

IDENTITY CRISIS



OUR IDENTITY IN YESHUA (JESUS)



We have been deceived by the enemy about our identity. This happened through replacement theology (supersessionism), which began with the early Catholic church fathers. They basically believed that Israel had been displaced because of their disobedience, and the “church” replaced Israel and was the “*new Israel*.” They taught the New Covenant was given for the “church” and not for Israel. But we’re going to see what the Bible says.

What did Yeshua say? **“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”** Much of the church today believes that **we’re now in an age of grace rather than an age of something else, that God has somehow changed, that He’s no longer the God of the OT. This is completely contradictory to His Word!** He was the God of grace then and He is the God of grace now. And they teach the New Covenant has taken the place of the “*old covenant*”, which was rendered void by the cross. This all stems from early Catholic church fathers.

Yeshua quoted Isaiah when He quoted the Pharisees: Matthew 15:8-9 says, “*This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.***” We have to be very careful about this today, because sometimes we believe or do things that have been handed down to us, but they’re not things that scripture tells us to do.

God spoke the first prophecy in Genesis 3:15: “*The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and **her offspring**; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’*” In Revelation 12:17 we see the woman. “*Then the dragon (the serpent) became furious with the woman and went off to make war on **the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.***” We see that the offspring of Eve is Israel, spiritual Israel, natural Israel and those who are grafted in by faith, those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the faith/testimony of Jesus. The remnant. They are also called the saints.

God made His covenant promises to Israel. He made His covenant to Abraham in **Genesis 12:-2-3** “*I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all people on earth will be blessed through you.***” In **Genesis 12:1**, He promised Abraham land (Israel). The promise of the establishment of this covenant is in **Genesis 17:7-8:** “*And I will establish my covenant between me and you and **your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for and everlasting possession, and I will be their God.***” Is this a covenant that’s been done away with? NO. **It’s an everlasting covenant. It hasn’t been replaced. God doesn’t make covenants for a specific amount of time. We don’t see that anywhere in the Bible.**

God made another covenant to David in 2 Samuel 7. The covenant He made was that He would let David’s son build the temple and God would establish his kingdom and the throne of his kingdom forever. In **verses 23-24**, we see David’s response. “*And who is like Your people, like Israel, **the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.***”

SO, WHO ARE WE? Galatians 3:29 says, “*And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.*” In Romans 2:28-29, Paul tells us: “*A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, **a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit (the New Covenant), not be the written code.** Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.*” Paul is showing us that we identify with the Jews (Israel) through the circumcision of the heart. Paul tells us that God is the God of the Gentiles and the God of the Jews. We are His sons and daughters. Paul discusses Abraham’s trust. He says that salvation is a free gift of God, and it’s for everyone who will receive it! Paul says that “*we have **trusted in Him who raised***

Yeshua our Lord from the dead.....raised to life to make us righteous!" As believers, we are all **Abraham's offspring, the "seed of Abraham"** if we trust God the Father.

In **Ephesians 2:12-20**, Paul says, *"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ....so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets."* Paul is telling us that we were once not a part of the commonwealth of Israel, that we were strangers to the covenants of promise God made to Abraham and Israel, **but now we have been brought into our identity:**

**WE ARE FELLOW CITIZENS OF ISRAEL AND WE ARE WITH THE SAINTS
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.**

Paul describes Gentile believers as the **"commonwealth"** of Israel! He taught they were grafted into Israel! He emphasizes that Abraham is the father of all who believe in **Romans 4:16**. Let's talk about Abraham for a minute. His name was **"Avram"** (Abram), and it means **"exalted father."** His father, Terach (Terah) was a descendant of Shem and he worshipped idols-he was a pagan. Abram was told to get out of his country, from his father's house and go to a land God would show him. **He was called to sojourn to the promised land.** God told him he would make of him a great nation, and would bless him and make his name great, and blessed everyone who blessed him and by him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Abraham believed in God and he believed God.. God called Abram out of Ur, where the Chaldeans lived. **God called him out of what he was familiar with--paganism! Wow, Holy Spirit. What a wonderful lesson. I pray that we would all be called out of what we're familiar with, believe God, believe His Word, and obey Him. This is trust.**

