

Observations on Noahidism

Who are Noahides?

Noahides (also Noachide) are those who follow the Noahide laws, which were the supposed commandments given to Noah after the flood, as speculated by Jewish rabbis. It is usually considered that there are seven specific laws [the prohibition of: idolatry, murder, stealing and kidnapping, sexual immorality, blasphemy, eating flesh from a live animal plus the requirement to establish honest laws and the policing of them]. Jews consider that Gentiles, in order to be considered as righteous brethren, must abide by these laws, though there are many discrepancies as to how this is to be fulfilled or what the penalties of failure are. Six of these laws were supposedly given to Adam in Eden (drawn out by eisegesis from Gen 2:16); the dietary law and murder appear in Gen 9:4-6. The 613 commandments of the later Mosaic Law contained these Noahide laws.

Rabbinic Judaism has never adjudicated any cases under Noahide law and scholars disagree whether it is part of the Halakha ('Jewish Law'). Some Gentile communities, living in proximity to Jews, have signed a formal acceptance of these laws to keep the peace. There has also been an acceptance of them by the US Congress.

The symbol of the modern Noahide Movement is the rainbow, which is also the symbol of many New Age groups. There are various Noahide organisations and most call themselves '*b'nei noach*' or 'sons of Noah' ('ben' = son, 'bat' = daughter).

Critique

This sect of Judaism is just another false religion. It is patently false for these reasons (and we here avoid reference to the New Testament):

- The basis of Noahidism is the Talmud and rabbinic speculation, particularly Maimonides (medieval Jewish scholar) who even includes Muslims within this religion. This is a shaky foundation since various rabbis had different opinions on what constituted Noahide law. [See Appendix One]¹
- The authority for this sect, therefore, rests upon the interpretation of vague Genesis texts by the Talmud.
- If the Talmud is false, then Noahidism is false.
- The Babylonian Talmud is clearly false and is, in fact, filled with blasphemy and wickedness (inc. the encouragement of paedophilia). [See Appendix Two]
- Ergo: Noahidism is false.
- Furthermore, how are Noahides saved? There is no mechanism for salvation except meritorious works, which Noah did not agree with. Noah found grace (Gen 6:8). Noah's salvation was based upon grace given by God not human works. Since Noahidism is based upon human works, there is no salvation in it.
- The Torah, which is accepted by Noahides, also points to the need of a divinely sent deliverer (Deut 18:15) and it is he that Noahides must listen to. This is Christ.

¹ Maimonides states in *Mishneh Torah* [The Laws of Kings, 8:11] that a Gentile who observes the Noahide commands becomes a 'Righteous Gentile' and has earned a place in the world to come; so also the Talmud [*Sanhedrin* 105b]. However, this is the case only if they follow the laws because they consider them to be divine and not just because they are good rational rules for living. [*Mishneh Torah Shoftim*, The Laws of Kings, 8:14.] There is also an implicit reference to the authority of the Torah in all this as revealing the divine origin of Noahide laws.

- All the Levitical offerings speak of a bloody sacrifice to come with the Messiah that would give real value to the animal sacrifices (i.e. the cross). They did not have value in themselves or the sacrifices of Gentiles would have equal value, obviating the distinction of Judaism. The essence of Judaism was based in the Messiah to come; without the Messiah Judaism has no value at all. Jesus is that Messiah and fulfils all the OT qualifications and prophecies (e.g. Isa 53).

Without doubt this is just another modern deception seeking to attach to itself some credibility by claiming the support of the father of the post-deluvian earth. It will lead, like all other deceptions, to hell since it offers a false salvation based on human works and not divine grace.

Appendix One

- The Medieval scholar Maimonides [*Mishneh Torah*, Laws of Kings 10:6] adds the commandment forbidding the coupling of different kinds of animals and the mixing of trees. In his *Mishnah Torah*, he interpreted the prohibition against homicide as including a prohibition against abortion. [*Mishnah Torah Shoftim*, Laws of Kings and their wars 9:6.]
- Rabbi David ben Solomon ibn Abi Zimra (Radbaz), contemporary with Maimonides, added castration and sorcery [*Sanhedrin* 56b.].
- Rabbi Saadia Gaon (10th c.) added tithes and levirate marriage.
- Rav Nissim Gaon (11th c.) included listening to God's Voice, knowing God, serving God and religious acts which can be understood through human reasoning.
- Rabbi Nissim ben Reuben Gerondi (14th c.) added the command of charity.
- *Asarah Maamarot* by Rabbi Menahem Azariah of Fano (Rema mi-Fano, 16th c.) avers thirty commandments, the latter twenty-three are extensions of the original seven, which includes prohibitions on various forms of sorcery, as well as incest and bestiality. Shmuel ben Hophni Gaon (10th c.) also lists thirty Noahide Commandments. He includes the prohibition of suicide and false oaths, as well as the imperatives related to prayer, sacrifices and honouring one's parents.
- Modern Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein lists 66 instructions.
- Rabbi Harvey Falk has suggested that much work remains to be done in order to properly identify all of the Noahide Commandments, their divisions and subdivisions.

