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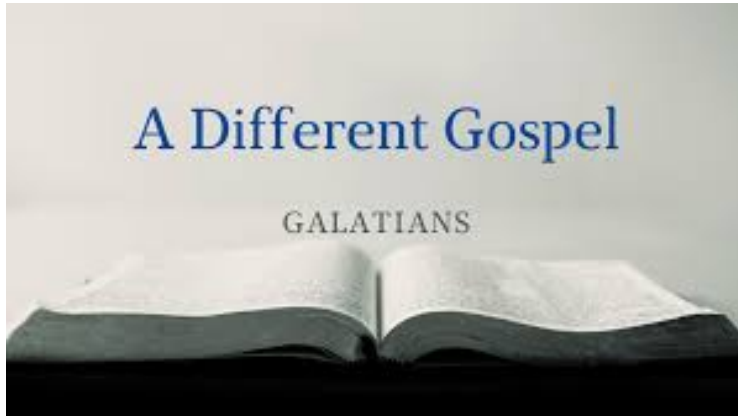
The Hebrew Roots Movement

A Different Gospel

I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from the One who called you by the grace of Messiah, to a different gospel. Not that there is another, but only some who are confusing you and want to distort the Good News of Messiah. But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should announce any gospel to you other than what we have proclaimed to you, let that person be cursed! As we have said before, so I now repeat: if anyone proclaims a gospel to you other than what you have received, let that person be under a curse (Galatians 1:6-9)! **The Hebrew Roots, or One Law, Movement is a different gospel** (also see the commentary on [Romans](#), to see link [click Dg - Torah Questions](#)).

1. They are lone wolves: The leaders of this organization are all alike. Either you can't find out much about them, or if you do, their training/education is very, very shady. They are lone wolves because they are not in association with other Jewish believers. There are two messianic Jewish associations in America; the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA) and the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IMACS). These organizations join together for common goals, missions, and fellowship. Some things you can accomplish with an association that you can't accomplish individually. But these guys are never in association with other believers. Why don't they associate with other messianic associations? **They left us, but they didn't really belong to us. If they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But they left us so it became clear that none of them belonged to us (First John 2:19).**

2. They are accountable to no one: Because they are not in any messianic Jewish associations, or rabbi of a messianic synagogue, they are not held accountable for the things they say or do. This leads to abuse, bad doctrine or worse. If they have a board of directors, they are hand-picked by the lone wolf. Instead of being servant leaders, they become dictators. Nobody around them wants to challenge them. They develop feelings of superiority, arrogance, and invincibility.



3. They teach false doctrine: As a result of their inadequate training, they don't have a well-rounded view of the Scriptures. **They** don't believe in the writings of Paul, which, of course, eliminates most of the B'rit Chadashah. **Yeshua** said it this way: **You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures (Matthew 22:29)**. For example, they deny **the Trinity** and seem to know **Yeshua** only in the flesh. They usually have a one major hobbyhorse doctrine that dominates their teaching. Many times, they try to build an entire doctrine around one verse of Scripture that they misinterpret.

For example, they teach that it is possible to follow **the Torah** perfectly for salvation by using this scripture: **Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it (Deuteronomy 30:11-14)**. On the basis of this one scripture he claims it is possible to perfectly follow the 613 prohibitions and commandments of **the Torah**.

But what this passage is actually saying is that **the Torah** was not incomprehensible (**too difficult**) or inaccessible (**beyond your reach**). Though **the Torah** had a heavenly origin **God** clearly revealed it to **Isra'el** so there was no need for anyone to **ascend into heaven to get it** nor did anyone need to travel across the ocean **to get it**. Nor did **Isra'el** need a special interpreter of **the Torah** before they understood what to do. **The Torah** was already written down and **Isra'el** had been familiar with its demands in the wilderness. So, Moses could say that **the word is very near you**. They could speak it (**it is in your mouth**) and they knew it (**it is in your heart**).