In **Romans 11:17-24**, Paul says, *"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith (emuna-believe and obey). So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree."* **We are the wild olive tree that has been grafted into Israel! But, we have to continue in the kindness of God. This means to believe what He says and believe He will do what He says He will do if we obey or if we disobey. God's punishment is severe if we disobey. Israel didn't believe Him. They thought His grace would just be there for them always.**

WHO IS THE ROOT IN ROMANS 11? ." Isaiah 11:1 says, *"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."* Verse 10 says, *"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His resting place will be glorious."* Isaiah 53:2-3 says *"For before Him he grew up like a young plant, like a root out of dry ground. He was not well-formed or especially handsome; we saw Him, but his appearance did not attract us. People despised and avoided him, a man of pains, well acquainted with illness. Like someone from whom people turn their faces, He was despised; we did not value Him. In Romans 15:8-13, Paul references Isaiah and tells us about Yeshua: "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in Him the Gentiles will hope.'" Revelation 22:16 says, "I, Jesus, have sent My messenger to you to witness and to give you assurance of these things for the assemblies. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the radiant and brilliant Morning Star."*

Let's go back to Romans 11. Some of the branches (the Israelites) were broken off, and the Gentiles were grafted in. **The Israelites were broken off because of unbelief. What does unbelief mean?** The Israelites said they would do everything God told them to do, but they rebelled and disobeyed. They didn't believe God would do what He said if they disobeyed — that He could bring curses and death (Deuteronomy 30:19). Psalm 95:7-11 says *"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest."* The Torah is what shows His ways. God is a God of wrath and justice and He's a God of grace and mercy. Without knowing His wrath and justice, we can't know His grace and mercy. The writer of Hebrews quoted this Psalm in Hebrews 3:7-11 to the community of "the way" (this is what the believers were called) who believed in keeping the Torah (instructions) and in Yeshua, who were facing persecution, imprisonment, and walking away. He told them that Jesus (Yeshua) was faithful, and that they should be faithful. **The Hebrew word "Emuna" means "faithfulness." Emunah is a faith that results in action, it is completed by works. It is not believing in God, it's believing Him, believing His Word.** James 2:17 says *"faith without works is dead."* He said that **God swore that those who did not obey would not enter His rest.** He said they could not enter because of unbelief. The Israelites said they believed and they said they would do what God said. But they didn't. And the result is they didn't get to go into the promised land. **It will be the same thing when Jesus (Yeshua) returns. This verse is pointing us to the Millennial rest, because the promised land is foreshadowing the Millennial Kingdom, our promised land.**

But God goodness will continue toward us if we continue in His goodness. We continue in His goodness by obeying Him! How can we say we continue in goodness if we are disobeying Him, rebelling against Him?

He re-confirming to the natural Israel and the grafted in Israel what God told Israel in the OT. And today many "believers" are unbelieving --they believe in Him, but they don't believe that His Word is true Word, and they don't believe it stands forever. Jesus (Yeshua) was faithful to God, and Moses was faithful. Hebrews 3:4 says, *"but He who built all things is God."* **God is a God of order and He requires us to obey if we're going to be in His Kingdom.** Obedience is our part of a covenant relationship with our Father. He told Saul *"obedience is better than sacrifice."* He said, *"do not be haughty."* **God didn't spare the Israelites, he won't spare Christians who don't obey His voice. God was severe on those who fell. They died. They died physically and spiritually.**

