

The Messianic Jewish Superiority Complex and the Solution

As an adherent of the Messianic Faith I observe Shabbat, keep the feast days, the food laws, and follow wherever Messiah Yeshua leads in matters of Torah observance and interpretation. But I am non-Jewish and I take Rabbinic Tradition with a good degree of historical common sense and a large grain of salt. Somehow in the eyes of many Messianic Jews, however, and in the eyes of many of their non-Jewish followers, being non-Jewish and not being a native Hebrew speaker disqualifies me from having a say, much less, correcting any of their Rabbinic errors. It is nice that not all Messianic Jews feel this way nor all the non-Jewish Christians who have realized the Church has been for centuries deceiving them, and who have headed off in the direction of the Messianic Faith as the Ruakh (Spirit) leads them.

But the superiority complex all too often manifests when someone says their Jewish teacher knows Hebrew better than someone else on a particular point, and therefore, the teacher they follow must be right because they are fluent in Hebrew, or because they look Jewish, or just because they are Jewish, or because they have Hebrew all around their house, or any number of outward “Hebraic” attractions.

I have some news for Christians looking into Hebrew roots. The devil loves to dress up in a Jewish garb and then preach and teach utter heresy and Hebrew nonsense. He has his agents, wolves in sheep’s clothing. This deception also manifests in the obvious absurdities of denying that Yeshua is the Messiah and denying that he is Elohim. That’s what happens when Jewish culture and the traditions of men are idolized by others.

Every heresy that plagues the Church on the outside of the Messianic Movement in a non-Jewish garb also plagues the Messianic Faith inside the Messianic Movement in a Jewish garb and with a Hebrew accent.

Messianic Judaism is a clique. If you are not Jewish, then you are not as welcome, simply because you are not Jewish. Amazingly a large number of Christians seeking the truth are able to overcome this obvious put off and follow the Spirit to observing the Shabbat and feast days. But if you don’t change your name to a Hebrew name or refer to your Rabbi often, and learn a large sprinkling of Jewish cultural jargon and some yiddish too, then you will not be able to pass the test. If you want to teach anything, then some of them are going to be looking to see how many rabbis are in your family tree.

If all of this does not bring the non-Jew into servitude to Jewish superiority then the race card is played. They say we Jews suffered so terribly (which is true) and there are so many Christian antisemites (which is true), that you must be an antisemite also, because you dare to disagree

with our conclusions on biblical interpretation or what the Hebrew means, or some doctrine. Well that last part is not true.

I can guarantee you that when a non-Jew with a love for Jewish things starts seeking Torah, and they do not understand or accept the Good News of Messiah, and the forgiveness of sins he provides, then they are an A1 candidate for enslavement to the Jewish superiority complex. And they will go from slight error to worse error, and eventually into complete heresy. I've seen it happen many times.

Now there is a Christian superiority complex. I should mention that also. And there are also anti-Zionist Christians, or Israel hating Christians. There are anti-Torah Christians, Gnostic Christians, and Chrislamic Christians. And the Almighty did re-establish Jews in the Holy Land to begin to fulfill his promise to Israel and to take them down a notch. We rejoiced when Israel won the six day war, and mourned and worried during the yom kippur war. And every loss to terrorist attacks renews our hatred of those who preach hatred to Israel.

But we should not forget that the Almighty humbled ancient Israel, allowing them to be defeated and exiled. And he did the same to the Jews, and also let the Temple be destroyed, not because he was done with the Temple as anti-law Christians allege, but because they rejected Messiah and perverted the Torah. And who knew Hebrew better than the Jews before they were exiled or pre-exilic Hebrew better than Israel before she was exiled. No one.

When Jeremiah brought the word of Yăhweh to Yehudah what did they say? They claimed he was a traitor and disloyal to Israel. This and all the other things that Stephan said in Acts 7 are true. There is a spiritual enemy within the gates, armed with bomb belts (false doctrines) ready to blow themselves up on any unsuspecting seeker after the truth. These false doctrines make their way into the garb of the Messianic Faith where they blow themselves up and commit spiritual murder against the seekers or worse make the seekers into twice the son of Hell they are themselves. Spiritual mayhem and carnage is everywhere. If you have eyes to see, then you will realize that the actual physical carnage isn't any worse committed by the enemies of Israel. And lest other Christians (who may read this) may gloat over the Messianic Mayhem, I should point out that the same heresies plague them outside the Messianic Faith.

The Solution

The solution is to know the truth and the good news. Combine this with prayer, the Spirit and Messiah. So let us start with Hebrew. The accumulated knowledge of Hebrew grammar, syntax, and word meanings is far more vast and complete than any Rabbi or native speaker of Hebrew can ever manage or learn. This knowledge is already translated into English

and available in reference books or software.

The playing field has been leveled by this accumulated and published knowledge. All one has to know is how to use it! Be one a Christian or a Jew, the same knowledge is available to every scholar. The only difference is presuppositions and logic. Neither sides heritage makes them know Biblical Hebrew any better.

So what do we have now? The State of the Art Program for Biblical Hebrew is BibleWorks. It breaks down all the minutiae of grammar and syntax into a common linguistic language. It parses every verb, every verb ending, and every inflection into one of seven conjugation patterns. Before this there was the analytical lexicon.

We also have dictionaries for every phase of the Hebrew language. A native speaker who knows modern Hebrew will not be able to easily separate his modern Hebrew from more ancient phases of Hebrew.

Some Hebrew word meanings have been lost. For this scholars compare the word to related languages like, Arabic, Aramaic, Ugaritic, or Akkadian. None of this knowledge comes by being born Jewish or fluency in modern Hebrew. It comes by scientific study of the languages. It is usual for a modern speaker of Hebrew to be unable to vowel point unpointed Hebrew text in the Masoretic style. In fact in modern Hebrew they do not even make the distinctions the Masoretic vowels make in Biblical Hebrew.

So how do you use this knowledge or verify it? Meaning is determined by word studies. By seeing the same word used in different context. If someone mistranslated a word, then this can be detected by a word study using the meanings supplied by the dictionaries.

What did scholars use before software? There was the analytical lexicon and complete sets of verb tables all in written from before the year 1900.

Anyone anywhere can use the dictionaries, do a word study, and logically figure out if a translation is correct or incorrect. Consulting what scholars have written helps in one way and one way only. It makes the process of discovering the truth faster. But only if we stick with the scholars who compile their results by scientific study. The fact that they have degrees Ph.d.'s or whatever does not make more believable. There are plenty of spiritual terrorists with Ph.d's! A good scholar should be able to tell you how they got the result they did, and should be able to walk you through the logical and scientific steps to reach the conclusion.

And what all too often happens is that when this step has been taken by scholars that someone will ignore the explanation, unfairly discredit the scholar, and then assert the superior authority of their own sources, like being Jewish, or having Hebrew fluency. All we can say then is that they are enslaved to false presuppositions, possibly because they do not know Messiah.