

What Supporters of the Jewish Root Movement Need To Know About Dispensationalism and Judaism

Very many Christians have been taken in by the Jewish or Hebraic Root(s) Movement, especially those in certain Charismatic circles. These sincere folk have seen the church loose its moorings and now look for another foundation for their faith. This makes them susceptible to teachers who tell them that Judaism is the root of the Christian faith and that believers must concentrate upon this Jewish dimension.

Some of these teachers are godly men who hold to a dispensational eschatology¹ in sincerity, which has led them in a Jewish direction. Others are blatant false teachers who have such a strong Jewish agenda, that they teach with reference to rabbinical writings or even the occult Kabbalah. Certain men insist that unless we use the rabbinic Midrash method of interpretation, we cannot fully understand the Bible. Many endorse the practice of celebrating Jewish customs and feasts while some (wrongly) state that the New Testament was originally written in Hebrew. A few have gone so far as to be circumcised and to abandon the New Testament in favour of the Old.

It is important for the followers of these teachers to learn some cold hard facts regarding these matters. I have discussed the whole error of Jewish Root teaching in a booklet², and will not go over that ground again here. My purpose here is to offer some important information which Jewish Root teachers will ignore or obscure. Readers must decide for themselves if these background facts are consistent with living as a Biblical Christian.

Dispensationalism

The whole modern focus upon Israel stems from an eschatological viewpoint called *Dispensational Premillennialism*. Though not called by that name often in the UK, it is a popular position, especially in the USA. Some may wrongly call it *Pre-tribulationism* or *Futurism*, but these words apply to other specific subjects. Dispensationalism has many variants, some posit a pre-trib. doctrine, others do not. 'Futurism' refers to one method of interpreting Revelation. Common Dispensational teaching is popularly taught in books like: *The Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey or John Walvoord's works.

Dispensationalism was the first doctrinal system to teach that there is a separation between the church and Israel, that God has two purposes and plans - one fleshly and one spiritual. No evangelical had ever before suggested that God dealt with Jews differently than anyone else. Only this theology states that there are two types of believer: Jews and Christians. Only this system propounds that God blesses a fleshly people devoid of the Spirit.

Believers should know some facts about Dispensationalism:

Dispensational theology is inimical to the historical, orthodox teaching of English churches. The English church, which arose out of the Reformation, was

¹ Eschatology is the Biblical study of the end times.

² *The Veil of Moses*, an 85pp booklet available from the author.

originally reformed (Calvinistic) in theology. The early confessions of the following churches were Calvinistic: Presbyterian, Independent, Congregational, Baptist, and Anglican. Dispensational teaching contradicts many facets of their reformed theology.

- It teaches that there are two peoples of God (one spiritual one fleshly) instead of one (Gal 3:28).
- It teaches that there is more than one way to salvation.
- It teaches that there is more than one covenant in operation today.
- It teaches that God did not always work by grace but that he operated in various ways under various times (dispensations).
- It teaches that there is more than one last judgment.
- It teaches that there is more than one second coming.
- It teaches that God's purpose is not centred upon the church as scripture reveals (Eph 1:3, 22-23; Col 2:9-10).
- It teaches that God favours a fleshly, unspiritual, worldly and sinful nation.
- It teaches that the seed of Abraham is a human nation when scripture shows that it is Christ and the people in Christ (Gal 3:16, 7-9, 29).
- It teaches that the kingdom of God is not a spiritual entity as Jesus and the apostles stated (Rm 14:17), but is fleshly and worldly and situated in Israel.
- It insists on a consistently literal interpretation of scripture and prophecy even when this can be preposterous and when the Bible itself often interprets prophecy in a non-literal way.³

Just one example of the dangers of erroneous literal interpretation will suffice. The literal (Dispensational) interpretation of Ezek 44 teaches that:

1. There will be a future, physical restoration of the temple in Jerusalem (in a supposed millennium) - BUT, there is no longer any material temple, believers are the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19; Eph 2:21; Rev 3:12).
2. The glory of God will reside in it - BUT, God no longer dwells in buildings (Acts 17:24) but in the hearts of believers (Heb 9:24; Rm 8:9,11; 1 Cor 3:9,16; Col 2:9-10; 2 Tim 1:14; Jm 4:5).
3. Foreigners (gentiles) cannot enter unless circumcised; circumcision has a spiritual effect (this will happen in the supposed millennium) - BUT, circumcision is finished, it has no spiritual value at all (Gal 5:6, 6:15). God's people must not be physically circumcised as circumcision is now a spiritual matter - the effects of the cross on the flesh (Gal 5:2-3; Col 2:11; Phil 3:3).
4. Levites will be ministers there and priests will officiate sacrifices- BUT, priests and priestly clans are no longer required as mediators, Christ is our only High Priest and we are all priests under him (1 Tim 2:5; 1 Pet 2:5,9). Officiating priests are unnecessary and obsolete as the offerings have ceased (Heb 9:25-28). Christ is the only mediator of the new covenant, all the systems of the old covenant have been cancelled (Heb 8:6-7).
5. Sin offerings are performed there - BUT, all OT offerings culminated in the cross and have now ceased. Any repetition would be a blasphemy to Christ's finished work and God has no pleasure in them (Heb 10:6-8,10,14,18; Eph 5:2).
6. Feasts and sacrifices are offered - BUT, these have ceased to have any spiritual value and keeping them results in bondage (Gal 4:9-11, 5:1,4; Col 2:8,16-17).

Following a literal interpretation of Ezekiel 44 leads a person into serious errors, faults which even inspire a blasphemous view of Christ. The NT must always explain the OT. One key NT teaching, which explains much OT prophecy, is that the church is the fulfilment of

³ For more details on these matters and a refutation, please refer to *The Veil of Moses*.

prophecy concerning Israel. Gal 4 and Rm 2 and 9 show that it is the church which must be seen as God's spiritual people to whom the prophets applied their message:

Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name.' (Acts 15:14-17) [The tabernacle, or house, of David is applied to the church.]

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into. (1 Pt 1:10-12)

By insisting that OT prophecies must be applied literally to fleshly Jews, apostolic teaching is reversed and all sorts of errors result.

Dispensationalism is a new religion:

- There is not a trace of Dispensationalism in history before the 19th century.
- There is some evidence (but not a lot) of Historic Premillennialism in history from earliest times, but this is very different from Dispensational Premillennialism.⁴
- Ancient authors who are sometimes quoted by teachers to support Dispensationalism actually oppose its Jewish nature:
 - Justin Martyr (166 AD) - *As, therefore, Christ is the Israel and the Jacob, even so we who are quarried out from the bowels of Christ are the true Israelitish race.*⁵
 - Irenaeus - *The church is the seed of Abraham.*⁶
 - Hippolytus - *For it is not of the Jews that he spoke of old, nor is it of the city of Zion, but of the church.*⁷
- Dispensationalism was based upon early ideas proposed by two Jesuits: Cardinal Francesco Ribera (c. 1585) and Manuel Lacunza (1731-1801), who taught a futuristic approach to Revelation.
- It then took the idea of a pre-tribulational rapture from the so-called 'prophetic' ranting of a sick, young, Scottish girl called Margaret Macdonald in 1830. This girl had some connections with the occult and was prone to hallucinations.
- These two seeds were developed in the Catholic Apostolic church led by the heretic Edward Irving. This church was a prototype for the Charismatic movement that degenerated into erroneous teachings and aberrant practices. It scandalised Victorian London. Its journal, *The Morning Watch* popularised the key basics of dispensational eschatology.
- These ideas were picked up by Brethren leader John Darby and spread widely through his lectures, writings and the Dispensational *Scotfield Study Bible*. Even early Brethren leaders (like George Muller) were suspicious and one respected scholar, S. P. Tregelles, stated that, the originating idea for Dispensationalism came from a false spirit

⁴ Historic Premillennialism does not posit a pre-trib. rapture, neither does it focus upon a separation of Jews and Christians in the plan of God.

⁵ *Ante Nicene Fathers*, Vol 1, p267.

⁶ *Ante Nicene Fathers*, Vol 1, p563.

