

The Hebraic Roots Story

or

Why I Believe What I Believe

Dear Friend,

I have enjoyed sharing briefly and verbally with you my spiritual beliefs and practices. I realize they are unconventional, and therefore may be difficult to follow and understand. So I have attempted to summarize them in writing for your consideration and understanding. If you'd like to know more, please call me. May you be blessed as you study and learn.

Early in the Bible, God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3.¹ I believe He meant what He said. I believe that those who bless the seed of Abraham will be blessed, and that those who curse the seed will be cursed. For obviously selfish reasons, I choose the former.

God made a further, unconditional covenant with Isaac in Genesis 17:19-21² and declared his plan for Yishma'el. Arabs are descendants of Yishma'el and have become many, but do not carry the blessing or covenant God made with Isaac.

Because Jacob's name was changed,³ and because of God's blessing, his descendants, beginning with his 12 sons,⁴ which became the 12 tribes, are the nation of Israel, the Hebrews.

God promised to remember and honor His covenants with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Leviticus 26:40-45,⁵ regardless, and I believe that God does not renege on His promises.

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1. 1 Now the LORD said to Avram, Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your fathers house, To the land which I will show you;
2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.
 2. 19 But God said, No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Itz'hak (laughter); and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.
20 As for Yishma'el, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.
21 But My covenant I will establish with Itz'hak, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.
 3. Genesis 32:24 Then Ya'akov was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.
25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Ya'akov's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.
26 Then he said, Let me go, for the dawn is breaking. But he said, I will not let you go unless you bless me.
27 So he said to him, What is your name? And he said, Ya'akov.
28 He said, Your name shall no longer be Ya'akov, but Isra'el; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.
29 Then Ya'akov asked him and said, Please tell me your name. But he said, Why is it that you ask my name? And he blessed him there.
30 So Ya'akov named the place P'ni'el, for he said, I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.
 4. Genesis 35:22 . . . Ya'akov had twelve sons.
23 The sons of Le'ah were Re'uven Ya'akov's firstborn, Shim'on, Levi, Y'hudah, Yissakhar and Z'vulun.
24 The sons of Rachel were Yosef and Binyamin.
25 The sons of Bilhah Rachel's slave-girl were Dan and Naftali.
26 And the sons of Zilpah Le'ah's slave-girl were Gad and Asher. These were Ya'akov's sons, born to him in Paddan-Aram.
 5. 40 If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me
41 I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,
42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.
43 For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes.

God established Israel as His chosen people, chosen from all nations of the world.⁶ Because God is unchanging and because He has never told us otherwise, the nation of Israel is still His chosen people.

More volume is given to narrating the life of Joseph in Scripture, Genesis 37:1 - 50:26, than any other man. He was at the center of the move of the fledgling nation of Israel down to Egypt, as a result of a famine. There the nation grew for 400 years, and, now a large multitude, was led out of captivity by Moses.

In Egypt, the Israelites lived according to the dictates of their captors, especially after Joseph died.⁷ Very shortly after they escaped Egypt, God gave them instructions, through his mouthpiece Moses, on how to live their lives to the fullest. Moses wrote down these instructions, together with the history from creation, in the first five books of the Bible, commonly called the Torah, which word comes from teaching or instructing.

The Ten Commandments are part of the instructions God gave the people of Israel through Moses. But many, many other commandments were also given. A Rabbi has tabulated 613 such instructions, including those impossible to execute today, e.g. sacrifice in the Temple, because a Temple does not exist. Among those which are possible to execute today are the following:

- Eat kosher.⁸ Practically, this means no pork, no shellfish, and no catfish.
- Observe the Feasts of the Lord.⁹
 - Sabbath¹⁰
 - Passover¹¹

44 Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.

45 But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.

6. Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a people set apart as holy for the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

7 The Lord didn't set his heart on you or choose you because you numbered more than any other people—on the contrary, you were the fewest of all peoples.

8 Rather, it was because The Lord loved you, and because he wanted to keep the oath which he had sworn to your ancestors, that The Lord brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from a life of slavery under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 From this you can know that The Lord your God is indeed God, the faithful God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his commandments, to a thousand generations.