In Romans 11:16 Paul says if Jesus (Yeshua) is holy, the lump is also holy, and if Jesus (Yeshua) is holy, the branches are holy. What did Paul say a little bit of leaven did in Gal 5:9? It ruins the whole bunch. **What is the leaven? Sin.** 1 John 3:4-6 defines lawlessness: It is sin. Yeshua appeared to **take away sins.** Verse 6 says *"No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him."* 1 John 5:3 defines loving God: *"For this is the love of God; that we keep His commandments, and they are not burdensome."*

Yeshua tells us this in Matt 7:21-23. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Yeshua is saying "I never knew you" to those who have leaven, who continue sinning, yet call Him "Lord". Why does He not know them? Because they continued sinning. **They didn't understand that He came to remove sin from their lives.** They think He just came to remove their past sin, and they think they can continue to sin but go with Him to the promised land. Living a sinful life can only be done by the Holy Spirit. We can only be New Covenant believers with the Holy Spirit. This is why we have to have faith in Yeshua and what he did for us, because He gives us the Holy Spirit.

I want to remind you that the New Covenant is found in 4 chapters of the Old Testament:

1. **Ezekiel 11:14-21** *"And the word of the Lord came to me: 'Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the Lord; to us this land is given for a possession.' Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Though I removed*

*them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.’ Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: **I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.**’ And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And **I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.** But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord God.”*

2. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**”*
3. **Ezekiel 36:22-32.** *“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, **but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.** And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And **the nations will know that I am the Lord,** declares the Lord God, **when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.”***

God has ONE LAW and one set of statutes and rules, so we know His Law didn't change when Yeshua came. In fact, there are NO New Testament Scriptures that say the Law has changed. There's NO Scripture that says the Sabbath changed, the Feasts of the Lord changed, or the Torah changed. Hebrews says, “So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.” Sunday is a day the Catholic church instituted as a day of rest because pagans worshipped their sun gods on sun-day. They wanted pagans in their church because they wanted power and money. The more people, the more power, the more money. **We're not supposed to follow pagan traditions (Sunday worship, Easter, Christmas, etc).** **Yeshua rebuked the Pharisees “you nullify the Word of God for the sake of your tradition!”** **At the end of Chapter 6, the writer of Hebrews talks about the priesthood changing from an earthly priesthood to a heavenly priesthood in the order of Melchizedek.** This was a change, but the earthly tabernacle was a shadow of the heavenly Tabernacle. Everything in the tabernacle pointed to Yeshua. Even the high priest. And the high priest changed with Yeshua. The Torah revealed the laws regarding the tabernacle and the priestly service, the sacrificial system, which pointed to Yeshua, our heavenly high priest and sacrifice. We have a high priest who has offered the sacrifice once and for all. His blood has sprinkled us clean and we have been washed with pure water. The Torah had laws for the Priesthood, men, women, animals, and land. And because I'm not a priest, these laws didn't apply to people who weren't priests, and they don't apply to us, because Yeshua is our High Priest and the priesthood is no longer in force.

The Torah is for us to know what sin is, and the laws pertaining to US (Israel) I'm supposed to keep. And we are to keep God's Torah (instructions) because they are how we live our lives righteously. The laws of sexual immorality are mentioned again in the New Testament. The Sabbath is mentioned, the Feasts are mentioned, Rosh Chodesh is mentioned, the commandments are mentioned. Sin is defined. Lawlessness is defined and the definitions don't change from the Old Testament. 1 John 3:4 says, *"Everyone who practices sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."* If we're living sinful lives, that is disobeying God and that is lawlessness. Galatians 5:19 talks about some of the violations of the law, which Paul calls *"the works of the flesh."* It says, *"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* God doesn't allow lawless people into His Kingdom. **His Kingdom is a Kingdom of Law and order.** Hebrews 10:26-27 says, *"For if we deliberately continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin, but only the terrifying prospect of judgment, of raging fire that will consume the enemies."* Verses 28-29 say *"Someone who disregards the Torah of Moses is put to death without mercy on the word of two or three witnesses. Think how much worse will be the punishment of someone who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, who has treated as something common the blood of the covenant which made him holy, and who has insulted the Spirit, the giver of God's grace!"* **In Micah 4 and Isaiah 2, God says that in the Millennial Kingdom, the Torah (Law) will go out of Zion.** So, if the Law was to be kept during the times of the Israelites up to the time of Yeshua, and it was kept by the disciples and Paul, why aren't we keeping it? Because the church teaches that we don't have to. However, the New Covenant is that we WILL keep the Law. If we are in covenant relationship with God, we keep His Torah (instructions).