⁷ *Ante Nicene Fathers*, Vol 5, p243.

prompting a vision in Irving's church. Other contemporary leaders, like Charles Spurgeon and William Booth also condemned the teaching.

- The ideas spread like wildfire in America, where most of the popular books influencing UK Christians on eschatology come from.

Dispensational teachers often recant

- In the 150 years or so since its inception, very many former dispensationalists eventually realised that the teaching was unscriptural and abandoned the doctrine. I can find no reformed teacher who became a Dispensationalist.
- Of these, many have written to expose the errors of Dispensationalism, for example: Philip Mauro, G. Campbell Morgan, William Cox, Curtis Crenshaw, Grover Gunn, Harold J. Ockenga, Arthur Pink, Nathaniel West, A.J. Gordon, Oswald J. Smith, Charles Edman, W.J. Erdman, W.G. Morehead, Robert Cameron and R.V. Bingham

Interim conclusion

It is impossible to hold to orthodox reformed theology and also Dispensationalism. Only by being inconsistent or ignorant can the two be contained together. Dispensationalism is a modern aberration that grew up at the same time as a number of other similar errors in end time speculation: Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Christadelphianism, Adventism, Theosophy and occult speculation. It's key doctrines are totally unbiblical and have no support from historic sound theologians. It is from this source that the modern focus upon Israel emerged.

Judaism

As modern teachers seek to lead us towards Judaism, we should understand what Judaism comprises of and what it says. Judaism is not the teachings of the Old Testament; that was long ago superseded by rabbinical teaching. We must understand that Judaism is a fleshly, worldly and false religion - just as much as Islam or Hinduism. None of it should be adopted by Christians in any form.

What the Bible says about true Jews

- Some Jews who influence churches are actually of the Devil:
 - Rev 2:9 *I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [Christ speaking.]*
 - Jn 8:37-44 *"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you." ... They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham ... You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*
- Fleshly Jews by race are not necessarily what the Bible calls true Jews:
 - Rm 9:6-9 *For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.*
 - Rm 2:28-29 *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

- Biblical Jews are the inheritors of the promise, they are the seed of Abraham. After the cross, all the old fleshly relationships ceased. God's people are now those of faith in the Gospel, those who are in Christ:
 - Gal 3:7 *Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*
 - Gal 3:9 *So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*
 - Gal 3:14 *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*
 - Gal 3:16 *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*
- Fleshly Jews who attempt to follow the law in the flesh are cursed:
 - Gal 3:10 *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."*
- Jewish Christians are no different to Gentile Christians:
 - Gal 3: 27-29 *For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*
- Following Jewish customs is bondage:
 - Gal 4:9-11 *But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain.*
- Modern Judaism is bondage:
 - Gal 4:25 *for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children --*
- The 'root' of the church in Galatians is the heavenly covenant:
 - Gal 4:24-26 *For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar ... but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.*
- Christians must stand in liberty and cast away Jewish legalism.
 - Gal 4:30- 5:1 *Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

The children of promise, the descendants of Abraham - most modern Jews are neither according to the Bible.

This subject is so important to Paul that he undertakes a significant argument based upon this in two NT books, Romans and Galatians.

In Rm 4:9-25 Paul establishes the case that Abraham was declared by God to be righteous WHEN HE WAS UNCIRCUMCISED! This was before Ishmael and Isaac were born. Abraham was 86 when Ishmael was born and 99 when he was circumcised. The promise and covenant were given to him before either (Gen 15:6, 16:2-4, 16). At least 14 years passed before righteous Abraham was circumcised. Paul states that this was ordained by God for a specific reason - to demonstrate that righteousness is of faith and is not related to belonging to an ethnic group or keeping the law (which came hundreds of years later).

If the Jews are the people of God today due to their ancestry, then so are Arabs (from Ishmael). But Paul makes the express point that Abraham (as the covenant recipient) is the

father (or root) of *all who believe* (Rm 4:11), whether circumcised or not. Righteous descendants of Abraham, according to the Bible, are those who believe the Gospel. The promise is to the line of faith not the line of blood.

The promise ... was not to Abraham or his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith (Rm 4:13).

The promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham who is the father of us all (as it is written, 'I have made you a father of many nations') (Rm 4:16-17).

Paul establishes the crucial doctrine of justification by faith upon the example of Abraham. The lynch point of his argument is that the flesh (blood-line) matters nothing, externally keeping the law matters nothing, having Jewish ceremonies matters nothing - having the faith which God gives to the elect is everything. Only those are justified; only those are the people of God.

The earliest Christian heresy was Judaizing

The book of Galatians is devoted to dealing with this heresy which became a great problem to the early church. This began by dressing up Christianity in Hebrew terms and emphasising Jewish festivals. From there it led to emphasising the law over against the Gospel and even demanding circumcision as a necessity for salvation.

The Judaizing doctrines hardened into a teaching known as Ebionism, from which developed the sect called the Ebionites. The two main heretical problems for the early church were Ebionism and Gnosticism. Gnosticism is comparable to the modern day New Age mystical ideas, thus the two earliest church problems are again with us in the 21st century.

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.⁸ 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.

⁸ 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.

Without question, the Talmud is the source of authority for modern Judaism not the Old Testament.⁹ The Talmud itself teaches this: *be more careful in the observance of the words of the Scribes than in the words of the Torah.*¹⁰ So do authoritative modern Jews: [The Talmud] *is still the supreme authority in religion.*¹¹ [The Talmud is] *the central pillar supporting the entire spiritual and intellectual edifice of Jewish life.*¹² *The modern Jew is the product of the Talmud.*¹³

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.¹⁴ 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.*¹⁵ Modern Judaism is largely Pharisaism, however, some rabbinic literature dates back before the Pharisees held sway.¹⁶

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.¹⁷
- Jesus was conceived illegitimately during menstruation.¹⁸
- Jesus is called a fool.¹⁹
- Jesus is said to be a magician / sorcerer.²⁰
- Jesus is said to be a bloody and deceitful man.²¹
- Mary was an adulterous prostitute.²²
- Christians are described as murderers, idolaters,²³ or dung²⁴ and accused of bestiality²⁵.

⁹ The only exception to this regards the Karaite sect which developed in the 8th century and which rejects man-made writings.

¹⁰ *Erubin*, 21b

¹¹ *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, Vol 12, p26.

¹² Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, *Daily News*, Los Angeles, 13 March 1990, p10.

¹³ Dr. Isaac H Wise, *Commentary on the Talmud*; quoted in Griffin p31.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, article on Pharisaism, p666, p474.

¹⁶ See articles *Pharisees* and *Rabbinic Traditions & Writings* in 'Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels', IVP, (1992).

¹⁷ *Gittin*, 57a, 56b.

¹⁸ *Kallah*, 1b (18b).

¹⁹ *Schabbath*, 104b; *Sanhedrin* 67a.

²⁰ *Toldoth Jeschu*, *Sanhedrin* 43a.

²¹ *Gittin* 56b.

²² *Sanhedrin*, chap 7, 106b, *Iebhammoth*, last chapter.

- Christians were only created to serve Jews day and night and belong to Jews.²⁶
- Christians are worse than dogs.²⁷
- Incest is considered a 'light' sin compared to accepting Christianity.²⁸
- Jews must avoid Christians, even if they are wounded and need a doctor, or even to learn from a teacher.²⁹
- Jews are to injure Christians in every way possible, even killing them.³⁰ Jews who do good to Christians will not be resurrected.³¹ Jews can steal from Christians.³²
- Jews can deceive Christians by pretending to be one.³³
- Jews can lie in order to condemn a Christian.³⁴
- Jews must always try to deceive Christians.³⁵

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.*³⁶

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.

Mysticism and the Kabbalah (or Cabala, Qabbala etc.)

After the rabbinic period closed with the rise of Islam, the successors to the rabbis wrote different types of works. These were rationalistic, academic and philosophical but tended towards the esoteric. The 7th century *Sefer Yesirah* ('book of formation') built on a mystical tradition going back to the first century (Merkava mysticism). In such works one could learn how to see the chariot of Ezekiel or know the structure of creation. This rational esotericism laid the groundwork for the Kabbalah of the Middle Ages.