14:2 because you are a people set apart as holy for The Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own unique treasure out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

7. Exodus 1:8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt. He knew nothing about Yosef

8. Leviticus 11:2 Tell the people of Isra'el, 'These are the living creatures which you may eat among all the land animals:

3 any that has a separate hoof which is completely divided and chews the cud—these animals you may eat.

4 But you are not to eat those that only chew the cud or only have a separate hoof. For example, the camel, the coney and the hare are unclean for you, because they chew the cud but don't have a separate hoof; 5 6

7 while the pig is unclean for you, because, although it has a separate and completely divided hoof, it doesn't chew the cud.

8 You are not to eat meat from these or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

9 Of all the things that live in the water, you may eat these: anything in the water that has fins and scales, whether in seas or in rivers—these you may eat.

10 But everything in the seas and rivers without both fins and scales, of all the small water-creatures and of all the living creatures in the water, is a detestable thing for you.

11 Yes, these will be detestable for you—you are not to eat their meat, and you are to detest their carcasses.

9. Leviticus 23:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

10. Leviticus 23:3 For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.

11. Leviticus 23:5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORDs Passover.

- Unleavened Bread¹²
- Firstfruits¹³
- Weeks or Pentecost¹⁴
- Trumpets¹⁵
- Atonement¹⁶
- Tabernacles (Booths)¹⁷
- Observe the New Moon.¹⁸
- Wear tassels.¹⁹
- Post a mezuzah.²⁰

Because we are unaccustomed to most of these practices, natural inclination is to ask, “Why?” My reaction is twofold. First, God said it. Case closed. Second, Rabbis teach that through doing comes understanding. By observing Shabbat, or living in a ‘booth’ do we come to understand the spiritual significance. If I understood the why of God’s instructions, I would be Him, and I’m not. So why should I expect to understand His thoughts on how I should live? Why not simply follow His lead?

The prophets explained much about the responsibilities of Israel to the rest of the world. Israel was and is to be a “light to the nations,”²¹ to teach Torah to those who did not know it.

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12. Leviticus 23:6 *And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.*
 13. Leviticus 23:10 *When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.*
 14. Leviticus 23:15 *And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. ¹⁶ Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.*
 15. Leviticus 23:24 *Speak to the children of Isra’el, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.*
 16. Leviticus 23:27 *Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.*
 17. Leviticus 23:34 *Speak to the children of Israel, saying: The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.*
 18. 2 Chronicles 2:4 *Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and to set out the showbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on sabbaths and on new moons and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, this being required forever in Israel.*
 19. Numbers 15:38 *Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue.*
³⁹ *It shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot,*
⁴⁰ *so that you may remember to do all My commandments and be holy to your God.*
 20. Deuteronomy 6:6 *These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.*
⁷ *You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*
⁸ *You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.*
⁹ *You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*
 21. Isaiah 49:6 *He has said, “It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya’akov and restore the offspring of Isra’el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth.*
Micah 4:2 *Many Gentiles will go and say, “Come, let’s go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Ya’akov! He will teach us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For out of Tziyon will go forth Torah, the word of the Lord from Yerushalayim.*
Jeremiah 16:19 *Oh Lord, my strength, my fortress, my refuge in time of trouble, the nations will come to you from the ends of the earth, saying, “Our ancestors inherited nothing but lies, futile idols, completely useless.*
Isaiah 56:6 *And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord to serve him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his workers, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it, and hold fast to my covenant,*
⁷ *I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on*

Israel didn't do a very good job at teaching Torah to the nations, or at following it, rather wandering away from God's instructions, forgetting Him, and going their own way. Jesus Christ, whom I prefer to call Yeshua (that's His Hebrew name, as opposed to a derivative of the Greek God Zeus), came to teach Torah, by word and example.²² He didn't bring a new religion, but rather reinforced, reiterated and expounded the instructions of Moses, given in the Torah. His audience was Hebrews, descendants of Israel, all twelve tribes, in the land of Israel. Nearly every person identified as a follower in the New Testament was a Hebrew.