Rejecting the Law (Torah) of God is rejecting God, because it's rejecting His Word. Satan wants people to think their identity is *"the church"*, and that they are above or *"better than"* Israel. He wants you to think the covenants and promises given to Israel have been done away with. He really wants you to think the Covenant on Mt. Sinai has been done away with. **However, the covenants and promises were given to Israel and we now have them by faith if we continue in the faith. Paul is clear about this.**

Satan thought of himself as better than God and Jesus (Yeshua). We see he wants us to think the same way he did. And if we don't understand our identity, we won't understand the covenants. **This is EXACTLY what Satan has deceived so many people about. We will think that one covenant makes the other invalid. NONE of God's covenants have been invalidated by a newer covenant, by God, by Yeshua or anyone or anything else! All of God's covenants are ETERNAL.**

We see Satan confusing so many people about their identity. They think they're homosexual. They think they're trans. They think they're pansexual. They think they're a dog. **But none of this is true!**

And it's NOT TRUE that the church has replaced Israel! Satan has tried to convince the church that their identity is not in Israel, that we don't have a Jewish Messiah, and that there is one Law for the *"Jews"* and one for the *"Gentiles"* because if he can do this, then he can convince you that the Law doesn't apply to you. Why is he doing this? Because he is seeking to steal your eternal life, destroy you, and kill you! He has no opportunity for eternal life, and because he is jealous of you, he doesn't want you to have it so he's going to try steal it from you! One Law for Israel and one for the Gentiles is not in the Bible. **Let's look at what the Bible says.**

The Bible says just the opposite.

1. Exodus 12:49 says *"The **same law** shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you."*
2. Leviticus 24: 22 *"There shall be **one standard** for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the Lord your God."*
3. Numbers 15:15-16 *"As for the assembly, there shall be **one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations**; as you are, so shall the alien be before the Lord. There is to be **one law** and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you."*

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4. Lev 18:26 *"But as for you, **you are to keep My statutes and My judgments** and shall not do any of these abominations, neither **the native**, nor **the alien who sojourns among you.**"*

THE PROBLEM IN THE OLD COVENANT WASN'T GOD'S LAW—IT WAS ISRAEL'S REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE.

LET'S LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES THAT SAY WHAT WAS HAPPENING:

Jeremiah 31:32 says, *"not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke.**"*

Isaiah 24:25 says, *"The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke **the everlasting covenant.**"*

Jeremiah 9:13 *"The Lord said, 'Because **they have forsaken My law** which I set before them, and **have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it.**"*

Psalms 78:10 *"They did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law."*

Nehemiah 9:16 *"But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and **would not listen to Your commandments.**"*

2 Kings 17:19 *"Also Judah **did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God**, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced." Vs. 34 "To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the Lord commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel."*

Nehemiah 1:7 *"We have acted very corruptly against You and **have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.**"*

Nehemiah 9:34 *"For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers **have not kept Your law.**"*

Ezekiel 20

Ezekiel 22:26-29 *"Her priests have done **violence to my law** and have **profaned My holy things**. They have made **no distinction between the holy and the common**, neither have they taught the difference between **the unclean and the clean**, and they have **disregarded my Sabbaths**, so that I am profaned among them. Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, **shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain**. And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, **seeing false visions and divining lies** for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken. The **people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery**. They have **oppressed the poor and needy**, and have **extorted from the sojourner without justice.**"*

Isaiah 5:24 *"Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for **they have rejected the Law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.**"*

Amos 2:4 *"Thus says the Lord, 'For three **transgressions** of Judah and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because **they rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept His statutes.**"* God considered breaking His law transgression then and in the New Testament it is still transgression, sin.