The Kabbalah is a Jewish form of Gnosticism and magic, based upon word / number structures, which arose in the 12th century. Originating from the Jewish cult, the Essenes, oriental mysticism and Zoroastrianism combined with it to produce a magical system that

²³ *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.

²⁴ *Abhodah Zarah* 22b

²⁵ *Abhodah Zarah* 15b, 22.

²⁶ *Midrasch Talpioth* 225d; A Rohl, *Die Polem.* p20

²⁷ Rabbi Schelomo Iarchi on Deut 14:21. *Iebhammoth* 61a.

²⁸ *Abhodah Zarah* 17a.

²⁹ *Iore Dea* 155.1, 153.1.

³⁰ *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.

³¹ *Zohar* 1.25b,

³² *Babha Bathra* 54b; *Choschen Hammischpat* 156.5, 183.7, 266.1. *Babha Kama* 113b.

³³ *Iore Dea* 157.2 *Hagah*.

³⁴ *Babha Kama* 113a,b. *Kallah* 1b, p18.

³⁵ *Zohar* 1.160a.

³⁶ *Nedarim*, 23a-23b.

applies occult ideas to the text of the OT. Kabbalah became accepted as a valid magic pathway and was used by the Rosicrucians and other sorcerers.

The Kabbalah rests on a foundation very similar to that of the Talmud, namely that it claims a secret knowledge of the unwritten Torah by divine revelation that was communicated by God to Moses. The Kabbalah thus provided a means of approaching God directly, thus giving Judaism a mystical dimension whose approaches to God are dangerously pantheistic and heretical.

The earliest known Jewish text on magic and cosmology is the *Sefer Yetzira* ('Book of Creation', c. 3rd-6th c). It explained creation as a process involving the 10 divine numbers (*sefirot*) of God the Creator and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Together, they constitute the '32 paths of secret wisdom'. Another major text of early Kabbalah was the 12th-century *Sefer ha-bahir* ('Book of Brightness'). The Bahir not only interpreted the sefirot as instrumental in creating and sustaining the universe but also introduced into Judaism such notions as the transmigration of souls and provided an extensive mystical symbolism.³⁷

Freemasonry recognises the value of the Kabbalah and its writers note the Babylonian influence of oriental divination, mystical interpretation and symbolism in it. Indeed it was the foundation of Freemasonry, '*all the Masonic associations owe to it their secrets and their symbols*'.³⁸ Senior freemasons declare that the god of the Kabbalists and Freemasonry is Lucifer.³⁹

Kabbalism is not outlawed in mainstream Judaism, indeed it is popular amongst many Jewish groups. Jewish Prime Ministers have written introductions in Kabbalist books⁴⁰ while modern Hasidism (a social and religious movement that began in the 18th century) was profoundly influenced by the 16th century Lurianic Kabbala.

The Star of David is an occult symbol⁴¹

Christians should not use this symbol. Even if it was a true Jewish symbol, we have no use for fleshly artefacts to aid faith - whether stars or crosses; but this symbol is an ancient occult design utilised by Jews and not sanctioned by the Talmud.

- It arises from the occult Kabbalah.
- Jewish mystics in medieval times attributed magical powers to it, just as others used the five-pointed star. It was used to protect people from evil spirits.
- It was first used as an official Jewish symbol by the Jewish community in Prague.
- It was not just used by Jews but also by other mystics to serve as a magical sign.
- Along with the five-pointed star and the swastika, it was in use for centuries as a magical symbol and can be seen in Hindu decorations.

³⁷ Encyclopaedia. Britannica. CD1997

³⁸ Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p744ff. Quoted in Griffin, p24.

³⁹ Pike, *ibid*, p321.

⁴⁰ Alan Morrison, *Diakrisis Magazine*, Issue 5, p41.

⁴¹ *Star of David*, Encyclopaedia Britannica CD 98

The Modern Jewish State of Israel is not identifiable with the Old Testament Kingdom of Israel

The kingdom taken away

Modern unbelieving Jews are identified by the apostle Paul as 'Ishmael'. In Galatians 4:20-31 Paul allegorises the two sons of Abraham. Ishmael was born of the Egyptian slave Hagar and was rejected, while Isaac was born of Sarah. Isaac is the spiritual father of all who believe in Christ, while Paul emphatically states that Hagar equates to modern Israel, Sarah is identified with the Church, the 'heavenly Jerusalem'.

Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children -- but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all [talking to Celtic believers]. ... Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.... So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. (Gal 4:25,26,28,29,31)

Fleshly Israel is in bondage to the law and is thus in slavery. This fleshly nation is rejected just as Ishmael was: *Cast out the bondwoman with her son* (Gal 4:30). In this Paul only echoes what Jesus said earlier:

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. "And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. (Matt 21:43-45)

It's pointless to just attribute this just to those Pharisees and not all Jews since modern Judaism is Talmudic Pharisaism. In any case, Jesus says the kingdom is taken from those who temporarily were in it - Israelites. The kingdom has been taken away and given to another people group - those in Christ, the church (Eph 5:5; Col 1:13; 1 Thess 2:12; Heb 12:28; Jm 2:5; 2 Pt 1:11; Rev 1:9). When the apostles preached the Gospel, they preached the kingdom since becoming a Christian meant automatic entry into God's kingdom (Acts 8:12, 19:8, 20:25, 28:23,31). Indeed, the kingdom is now spiritual and not fleshly, earthly, unrighteous or worldly (1 Cor 15:50; 6:9; Rm 14:17).

Israel cannot be the kingdom of God under any circumstance, now or in a future earthly millennium. Indeed, when Christ returns, the kingdom (those over whom God rules) is handed over to God the Father (1 Cor 15:24).

Semitic origins⁴²

It is ironic that many Jews freely accuse others of being anti-Semitic, a term which would refer to all Arabs, Arameans and Semitic Jews. However, most modern Jews are not of Semitic origin while all Arabs are.

Most modern Jews are not descended from the Biblical Israelites! The ten tribes of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) were lost in history. After the Assyrian conquest and captivity, the bloodlines were ruined by racial admixture and they disappeared amongst the nations. Those that remained in Israel became of mixed blood as Samaritans, hated by Jews from Judah (the Southern Kingdom). Although some people may retain family names from

⁴² This section is indebted in part to *Anti-Semitism*, by Des Griffin, Emissary Pub. Clackamas, Oregon, (1996).

those tribes, this is no more proof of racial purity than someone called O' Neil can claim to be a true descendant of the High Kings of Celtic Ireland (the 'Hi Ne'al').

Further, 90% of modern Jews are not Semites, but are of Turko/Mongolian blood - descendants of Japheth. Modern Jews are of two types: Sephardim and Ashkenazim. The Sephardim arose from Spanish Jews who were expelled in the 15th century. In the 1960's they were numbered at about 500,000. The Ashkenazim, which means Khazar Jews, numbered 11 million at this time.⁴³ The Jewish Encyclopaedia explains that these Jews were Chazars (or Khazars) , a people of Turkish origin genetically related to Hun, Uigur and Magyar tribes. The Chazar kingdom was established in Russia before the foundation of the Russian monarchy by the Varangians in 855 AD. This warring tribe converted to Judaism at the end of the 8th century and adopted Jewish forms of life: synagogues, schools, Hebrew letters etc. Eventually the Chazars were conquered by the Russians and the Chazar royal family fled to Spain, but the majority of the people stayed in Russia.⁴⁴ Most of modern Jewry is from this stock.

The establishment of the Jewish State of Israel was the result of political intrigue between mostly Khazar Jews and British and American politicians. This intrigue involved lying to and breaking promises with the local Arab princes who had supported Lawrence of Arabia in the First World War.⁴⁵ Even the Rabbis at American Neturei Karta ('Friends of Jerusalem') state, *The Zionist State of Israel [has] no legitimate right to exist ... The Jews know that the creation of a Jewish state before the coming of the Mosiach (Messiah) is blasphemous and heretic.*⁴⁶