Moses offered to lead those children of Israel who would follow him out of bondage in Egypt. Some followed him out of Egypt, accepting redemption; others chose to remain. He then gave God's instruction set, designed for their best interests, on how to live to those who followed him. Likewise Yeshua offered, and offers, redemption to those who will follow Him. But, again, He didn't, and doesn't, bring a new plan for redemption, as early church fathers so erroneously taught (more on that later), but simply built on the instructions God gave through Moses, written in the Torah. *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets;²³ I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Torah until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*²⁴ So, if we follow His instruction set, which is the Torah reiterated²⁵ and reinvigorated, we too can be redeemed from our "Egypt" of bondage. But we may also choose to remain there, by not following His instructions to us. His death, burial and resurrection fulfilled prophecies of Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, etc. and allow us the liberty and freedom that the children of Israel knew when they followed Torah as given by God through Moses.

One of the last instructions Yeshua gave to His followers was to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." They did that, very well. From one perspective, too well. Let me explain.

Christianity was not a separate religion in the time of Yeshua. The first century followers were Hebrews (commonly called Jews today) who accepted Him as the Messiah prophesied

my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

8 *The Lord our God says, he who gathers Isra'el's exiles: "There are yet others I will gather, besides those gathered already.*

2 Chronicles 6:32 *Also the foreigner who does not belong to your people Isra'el—when he comes from a distant country because of your great reputation, your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house;*

33 *then hear from heaven, from where you live; and act in accordance with everything about which the foreigner is calling to you; so that all the peoples of the earth will know your name and fear you, as does your people Isra'el, and so that they will know that this house which I have built bears your name.*

Leviticus 19:34 *Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you—you are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.*

Leviticus 24:22 *You are to apply the same standard of judgment to the foreigner as to the citizen, because I am the Lord your God.*

Numbers 9:14 *If a foreigner is staying with you and wants to observe Passover for the Lord, he is to do it according to the regulations and rules of Passover—you are to have the same law for the foreigner as for the citizen of the land.*

Numbers 15:16 *The same Torah and standard of judgment will apply to both you and the foreigner living with you.*

22. Matthew 5:17 *Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete.*

23. Most Bible translations that we read today were taken from the Greek, where *nomos* is poorly translated as law. Torah is much more faithful to the original text. What Yeshua termed scripture (in Matthew 21:42, 22:29, 26:54, 56 for example) is what we call the "Old Testament," and is described by Yeshua in Luke 24:44 as "the Torah of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms." Psalms are a major part of what is termed the writings. See also footnote 30.

24. Matthew 5:17-20

25. Yeshua and other New Testament writers frequently quoted from or referred directly to the Torah. For a very few examples of those many citations, compare (1) Matthew 18:16 with Deuteronomy 19:15, (2) Matthew 19:4-5 with Genesis 1:27, 5:2, 2:24, (3) Matthew 19:17-19 with Deuteronomy 5:17-20, 5:16, Leviticus 19:18, (4) Matthew 21:5 with Zechariah 9:9, (5) Matthew 21:42 with Psalm 118:22-23.

especially by Isaiah.²⁶ That acceptance alone distinguished them from the remainder of Judaism. They were simply a sect within the larger religion of Judaism. As patterned by Yeshua Himself, they worshipped in synagogues, and in homes, as was and is common among Hebrews. Among His followers, Yeshua sought to restore Hebrews to the ancient faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, seeking diligently after the lost sheep of Israel -- those who had turned away from Torah.

Following His pattern, the followers of "The Way" met daily in the Temple, congregated in synagogues, proclaimed the Scriptures (What we call the Old Testament was the only Scripture they knew), kept the biblical festivals (Feasts of the Lord), the Sabbaths, the dietary laws and the whole of Torah as best they were able. (As we should be doing. He did it; He taught His followers to do it; if we are His followers, how can we not do likewise?)

Paul, a Jew, was called to the Gentiles²⁷ and traveled far and wide preaching the gospel of the "Jewish" Yeshua to the Gentiles. He and his converts did such a good job of evangelizing that a serious conflict arose, one that still exists today. Inclusion of Gentiles in Judaism was not well accepted by Jewish leaders and congregants. In spite of Paul's vociferous argument for the right of non-Jews to be recognized as fellow heirs in Israel, in keeping with Torah, the conflict smoldered and flamed, and does so today.

