

Double Blind

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The state of the Church today is unique in the course of history. Paul tells us that the Jews have a veil over their eyes that keep them from being able to accept Yeshua as Moshiah. I submit to the reader, that a similar veil exists over the eyes of the church that keeps it from accepting Torah. In fact, Isaiah tells us that all nations (that would be the “goyim” or non-Jew/Israelite and Jew/Israelite) have a veil over their eyes. I believe that Paul is quoting from this portion of scripture when he writes regarding the veil.

⁷ And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

Isaiah 25:7 (KJV)

It is the purpose of this writing to show that either blindness is equally disastrous if allowed to remain in place.

This blindness towards Torah did not exist in the early church that we read about in the book of Acts. The first believers were Jews up until Cornelius (roughly 15-17 years after the ascension of Yeshua), the first gentile to be brought into the early church. Torah was a natural part of their lives because they were familiar with it and Yeshua upheld it and taught it. One of Yeshua’s early teachings tackled the issue of Torah head on, as if He knew (do you think!?) that there would be a problem down the road regarding the church’s relation to Torah.

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever **shall do and teach them**, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:17-19 (KJV)

Paul tells us about the blindness caused by the veil that is over the Jews eyes.

¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *veil* is done away in Christ.

¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

2 Cor 3:14-15 (KJV)

Paul does not tell us that there is a veil over the eyes of the church, because it had not happened yet. Within a generation after Paul’s death, there began to creep into the church understanding a doctrine that would change the landscape of the church.

The pioneer of this doctrine is a man named Marcion. He was at first rejected by the church leadership, but the ideas he forwarded, steadily worked their way into the theology of the early church fathers. He stated that the Old Testament God was not the

same as the New Testament God: that Jesus had presented a totally new God and therefore the God of the Old Testament had been replaced. This was reason enough in his mind to throw out the Old Testament and concentrate on the life of Yeshua presented in the gospels.

This rejection of the Old Testament also began to express itself in anti-Jewish rhetoric to the point that most early church fathers would come to write scathing rebukes against the Jews as the “Christ killers” and demand that their congregants have nothing to do with the Jews. This would also naturally work its way into a flat out rejection of Torah as a Jewish document, no longer having any meaning for the “New Covenant Church”.

By the Time Constantine formalized the Christian Church into a state sponsored religion in the early 4th century, the Torah was (for all intents and purposes) removed and many pagan customs took its place. For example, the day of worship prescribed in Torah as the seventh day, God’s day, a blessed day, a day that commemorates His creative power in bringing forth the earth and all its creatures; this day has now become Sunday, the day pagans used to venerate the sun god. This change was not made with any scripture to support the change but merely on the basis of the authority of the Church that Constantine established. The Catechism of The Roman Catholic Church to this day proudly proclaims that it was their authority that changed the day of worship from Shabbat (the seventh day of the week) to Sunday. An elaborate theology was developed by the church to explain how Shabbat was changed to Sunday for the day of worship, but this change could never be supported by scripture, even the New Testament.

I submit that this “blind spot” or veil for the church is their inability to see the importance of Torah. Torah is as necessary to the life of the saint as the acceptance of Yeshua.

¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Rev 14:12 (KJV)

The saint of Revelation has faith in Jesus, what the Jew refuses to acknowledge, and keeps the Torah, what the “New Covenant Church” refuses to acknowledge. What a fix we are in today. Paul expressed his longing for a time when a “new man” would appear. This “one new man” would express faith in Yeshua and observe the Torah as a guide for living a holy life unto God.

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Eph 2:12-18 (KJV)

This “law of commandments” is not speaking about Torah; it is referring to the Oral Law (such as the Talmud) that the Pharisees had used to replace Torah. This oral law did not even allow a Jew to eat in a gentile home. Peter had to receive a vision from God about the unclean animals before he realized that it was OK to go to the home of a gentile, Cornelius. It is very clear that this dream is not about food, setting aside the Torah kosher commands, because Peter didn’t go eat a ham, he went to the home of Cornelius as a result of the vision. Jesus spoke often against this “law” that had replaced the writings of Moses.

⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust.

⁴⁶ For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

⁴⁷ But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

John 5:45-47 (KJV)

The Jewish leadership had removed Torah and replaced it with their own customs. This offended Yeshua and Paul, and they spoke out against it, but they never spoke against the Torah.

This condition continues to this day. Jews still refuse to accept Yeshua as Messiah because he did not fulfill their expectations. He did fulfill prophecy, but He did not give them what they wanted. They had bent prophecy around their own expectations so that they were unable to see His outright fulfillment of them before their very eyes. This is the danger that both Jew and gentile (new covenant church) are in because they are not having their expectations met by Yeshua and Torah.

The church today has also removed Torah. It has also substituted its own customs and “teach for doctrines the commandments of men”. For example, Christmas is celebrated as the birthday of Christ. Yet a careful look at the record of the birth of Yeshua reveals that He would have had to be born around the time of Sukkot, or in the fall. The only reason why Christmas is celebrated when it is is because many pagan gods (Saturn, Apollo, Zeus, and others) are supposed to have been born on December 25th, the time of the winter solstice. This is important because pagans worship the sun and the solstice signals the time when the sun begins to gain strength in the sky.

So the way I see it, the Jew has a veil that prevents him from seeing Yeshua, and the Christian has a veil that prevents him from seeing Torah. It is interesting to note that they are both really the same thing. Yeshua is the “Living Torah”.

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.

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1-5 (KJV)

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (KJV)

He taught and lived Torah. In another study, it can easily be shown that it was Yeshua (in a pre-incarnate appearance) who gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The fact that He perfectly kept/lived Torah is the basis for the substitutional sacrifice that He accomplished on our behalf. Had he not perfectly kept Torah, His sacrifice would not have been acceptable. He would have been a blemished lamb.

Unfortunately, the history of the church is part of the reason why the Jew can not accept Yeshua today. Most “bad history” for the Jews has been at the hands of misguided church leaders and their followers. If a Christian was truly a follower of Christ or Yeshua, much of the history against the Jews would have been written radically different. The church, on the other hand, has only itself to blame. But it is never too late to see the error of our ways and make teshuva (make a 180 turn and go back).

The Torah is important to the life of the “saint” described in our Revelation text, not as a way to earn salvation; that is a completed work accomplished by Yeshua, the living Torah. Torah is important because it is the pathway Yeshua recommends to His followers to keep them from wandering into the ways of the enemy, haSatan. The Torah can not possibly be “kept” perfectly by anyone. That is not the point. The point is that we get on that path and walk in that direction so that we are not straying into the enemy’s territory. At the end of Torah, in Deuteronomy, we are given a choice. If you follow the Torah, you will be blessed and have life. If you will not follow the Torah, you will live a cursed life and death will surround you. God gives you the choice. Why would you want to choose cursing and death?

And for the Jew, there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved, than the name of Yeshua. Why would you not want to acknowledge your Redeemer and live? When He comes the second time, scripture foretells that they will look upon Him whom they have pierced and proclaim, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,” or in Hebrew, “Baruch habah beshem YHWH!”

As I read the prophets of the Tenach (Old Testament), I believe that the current events surrounding us are telling us that we are in the final period of Earth’s history. Time is very short. Interestingly enough, there are more and more people returning to Torah study and leaving the organized churches for small home study fellowships. There is also a sharp upturn among Jews accepting Yashua as Moshiah (Messiah). These two events tell me that the one new man is in the process of forming. The saints of Revelation are being identified as we speak.

I would like to invite you to put on another set of lenses and go back and personally read the Torah for yourself and ask YHWH to show you how to walk in His ways, not the traditions of man. Let Him know you are serious about listening to Him and then begin the journey with Him, and the Holy Spirit, who has been promised to guide us into all truth. Let Him remove your stony heart and give you a heart of flesh; fleshly tablets upon which to write His never changing, eternal Torah.