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Jeremiah 44:10 *“But they have not become contrite even to this day, **nor have they feared nor walked in My law or My statutes**, which I have set before you and before your fathers.”* Vs 23 *“Because you have burned sacrifices and **have sinned against the Lord and not obeyed the voice of the Lord or walked in His law, His statutes or His testimonies**, therefore this calamity has befallen you, as it has this day.”* God brought calamity on them because they disobeyed.

Nehemiah 9:26 *“But they became **disobedient and rebelled against You**, and **cast Your law behind their backs.**”*

Daniel 9:5 *“we have **sinned**, committed **iniquity**, acted **wickedly and rebelled**, even **turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.**”*

NOW LET’S LOOK AT NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE:

Yeshua rebuked the religious elite in Matthew 15 and Mark 7:8 *“Teaching as **doctrines** the precepts of men. **Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.**”* This is exactly what the church is doing today. Teaching as doctrines, man’s ways, neglecting the commandment of God.

Matthew 12:10 *“And they questioned Jesus, asking, **“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”**—so that they might accuse Him.”* Why were they asking Yeshua if it was lawful? Because in order to be the Messiah, He couldn’t break the Law. The Pharisees and scribes questioned Yeshua a lot about the Sabbath. This was the 4th commandment and Yeshua couldn’t break it if He was God and the Son of God.

Matthew 23: *“The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore **all that they tell you, do and observe**, but do not do according to their deeds.”* The seat (chair) of Moses is the seat in the synagogue where the Torah (Law) was read. Yeshua tells the people to do and observe all they are taught.

Luke 10:25-28 *“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, **‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’** And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’”* Yeshua was telling him to keep what was written in the Law. He said because the Law points to Him.

Luke 16:17 *“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away **than for one dot of the Law to become void.**”* Yeshua taught this. These are exactly His words. Was He teaching that He came to change the Law?

John 5:45-46 *“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. **There is one who accuses you: Moses**, on whom you have set your hope. For **if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?**”* Yeshua is telling them that they will be accused by the Law because they were breaking it. He told them if they didn’t believe Moses’ writings, they wouldn’t believe Him. So, Yeshua taught Moses. He was teaching them how to keep the Law perfectly but they didn’t want to believe him because they had added on to God’s Word (they broke the commandment in Deuteronomy 4:2 *“Do not add to what I command you and don’t subtract from it”*). They wrote the Talmuds which were additional laws on top of God’s. These are the laws they were keeping, but they were actually breaking God’s Law.

Acts 7:53 *“you who **received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.**”* Stephen is speaking to the religious elite after Yeshua ascended. He’s accusing them of not keeping the Law. Why would he say this if he didn’t keep the Law himself?

Acts 23:3 *“Then Paul said to him, ‘God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! **Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?**’”* Just as the verse above, why would Paul accusing them of breaking the Law if he taught that you could break it?

Hebrews 10:28-29 *“Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* The writer of Hebrews is quoting the Old Testament. He had just been discussing the person who sins deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, and he’s telling them their punishment will be very bad? This is because if we’re God’s people we will obey His Torah because we’re in covenant with Him.