Appendix Two

The Talmud

From the time of the Pharisees onwards, Judaism became based more and more upon rabbinical teachings which were eventually collated in the Talmud. In the Babylonian captivity of Israel after 587 BC, scribes and religious teachers tried to keep the Israelites pure from the idolatrous influences around them. Scribes often twisted the *Torah* (law) to suit their ideas and at some point a new group emerged - the Pharisees (meaning 'separatist'), who were legalistic, radical, religious zealots. The Pharisees spawned a range of traditions which were originally passed on orally to ensure scrupulous adherence to the

law, especially regarding ritual purity. Some scholars believe that they were descended from the religious purists the *Hasidim* who helped the Maccabees.

During the Second Temple period (roughly from Herod the Great to 70AD) there were several types of Judaism, rabbinic Judaism being but one form.² At the time of Jesus, the priestly party, the Sadducees, had the upper hand, but after the destruction of the temple in 70AD, the Sadducees passed from history (some adopting Pharisaism) and the Pharisees dominated rabbinic Judaism, for a hundred years until a rabbinic consensus prevailed, with a strong Pharisaic influence.

Without question, the Talmud is the source of authority for modern Judaism not the Old Testament.³ The Talmud itself teaches this: *be more careful in the observance of the words of the Scribes than in the words of the Torah.*⁴ So do authoritative modern Jews: [The Talmud] *is still the supreme authority in religion.*⁵ [The Talmud is] *the central pillar supporting the entire spiritual and intellectual edifice of Jewish life.*⁶ *The modern Jew is the product of the Talmud.*⁷

The Talmud is divided into two parts: the *Mishna* is the original collection of rabbinical decisions, laws and traditions compiled in 200AD; the *Gemara* is a commentary on this to help explain the contradictions between the rabbis. There are two versions of the Gemara: one completed in Palestine (Jerusalem) in c.400AD, the other in Babylon 100 years later in rabbinic schools situated away from Roman persecution and interference. The Babylonian version was more subtle, comprehensive and authoritative.⁸ The *raison d'être* of the Talmud was that the Torah was known to the rabbis orally, not just in writing, thus oral argument produced rabbinic writings which were authoritative explanations of the Torah.

Modern Judaism is, therefore, dominated by the very legalistic traditions of the Pharisees that Jesus condemned. Judaism is the culmination of ideas arising from the sect which most opposed the Lord. After the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, it was the Pharisees who reconstructed Judaism, *Pharisaism shaped the character of Judaism and the life and thought of the Jew for all the future.... The study of [the Talmud] is essential for any real understanding of Pharisaism.*⁹ Modern Judaism is largely Pharisaism, however, some rabbinic literature dates back before the Pharisees held sway.¹⁰

The (unedited) Talmud contains some of the most blasphemous sayings and is more critical of Christians than almost any other work. The following may shock you:

- Jesus is said to be boiling in excrement in hell.¹¹

² Rabbinic Judaism was never the only form of historic Judaism and is thus not the only authentic pattern for Jewish lifestyle. Recent historical research convincingly demonstrates this; there were as many as 14 different Jewish emphases and groups.

³ The only exception to this regards the Karaite sect which developed in the 8th century and which rejects man-made writings.

⁴ *Erubin*, 21b

⁵ *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, Vol 12, p26.

⁶ Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, *Daily News*, Los Angeles, 13 March 1990, p10.

⁷ Dr. Isaac H Wise, *Commentary on the Talmud*; quoted in Griffin p31.

⁸ After the Mishnah was compiled, various works sought to reconcile scripture with rabbinic teachings. These included *Midrash*, *Tosefta* as well as the Talmud; but the Talmud triumphed.

⁹ *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, article on Pharisaism, p666, p474.

¹⁰ See articles *Pharisees* and *Rabbinic Traditions & Writings* in 'Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels', IVP, (1992).

¹¹ *Gittin*, 57a, 56b.

