punishment that would last 70 years, they had lost Yehovah's favour so they had to devise a deluded replica that they assumed would be acceptable to Almighty God but that was not the case. It was at this time that an idea that had been floating around since the time of Moses started to bear fruit, it was the assumption that whilst Moses was given the written law, he was also given another torah which became known as the ‘Oral Torah’, this oral torah was not given to Moses on Mount Sinai, it is a fabrication of the religious leaders.

The concept of this oral torah is not found in Tanakh, it was a development of the rabbis of the time and was subsequently added to as time passed. This “oral” law was never recorded, it was passed down from generation to generation of priests that perpetuated these traditions and added to the torah of Almighty God. They added over 200 additional ‘laws’ with which they were able to subdue the Jewish people, this is the reason why Yeshua opposed them so vehemently. Instead of teaching the torah of Almighty God, they taught the torah of the rabbis.

Yeshua did not condemn them for what they did in this respect, he condemned them for what they didn’t do, which was to keep the torah that was given to the Israelite nation by Moses. It is of little wonder that those who follow rabbinical Judaism today are so vehemently oppose Yeshua and his followers as he exposed their corruption and false teachings.

This oral torah is still in circulation today, being known as the “Mishna” along with other rabbinical commentaries such as the Talmud and, to orthodox Jews it is considered to be more important than Tanakh.

After the death of Yeshua there were many Pharisees that actually accepted Yeshua as Almighty God’s anointed (*Heb. Mashiach*) and became believers however, they were reluctant to leave behind the traditions that they held to from their rabbinic teachings, just as former pagans did in the early years of Christendom, although they showed that they were ‘converts’ they still wanted to keep rabbinic Judaism as the guide to salvation. Their actions as “Judaizer’s” was a constant thorn in the side of Paul, it is the cause of much of the confusion that we still see today. When we study the letters of Paul, we soon find out that Paul was a keeper of Almighty God’s torah but he. Like his master Yeshua,

totally refuted the torah of the rabbis, this is where people that do not understand what was happening in those early congregations can be misled into thinking that Paul opposed torah. They fail to realise that, at the time, there were two torah’s.

The Israelites of today.

The Biblical Israel is not a country like the Israel (Palestine) of today, Biblical Israel consists of the original twelve tribes of Jacob. As we know from our studies, Jacob was renamed “Israel” when he contended with the angel on the banks of the river Yabbok. When the Bible mentions Israel, it is not the secular country that was named in 1948, it refers to the nation of the sons of Israel (Jacob).

As we have discussed previously (*see Grafted in on p.18*), those that truly believe in Yeshua are ‘grafted in’ to the true Israelite nation. At your baptism you figuratively killed the old person that you were, becoming a new person in the body of messiah, in this you became a naturalised citizen of Israel, reborn as a child of Abraham, an Israelite, not of the secular country of Israel, but a citizen of the Israel of Almighty God, which is an entirely different entity.

Being an Israelite, you now must accept the torah and are obligated to keep the commandments of Almighty God Yehovah, not as a ‘Judaizer’ as referred to by Luke in Acts 15:1 concerning circumcision, which incidentally shows their lack of torah knowledge, as the command of circumcision was not given to Moses, it was given to

Abraham (who was not a Jew).

We can be absolutely sure that the instructions concerning how we conduct ourselves if we are to please Almighty God apply to ALL people that wish to bring their lives into line with what Almighty God Yehovah expects of us all, irrespective of what religion we keep. The torah is the same for everyone and is still applicable as it was yesterday, today and will be tomorrow.

Keeping Almighty God's commandments do not bring us salvation, this is where another section of confusion lies but, by keeping torah we show our suitability to gain salvation through Yeshua, the same Yeshua that kept torah 100% whilst he was on earth.

We know that, through the records that all the early disciples and apostles kept torah, keeping the sabbath and the festivals were of primary concern to those early followers of Yeshua. Paul is often accused of teaching against torah but, the fact is that he also kept torah, observing the 7th day sabbath and all the festivals as instructed in the Tanakh. They did not keep torah to be saved, they kept torah **because** they were saved.