Paul's use of **Deuteronomy 30:14** in **Romans 10:6-8** was based on the fact that **Messiah**

fulfilled **the Torah** and is the only **Person** to have lived perfectly by it (**Romans 10:4-5**). Just as **the Torah** was a gracious revelation of **God's** righteousness, so **Messiah**, who perfectly embodied all that is in **the Torah**, was graciously given by **the Father**. This word about **Messiah** is therefore readily available (**near you** in **Romans 10:8**) so no one needs bring **Messiah** from heaven or bring **Him** back from the dead for **He** has already become incarnate and ascended back to heaven.

Christ is the culmination of the Torah so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes (Romans 10:4).

Now if the ministry that brought death [the Torah], which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, temporary though it was, will not the ministry of the [Holy] Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation [the Torah] was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious [the Torah] has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory [of Messiah]. And if the transitory [Torah] came with glory, how much greater is the glory [of Messiah] which lasts (Second Corinthians 3:7-11).

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness [the Torah], which stood against us and condemned us (see **5. The Torah as a Guardian below); He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2:13-13).**

As far as "returning" to **the Torah** as a means of salvation, "return" to what? **Condemnation? Death?** Yeshua said: **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)**. For salvation, there is **rest** in **Messiah** and only **condemnation** and **death** in **the Torah**. If salvation could be found in **the Torah** why did **God** say that **He** would **make a new covenant with the people of Isra'el and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors. I will put My Torah in their minds and write it on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**. The new Covenant is **faith** in **Messiah**, **His** death and resurrection, *not* faith in **the Torah**. **Yeshua** has completed **the Torah** (see the commentary on Exodus [Du](#) - **Do Not Think That I Have Come to Abolish the Torah**).

They also teach replacement theology, where the Christian Church has replaced **Isra'el** in **God's** plan. They believe that **Jews** are no longer **God's chosen people**, and **God** does not

have specific future plans for the nation of **Isra'el**. And because **Paul** does not agree with their theology, they do not recognize **his** writings! Can you imagine that? **Paul** said that **he** was **an emissary (Romans 1:1b)**, a *shaliach*, representing **Messiah Himself**, yet the Hebrew Roots movement does not recognize anything **Paul** wrote.

4. They preach a different gospel: When **Paul** started churches in **Galatia, Corinth**, etc. he usually stayed a couple of years and then left to start another church. But as soon as **he** left, Jews called **Judaizers** swooped in and tried to **pervert the gospel** (see [Ag - Who Were the Judaizers?](#)). They wanted to *add* the impossible burden of following the 613 commandments (365 prohibitions and 248 commandments) to **faith in Christ**, as if **His** shed blood isn't enough to save us! **Galatians 1:6-9** sums up what **Paul** said about adding **Torah** observance for salvation. **They** appear to be sincere, but **they** are sincerely wrong.

5. The Torah as a guardian: Therefore, the Torah [became] our guardian to lead us to Messiah, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that [Messiah] faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian (Galatians 3:24-25). In the ancient world a **guardian** was a slave **himself** and given authority over the son of **his** master to guard him from evil, both physical and moral. **He** had total authority over the son until the son reached adulthood. **He** was responsible for disciplining and training the son. So, the authority of **the guardian** lasted only as long as the child was a minor. Once the child reached adulthood, **his** authority ceased to exist.

What does he teach? What was **the Torah** supposed to teach? The standard of being able to follow the 613 prohibitions and commandments perfectly is impossible. Futile. Out of the question. But because **the Torah** was an impossible standard, the Pharisees pulled **God's** high holy standard down into the mud and came up with **the Oral Law** (see my commentary on [The Life of Christ Ei - The Oral Law](#)), things that they *could* do. Thus, when **Messiah** came offering salvation by **faith** alone, **Isra'el** missed **Him**. **Isra'el** rejected **Messiah** because of **His** rejection of **the Oral Law**. For that they killed **Him**. What should **the Israelites** have learned from **their guardian, the Torah**? If **the Torah** can save you, why was Christ's death necessary? If **Yeshua** said: **No one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:5-14)**, how can **the Torah** save anyone?