The Gentile congregations grew tremendously, in spite of the conflict. But as the Gentile population of believers came to predominate, the conflict caused them to react against Judaism per se. A few decades after Yeshua's death and resurrection, anti-Jewish sentiment was so high that most non-Jews no longer wanted to be identified with Jews in any way. Jews and Judaism were viewed as the antithesis of Christianity, which became the term for followers of Yeshua. Theologically, the Christian leaders decided that Christianity had replaced the Jews as the true Israel of God, today termed "Replacement Theology."

Ignatius,²⁸ Justin Martyr²⁹ and Marcion led the flight from Judaism, Torah and therefore God's instructions to Israel. Charismatic Marcion preached a doctrine that the Jesus of the New Testament (which had by then been assembled) had defeated and unseated the evil god of the Jews. Therefore, he insisted, the Hebrew Scriptures and any Jewish relics in the Christian faith needed to be expelled. He even published an excised version of "Scripture," which consisted of part of Luke and ten of Paul's letters which he edited to remove what he deemed "Jewish corruptions," omitting of course all the Old Testament.

Under Roman influence, Sunday worship came to replace Shabbat rest, and all the biblical (Jewish to them) elements were eliminated. The church came to celebrate Sunday as a

26. Matthew 3:3 *This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.*

Matthew 4:14 *to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles ¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

Matthew 8:17 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.*

Matthew 12:17 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope.*

27. Romans 11:13

28. who wrote: "Let us therefore no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner, and rejoice in days of idleness. . . . But let everyone of you keep the Sabbath in a spiritual manner . . . (as teach today those who say, "Yeshua is my Sabbath.")"

29. who argued that the Torah was given to Jews as a punishment for their exceptional wickedness and because of God's special hatred for the Jewish people, telling Jews, "We, too, would observe your circumcision of the flesh, your Sabbath days and all your festivals, if we were not aware of the reason why they were imposed upon you, namely, because of your sins and your hardness of heart."

weekly, mini-Roman, Easter, an older name for a pagan Roman springtime festival. By the time Constantine declared Christianity the official state religion, most of the biblical (to them Jewish) elements were gone; observance of Torah had largely been eliminated. He made the divorce from Judaism final with the 325 AD Council of Nicea. "Let us have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish rabble." The decisions by that Council defined the course the "church" would take from that day until now. The later Council of Laodicea forbade in 363 AD forbade Christians from observing the biblical Sabbath, in direct contradiction to God's commands, affecting policy and practice in today's "church."

So, from the early centuries AD until now, anti-semitic attitudes have prevailed in the church. As a consequence, the following is present:

- The Sabbath is not observed, in spite of God's instructions. Sunday (named after the Sun god) is not the seventh day of the week. And, even among so-called Christians, a day of rest is not practiced.
- Eating kosher is not practiced, in spite of God's instructions. Easter hams, shrimp cocktails and clam chowder are just as much at home at church dinners as are fried chicken and potato salad.
- Easter, a holiday of pagan origin, with bunnies (a pagan tradition) and egg rolls is a highlight of church calendars. Completely absent from most congregations is an observance of Passover, usually during the week preceding Easter.
- Christmas, also a highlight of church calendars, was placed on the calendar to pacify pagan worshippers, and is observed probably 2 months after the real anniversary of Yeshua's birth.
- Tassels are not viewed as a Scriptural instruction -- "that's Old Testament tradition."
- Mezuzahs are unheard of among church congregants or leaders, except as a "Jewish thing."
- Shofars are "things of old," not to be used in home or congregational worship.
- Observance of the festivals of the Lord and of the New Moon is absent. Yes, Pentecost, (Feast of Weeks) of the seven, is observed by a sermon or revival series by some denominations.

Question: How can God bless us when we aren't following His instructions? Yes, He loves us much more than we deserve, or realize. But wouldn't He be much happier with us if we listened to Him, and obeyed? How much more blessing might we receive if we really obeyed Him?