Do not be fooled into thinking that the followers of Yeshua (Jesus) do not have to uphold Almighty God Yehovah's laws, the keeping of torah is a composite of one's faith, for how can we profess to love Almighty God and His son Yeshua if we break His commandments? 1 John 5:3.

It is a common misconception throughout Christendom that confuses the Torah with the covenants that were introduced by Yehovah and humankind. Torah and covenant are completely separate entities furthermore, entering into a new covenant does not necessarily replace older covenants for example, although we are now under what may be called the Messianic covenant, the covenant between Abraham and his seed (otherwise known as "the promise") is very much alive today as it was when Yehovah gave it to Abraham, likewise the first covenant that was given in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15) still applies today and on into the future until all things are fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth. As we have learned, the Torah was introduced when Adam sinned and as a consequence death through sin became the wages to be payed to all mankind. The covenants may vary but the Torah will always stay the same. The animal sacrifices that were performed by the Israelites are figuratively still required today but this requirement has been paid in full by the sacrifice that Yeshua made once and for all time so they need not be performed for atonement purposes.

In a nutshell, **if you believe in Yeshua and keep the commandments you are an Israelite** and a partaker in the promise Yehovah gave to Abraham. The followers of Yeshua are justified by faith and that faith is demonstrated by how they live and the fruit that they produce. Now is the time to return to Almighty God Yehovah whilst His grace is upon us, but time is running out and the period of grace will be withdrawn, it will not last for ever. The only man that we should follow is Yeshua, he alone is worthy of our praise, he is now glorified and all authority has been given to him to execute judgement on all peoples irrespective of their social standing or race. Everyone that has ever lived will face resurrection and judgement, a sobering thought indeed!

Do not compare religion to faith, religion is man-made and will not bring salvation as it is based on the teachings of men and their traditions, rather, diligently study God's word the Bible for, in its pages you will find the truth and you are guaranteed to be acceptable to Almighty God Yehovah if we have faith in His son, Yeshua and keep His commandments.

You do not need any form of religion to guide you into salvation, it is already right in front of you, do not be guided by any human, the only guide that you will need is the Ruach Ha Kodesh (holy spirit) as you read your Bible, pray for revelation, understanding, discernment and knowledge with regard to His will and you can be sure that you will certainly receive His spirit in abundance.

Do not expect great signs or wonders, healings and miracles, if it is Yehovah's will for them to happen they will and they still do in certain circumstances. Remember, if we are suffering some kind of ailment or persecution in this world, we cannot expect a miraculous transformation. Deuteronomy 6:16 (*research the testing at Massah*), tells us that we must not 'test' Yehovah, this is a verse that Yeshua quoted when he was being tempted by the Satan. We can be sure that Yeshua and Yehovah are well aware of our situation, there is nothing wrong in praying for relief but, be aware that if that relief does not come, there is a reason and we must never lose faith. We were not promised a life without pain and suffering in this world, that is a result of disobedience that has been handed down to us from Adam, Yeshua is the superb evidence in this, in fact, Yeshua told us that, as his followers, we should expect the same treatment. (Luke 9:23).



יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנֶּךָ
 יֵשָׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

*Yehovah bless thee, and keep thee:
 Yehovah make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
 Yehovah lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.*

[Numbers 6:24-26](#)

GLOSSARY

- **YHVH [יהוה]** The personal Name of Almighty God. Y_eH^oV_aH.
- **Yehoshua (Yeshua)** The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Modern: Jesus).
- **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
- **Kohan Gadol** High Priest.
- **Shaúl** Saul (Paul).
- **Israel** The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
- **Gentile** Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
- **Tanakh** The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
- **B'rit HaDashah** The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
- **Torah** The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
- **Oral Torah** The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara and other Jewish religious Books.
- **Gospel** Good News.
- **Christendom** All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
- **Apostolic Fathers** The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.