6. The Torah is important today, but not for salvation (see my commentary on [Dg - The Completion of the Torah](#)): Salvation = **faith** + (nothing). Before the cross and after the cross salvation only comes through **faith** (see my commentary on [The Life of Christ Bw - What God Does for Us at the Moment of Faith](#)): **The Torah** gives us wisdom, insight into godly living, practical advice of our personal, family and professional lives. **The**

Israelites left Egypt by **faith**, THEN **they** received instruction on how to live at Mount Sinai. The 613 commandments of Moshe are our blueprint for living (see the commentary on Exodus [Dh](#) - **Moses and the Torah**). It is truly **a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105)** . . . but it is not for salvation. How did the righteous of the TaNaKh deal with their sin before **Messiah**? How are they supposed to deal with their sin today (**1 John 1:9**)?

7. They are wolves in sheep's clothing and hypocrites. The **Jews** view **Torah** as a unit. You break one of the 613 commandments of Moses; you break them all. If they are going to be **Torah** observant then they need to obey **Leviticus 1:1 to 7:38** and offer the proper sacrifices for **sin** (see my commentary on Exodus [Fb](#) - **The Five Offerings of the Tabernacle: Christ, Our Sacrificial Offering**). So, in reality, they're just big hypocrites because they don't really follow **the Torah** completely either, they cherry-pick, which cannot you do because **the Torah** is a complete unit.



About Michael Rood: In the videos he makes he comes out dressed like, I don't know what, a Sadducee? A Pharisee? Whatever he is, he's not a rabbi. Yet he passes himself off as one, like Lex Meyer below. Hebrew Roots movement means going back to slavery. The do not celebrate any holidays like Christmas, Halloween, the fourth of July, or Groundhog Day because the Bible doesn't mention any of them. The Torah doesn't mention any of them. Now the Torah does mention sorcery. So, if you're practicing sorcery on Halloween, yeah, you shouldn't do that. As far as Christmas being a pagan holiday, you know, you could probably pick any day of the year and it was probably a pagan holiday at some point in history. So if you want to live in your closet I wouldn't press the issue. I will say this, parents who don't let their kids participate (within reason of course) in things that other kids are having fun with GROW UP RESENTING GOD. It doesn't draw them closer to **God** - it drives them away from **Him**. It accomplishes the very thing they are trying to avoid.



About Lex Meyer: Why isn't he a rabbi? Why doesn't he lead a messianic congregation? Why can't you find out anything about him? The Hebrew roots movement is a back to bondage movement. Look up the Gnostics. They believed there were two groups of people. The "in crowd" and the "ignorant." The Gnostics were, of course, the smart ones, the ones with all the knowledge. The special ones. The especially blessed ones. In short, they were arrogant. Lex Meyer seems to be of that ilk. "Sure, I have no formal training, I went into my basement and studied really hard for four months and **God** gave me special insight. I am so smart that no Christians will debate me. Why? Because I have superior knowledge" (stop me if this sounds familiar)!

Stay away.

*Dear Awesome **Father**, Praise you that **You** have given us **Your** Word so we can know the truth and stay away from those who preach **another gospel**. Praise **You** that we do not have to worry about have we done enough good works to get into heaven. The answer is no, we have not done enough good deeds - because no amount of good works could get us into a holy perfect heaven. Only by being "**in Messiah**" (**Ephesians 1:3,4,6-7,9,11 NIV**) by having **His** righteousness, can we be holy enough to enter heaven.*

*Praise you that **You** conquered death! The founder of ALL other religions is dead. But as believers in **Yeshua**, we have the full assurance that **death** has been defeated! "**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**" **Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**" (**First Corinthians 15: 54c, 57 NIV**).*

*Praise **You** that **having believed** we are **marked in Him with a seal, the promised Ruach ha-Kodesh, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of His glory** (**Ephesians 1:13c-14 NIV**). We love **You** and want to bless and serve **You!** In the name of **Your Son** and the power of **His** resurrection, Amen*