The Political Impact of Judaism In History

Although Israel has suffered abominably at the hand of Palestinian extremists in actions, which every sane person would condemn, nevertheless, Israel has perpetrated some appalling crimes of her own.⁴⁷ Even as I write, a black, Jewish MP (Oona King) appealed for balance in the House of Commons arguing that Israel had used equally appalling acts of terrorism. We should also note that:

- Israel restricts the work of Christian preachers.
- Israel refuses citizenship to Jewish Christians.
- Israel prohibits the plus sign (+) in schools since it reminds pupils of Christ's cross.
- Israel operates a severe apartheid policy.
- Israel arrests and imprisons Palestinians, without charges, counsel and trial.
- Israel has expelled Palestinians from their homelands and houses without charges or trial against international law.
- Israel has confiscated homes and belongings of Palestinian people forcing the occupiers to live in refugee camps.
- Israelis have stolen the property rights of Palestinians by falsifying deeds.
- Israel bulldozes homes and farms of innocent Palestinians as reprisals for terrorism.
- Israel withheld intelligence of an impending terrorist attack on an American Marines barracks in Beirut when 241 soldiers were killed on 23 October 1983.

⁴³ Arthur Koestler, *The Thirteenth Tribe*, p181.

⁴⁴ *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, Vol. IV, article on Chazars, pp1-5.

⁴⁵ For more information see Jewish sources such as Alfred Lilienthal, *The Zionist Connection* and Rabbi Stephen Wise's autobiography *Challenging years*, p186-9, 197.

⁴⁶ *New York Times*, 18 April, 1983.

⁴⁷ This section is indebted to Dale Crowley of *Focus On Israel* radio programmes, WFAX Washington DC, quoted in Griffin, p79-80.

- Israel attempted to sink the USS Liberty, which was unarmed and in international waters, on 8 June 1967 resulting in 34 dead and 171 wounded.
- There is now evidence that Mossad (the Israeli secret service) knew the details of the attack on the twin towers and sent operatives to film it, who were seen leaping with joy as it would enhance the Israeli cause against Arab terrorism. They were arrested but then released.

The USA and the UK declared war on two countries in recent years, supposedly for similar ethnic and terrorist crimes.⁴⁸

But going back further in history, Jews have been directly involved in a number of political upheavals and revolutions which require further investigation.

Jewish bankers like the House of Rothschild have long financed both sides in European wars.⁴⁹ It suited them to finance Japan in its 1904-4 war against Russia because they were planning and financing revolutions there (1905-6). But they were most successful in the 1917 Russian revolution which *resulted in a massive expansion of Jewish (Khazar) power and influence worldwide*.⁵⁰ Winston Churchill commented on this in 1920:

This movement [Bolshevism, Communism] is not new. From the days of Spartacus-Weishaupt to those of Karl Marx, and down to Trotsky, Bela Kuhn [Hungary], Rosa Luxembourg [Germany] and Emma Goldman [USA], this worldwide conspiracy for the overthrow of civilisation and for the reconstruction of society on the basis of arrested development, of envious malevolence, and impossible equality, has been steadily growing. It played ... a definitely recognisable part in the tragedy of the French Revolution. It has been the mainspring of every subversive movement during the 19th century; and now at last this band of extraordinary personalities...have gripped the Russian people ... and have become the undisputed masters of that enormous empire.

*There is no need to exaggerate the part played in the creation of Bolshevism and in the actual bringing about of the Russian revolution by these international and for the most part atheistical Jews. ... The majority of the leading figures are Jews. Moreover, the principal inspiration and driving force comes from the Jewish leaders... In the Soviet institutions the preponderance of Jews ... is astonishing.*⁵¹

Jewish writers agreed with this summary:

*There is much in the fact that so many Jews are Bolsheviks. The ideals of Bolshevism are consonant with many of the highest ideals of Judaism.*⁵²

*Some call it Marxism. I call it Judaism.*⁵³

*It is not an accident that Judaism gave birth to Marxism, and it is not an accident that the Jews readily took up Marxism. All this is in perfect accord with the progress of Judaism and the Jews.*⁵⁴

*The old man sank about \$20,000,000 for the final triumph of Bolshevism in Russia.*⁵⁵

⁴⁸ The Kosovo War against Serbs for ethnic cleansing, and The Afghan War against the Taliban for supporting terrorism. The real reason for both wars was the economic need to protect oil pipelines.