- Jesus was conceived illegitimately during menstruation.¹²
- Jesus is called a fool.¹³
- Jesus is said to be a magician / sorcerer.¹⁴
- Jesus is said to be a bloody and deceitful man.¹⁵
- Mary was an adulterous prostitute.¹⁶
- Christians are described as murderers, idolaters,¹⁷ or dung¹⁸ and accused of bestiality¹⁹.
- Christians were only created to serve Jews day and night and belong to Jews.²⁰
- Christians are worse than dogs.²¹
- Incest is considered a 'light' sin compared to accepting Christianity.²²
- Jews must avoid Christians, even if they are wounded and need a doctor, or even to learn from a teacher.²³
- Jews are to injure Christians in every way possible, even killing them.²⁴ Jews who do good to Christians will not be resurrected.²⁵ Jews can steal from Christians.²⁶
- Jews can deceive Christians by pretending to be one.²⁷
- Jews can lie in order to condemn a Christian.²⁸
- Jews must always try to deceive Christians.²⁹

The Talmud's instruction to deceive others needs amplification. It is for this reason that Jews have been historically reviled and often ejected from countries wholesale. The *Kol Nidre* ('all vows') prayer teaches that all vows can be ignored, all pledges rescinded, all obligations refused and all commitments lied about, if this prayer is prayed first:

He who desires that none of his vows made during the year shall be valid, let him stand at the beginning of the year, and declare 'every vow which I make in the future shall be null'. His vows are then invalid provided that he remembers this at the time of the vow.³⁰

¹² *Kallah*, 1b (18b).

¹³ *Schabbath*, 104b; *Sanhedrin* 67a.

¹⁴ *Toldoth Jeschu*, *Sanhedrin* 43a.

¹⁵ *Gittin* 56b.

¹⁶ *Sanhedrin*, chap 7, 106b, *Iebhammoth*, last chapter.

¹⁷ *Abhodah Zarah* 22a, *Iore Dea* 153.2, Maimonides *Vide Infra*, Chap2, p42, *Perusch* 78c. Christians are called by various names in the Talmud, such as *Akum*, *Goim*, *Notsrim*, *Abhodah Zarah*, *Obhde Elilim*, *Minim*, *Edom*, *Amme Haarets*, *Apikorosim*, *Kuthrim*, *Nokhrim*. Jews see Gentiles as covering all 'Christian' people.

¹⁸ *Abhodah Zarah* 22b

¹⁹ *Abhodah Zarah* 15b, 22.

²⁰ *Midrasch Talpioth* 225d; A Rohl, *Die Polem*. p20

²¹ Rabbi Schelomo Iarchi on Deut 14:21. *Iebhammoth* 61a.

²² *Abhodah Zarah* 17a.

²³ *Iore Dea* 155.1, 153.1.

²⁴ *Iore Dea* 158.1; *Orach Chaiim* 330.2. *Choschen Ham.* 425.5, 388.15; *Abhodah Zarah* 26b; *Zohar* 1.25a, II.43a, I.38b,39a; *Sepher Or Israel* 177b; *Ialkut Simoni* 245c. n. 772.

²⁵ *Zohar* 1.25b,

²⁶ *Babha Bathra* 54b; *Choschen Hammischpat* 156.5, 183.7, 266.1. *Babha Kama* 113b.

²⁷ *Iore Dea* 157.2 *Hagah*.

²⁸ *Babha Kama* 113a,b. *Kallah* 1b, p18.

²⁹ *Zohar* 1.160a.

³⁰ *Nedarim*, 23a-23b.

This supported the practice of the Kol Nidre prayer which developed later than the Talmud. Such a practice is in opposition to any honest functioning in society.

Excerpted from: *'What Supporters of the Jewish Root Movement Need To Know About Dispensationalism and Judaism'* by Paul Fahy.

Additional quotes from the Talmud

London, The Soncino Press (1939).

- *A maiden aged three years and a day may be acquired in marriage by coition, and if her deceased husband's brother cohabits with her, she becomes his. [Sanhedrin 55b.]*
- *Pederasty with a child below nine years of age is not deemed as pederasty with a child above that. [Sanhedrin 54b]*
- *When a grown up man has intercourse with a little girl it is nothing, for when the girl is less than this – that is, less than three-years-old – it is as if one puts the finger into the eye – tears come to the eye again and again, so does the virginity come back to the little girl under three years. [Kethuboth, 11b]*
- *[Regarding] the withholding of a labourer's wage ... this only borders on robbery, for actual robbery means depriving a person of what he already possesses. [Sanhedrin, 57a]*

Any religious law which contains statements like these is manifestly wicked and originates from the Father of Lies.

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