Isaiah prophesied (2:2) that *"Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Ya'akov; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths. For the Torah³⁰ will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

Most people agree that we are in "the last days." Many believers in Yeshua as the Messiah are feeling a deep longing to return to the biblically observant lifestyle founded in Torah. Gentiles are realizing that their early church fathers stole the blessing of Torah observance from them. Jews are realizing that the only hope of the world is Torah and the Messiah. Jew and Gentile, inspired by the Holy Spirit, are returning to the faith of Abraham,

30. The word law is a poor translation of Torah, which occurs in the original Hebrew. Torah connotes teaching or instruction, not a legalistic set of commands. The word law comes to us via Greek translations and the difficulties of any translation from one language to another.

Isaac and Jacob established thousands of years ago.

Far from being some new, innovative fad, return to Torah is a restoration of something very old, yet still new. God said through Jeremiah, *“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”*

“The ancient paths are the paths of Torah. The good way is the way of the Master, the way of discipleship. For He has declared, ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.’”³¹

You may react, “But God’s instructions were to Israel, to the Hebrews. We don’t have to follow them.” If that be true, which of the Ten Commandments are you proposing to break? We aren’t licensed to pick and choose; either we take them all or we take none.

Further, Paul taught that as believers in Yeshua we are adopted (grafted in his terms) into spiritual Israel, typified as an olive tree throughout Scripture. *“But if some of the branches were broken off, and you – a wild olive – were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree, 18 then don’t boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you.”*³² Further, *“That means that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the Lord is the same for everyone, rich toward everyone who calls on him,”*³³

So we, you and I, as believers in Yeshua, are “former Gentiles,”³⁴ or current spiritual Hebrews, and enjoy the same teaching,³⁵ protection and treatment³⁶ as a natural born Israelite, according to Torah, and confirmed by Paul.

You may ask, “Why be a rebel? Why deviate from the church teachings? Why not accept the status quo? Why not continue living as you were taught?” My simple answer is twofold.

1. *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*³⁷ His commandments include the entire Bible, including Torah. I do love Him, so I want to keep His commandments, all of them. I want to walk as He walked, as He taught while here on the earth.
2. *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*³⁸ I have been given much insight within the last few years; I have been entrusted with much. Therefore I am responsible to walk in the light³⁹ I have been given, and to return much to friends, relatives, acquaintances

31. “Restoration” D Thomas Lancaster, First Fruits of Zion

32. Romans 11:17

33. Romans 10:12. Similar in Galatians 3:28.

34. Ephesians 2:11

35. Exodus 12:49 *The same teaching is to apply equally to the citizen and to the foreigner living among you.*

36. Leviticus 19:34 *Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you—you are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.*

37. John 14:15

38. Luke 12:48

39. Isaiah 2:5 *Descendants of Ya’akov, come! Let’s live in the light of the Lord!*

1 John 1:7 *But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin.*

and strangers.

Yes, what I'm doing is quite different from the norm. I hope the above demonstrates that the basis for what we are doing and believing is very Scriptural, very much what Yeshua taught, even if it is not what the modern church teaches and practices. I hope the above demonstrates that what we are doing and believing is very Scriptural as opposed to being Jewish *per se*. A Rabbi commented something similar to, "The more Scriptural you become, the more Jewish you will appear." Why? Because Hebrews, commonly called Jews,⁴⁰ have maintained more of Torah, more observance of God's instructions, than has the Gentile church. Therefore they don't have as much restoration mileage to cover.

And, no, we're not trying to be Jewish -- only Scriptural. But religious Jews practice more of God's Torah than the church does. So as we practice more of Torah and Yeshua's applications of it, we may appear to be following Jewish ways, which of course is exactly what Yeshua did. Why should we not do likewise?

So, briefly, that's why I believe what I believe, why I do what I do.

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.⁴¹

40. Jew is short for Judah, one of the 12 tribes. While Jew has commonly become synonymous with Hebrew, in reality a Jew is a Hebrew but a Hebrew may be from the tribe of Dan, Asher, or any other of the tribes. See footnote 4.

41. Numbers 6:24