



Messianic Jews and the Law November 12, 2016

Notes

Next Saturday evening after Havdalah there will be no food *oneg*. We encourage you to come to the **MJAA Conference** is at The Hilton DFW Lakes. 1800 Highway 26 East, Grapevine, TX 76051. It starts at 7:30 pm but a good show time is 7:00 pm.

1) The Law is not done away with.

Matthew 5:17-20 (NKJV) – ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Jot – Referring to the smallest Hebrew letter; Yōd י
- Tittle – κεραία – ker·ah·yah
 - Alphabet example: Rēsh ר versus Dālet ד

2) Gentiles and the Law (Acts 15; A.D. 50)?

The decision at the First Council of Jerusalem –

Acts 15:19-21 (NKJV) – ¹⁹ Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰ but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

²¹ For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Teacher: Pastor Greg Stone, D.Min.
Gateway
Church

The letter announcing the decision –

Acts 15:28-29 (NKJV) – ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

The early church established four prohibitions for Gentiles:

- From idols; actually “things offered to idols” (1 Cor 8 & Rom 14).
- From blood – Lev. 17:11 – “Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’”
- From things strangled – Lev 17.
- From sexual immorality – πορνεία, *porneia*.

3) Jews and the Law (Acts 21; A.D. 58)?

Acts 21:17-26 (NKJV) – ¹⁷ And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. ¹⁸ On the following *day* Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; ²¹ but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. ²² What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come. ²³ Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow. ²⁴ Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law. ²⁵ But **concerning the Gentiles** who believe, we have written *and* decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should **keep themselves** from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.”

- Customs – ἔθος (*ethos*), Refers to the way that Israel observed the Law (Lk 1:9; 2:42; 22:39; Jn 19:40; Ac 6:14,15.1, 16:21, 21:21, 25:16, 26:3, 28:17; Heb 10:25).
- Related to the word for nations (ἔθνος, eth·nos) which is the word for people groups or nations. It is the root of our word ethnic.

The Nazirite Vow (Acts 21:23) – Numbers 6:1-7 & 13-15

Paul is not down on the Law.

Romans 7:12 & 14 (NKJV) – ¹² The law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.... ¹⁴ the law is spiritual.

Galatians 2:11-13 (NKJV) – ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Philippians 3:6 (NKJV) – concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NKJV) – I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

The Antichrist is down on the Law.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB) – Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

4) Identity demands Function.

If Jews have an eternal identity, they have an eternal function.

Galatian 3:28 (NKJV) – 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.

**Jews have an abiding Identity. So, what is their function?
Let's see how it is connected to the Law.**

5) Matthew's Great Commission is a Jewish Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) – ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Nations: ἔθνος (eth·nos): Most commonly translated Gentiles (93X). Related to the word for customs in Acts 21:21 (ἔθος, *ethos*).

Deuteronomy 4:7-8 (NKJV) – ⁷ “For what great nation *is there* that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him? ⁸ And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Currently, it is impossible for even Jews to keep much of the Law. But, the Law is abiding as is the Jewish connection to it.

Isaiah 2:3-4 (NKJV)

- ³ Many people shall come and say,
“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
And we shall walk in His paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- ⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
And rebuke many people;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Jews struggle with the Law, but we are not free to ignore it. Nor are we free to impose it. We are called to show how the Law points everyone to Yeshua.