⁴⁹ Griffin p34.

⁵⁰ Griffin, p38.

⁵¹ Winston Churchill, *Illustrated Sunday Herald*, 20 February, 1920, p5.

⁵² *Jewish Chronicle*, London, 4 April, 1919.

⁵³ Rabbi Stephen Wise, *The American Bulletin*, 15 May, 1935.

⁵⁴ Harry Waton, *A Program for the Jews and an Answer to all Anti-Semites*, p148 (1939).

One should remember that 83 million innocent Russians, including many Christians, were killed under Russian Communism between 1917 and 1953. Anti-Semitism was punishable by death.⁵⁶

Conclusion

Followers of the Jewish Root Movement should know that their ideas are based upon a number of dangerous historical teachings. The 'Christian' doctrines which support the idea of fleshly Jews being the people of God arise from Dispensationalism - a modern and erroneous eschatology, totally opposed to sound, historic Christian theology and unknown in the church for nearly 2,000 years.

The favouring of Judaism is not only unbiblical and unwise, it is dangerous. Judaism is a false religion that is set in opposition to Christ. It contains blasphemous and violently anti-Christian statements and is also closely connected to the occult via the Kabbalah. Much of the NT contains warnings about taking up Jewish religious practices (Rm, Gal, Col, Heb).

Furthermore, support of the modern state of Israel is extremely unwise as it is a fleshly nation like any other and prone to serious mistakes. It was founded upon terrorism (the *Irgun*) and continues to use terror tactics, like crushing defenceless homes with tanks or firing missiles from F16s into residential areas. Ironically, most Jews are not from the stock of Biblical Israelites, but are descendants of Mongolian Huns and Turks.

Israel must be treated like any other sinful nation. When Israeli's are targeted by suicide bombers we should sympathise and condemn Palestinian brutality. But when Israel occupies Palestinian homes illegally, we should condemn Israel. We have no right to excuse national unrighteousness because of a mistaken idea about the promises regarding the land in the OT. These promises were fulfilled, both in the OT itself and in Christ, the centre of prophetic fulfilment.⁵⁷

The concentration upon Jewish Root ideas detrimentally affects two types of converts:

- Jewish Christians are often led to deny that they are Christians which, they feel, has Gentile connotations. This leads to adopting the title of 'Messianic Jews' and the production of separatist churches, which some even call 'synagogues'. The focus upon Jewish ideas and a predominant study of the Torah often leads to extreme legalism and the virtual creation of a sect.
- 'Gentile Christians' wrongly feel that they are closer to their historic foundations if they adopt Jewish practices. This is totally wrong, Paul declared that he threw aside all his Pharisaic upbringing in order to follow Christ (see Phil 3:1-14), for Paul this was all 'dung' (Phil 3:8 literal Greek) in comparison to knowing the Lord Jesus. In fact, his Jewish attainments are said to be damaging ('loss', Phil 3:7 literal Greek), which is why he discarded them.

The only thing that counts is pressing on to know and experience more of Christ.

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ

⁵⁵ John Schiff, grandson of Jacob Schiff, *The New York Journal American*, 3 February, 1949.

⁵⁶ Again I am indebted to Griffin here, p34-44.

⁵⁷ The 'great nation' promises were geographically fulfilled in the OT [2 Chron 1:9; Deut 26:3-5; 1 Kg 4:20-25; Josh 11:23, 21:41-45; Neh 9:21-25 etc.]. The fulfilment of the promise to Abraham was always predominantly spiritual (Heb 11:10, 13-16) and is finalised in Christ (Gal 3:16) and the church (Gal 3:29; Ps 37:11 with Matt 5:5). See *The Veil of Moses*, p14-16, 25-28.

Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death ... Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. (Phil 3:8-15)

The Jewish Root movement has no Biblical support and is a distraction from true spirituality, focusing people upon Israel instead of Christ.

Fundamentally, Judaism is anti-Christian.⁵⁸

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⁵⁸ *The London Jewish World*, 15 March, 1923.