In Hebrews 11, it discusses faith. It describes faith with obedience and trusting. The people trusted God and they obeyed. Faith is the Hebrew word “*emuna*”. It means “*believe and obey.*” In chapter 12:4 it says, “*you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in the contest against sin.*” He tells the people to pursue holiness. How do we know what holiness is without Law? We have God’s Law, which tells us how He defines holiness. This is how we’re supposed to walk. In verses 24-25 he tells the people “*See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.*” **The writer is saying that the children of Israel did not escape when they disobeyed God, and if we disobey we WILL NOT escape Yeshua when He comes to judge the earth.**

James 2:8-12 *“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.”* **What is the Law according to the Scripture? God’s Law.** James lists some of the commandments and he’s saying if you break one commandment, you’ve broken them all. He told the people to speak and act like those who will be judged UNDER the Law of liberty. I love it that he calls the Law “*the Law of liberty.*” Why would he say that? Because he knew God’s Law brings freedom. Yeshua taught “*You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*” What was Yeshua teaching was the truth? Psalm 119: 160 says “*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*” All of God’s Word is truth. The Word that God spoke most to Israel was His Torah (Law, instructions). So His Law is truth!

THE NEW COVENANT IS THE LAW OF GOD BEING WRITTEN ON OUR MINDS AND IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO CAUSES US TO OBEY GOD’S COMMANDMENTS. This doesn’t mean a new law and it doesn’t mean that there’s no Law. I would encourage you to study **Ezekiel 36-39**. This is about the New Covenant fulfillment and end time prophecy.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE ISRAELITES? The Israelites were supposed to be a holy, set apart, holy, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, God’s possession because God gave them His holy laws and they were supposed to keep them. **They broke the covenant, so God gave Israel a new covenant at a later time.** **Ex 19: 5-6** says “*Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*” However, Israel wanted to be like the nations. They broke the commandment about the land Sabbath (every 7 years the land is supposed to rest), they broke the Sabbath commandments, they didn’t keep the Feasts for hundreds of years, they committed idolatry, they partook in child sacrifices and ritual prostitution, and they were exiled. Some of them were destroyed, others went into captivity. This is because God takes His Law very seriously **1 Pet 2: 9** says “*But you (followers of Yeshua) are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*” Peter is telling believers that they are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the same thing God told Israel. This is confirmation that we are grafted into Israel. This means we have to obey the Father and have faith in Yeshua to be in this covenant. The Law’s purpose is to regulate our conduct and Yeshua gave us the Holy Spirit to help us obey God’s statutes. If you don’t keep God’s Law, how can you love Him “*with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength*” as He commanded? Yeshua said this was the greatest commandment and “*love your neighbor as yourself*” was the 2nd greatest commandment because “*all of the Law and prophets*” hangs on these two

commandments. **Yeshua didn't teach new commandments by saying this.** He was quoting Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19. Everything written in God's Law and the prophets hangs on loving God with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and loving others as ourselves. These are the primary Kingdom principles of God's Kingdom.

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP HAS TERMS. The terms were set that if we obey God's voice and keep His covenant (His commandments/instructions), we are in covenant, and when we don't, we're outside of covenant. If we're New Covenant believers, we ask the Holy Spirit to write God's Law on our minds and hearts and cause us to obey God's statutes. He is our teacher and if we allow Him to teach us, He will.

1 Corinthians 10:6 "Now *these things* (the stories of Israel) took place as *examples for us*, that we might not desire evil as they did." **Verses 11-12** say "Now *these things* happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**"

**IF WE ARE CHRIST'S, THEN WE ARE ISRAEL TODAY AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM.
Galatians 3:28-29**

HEIRS INHERIT THINGS. WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE, BUT THE ENEMY WANTS TO STEAL IT FROM US! WE SHOULDN'T LET HIM.

WE ARE THE ONES TO WHOM THE COVENANTS, THE LAW AND THE PROMISES BELONG!

WHAT DID PAUL SAY ABOUT GOD'S LAW? "Therefore, *the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good*" and "So then, with the mind I myself *serve the Law of God*, but with the flesh *the law of sin.*" Romans 7:12, 25. If we believe God's Word is the same today as it was yesterday, will obey Him. We will keep His covenant. We will be like David who meditated on God's instructions all of the time. Read Psalm 119 to find out what David thought about the Torah of God, why He was the greatest king of Israel (the greatest king of the earth until Yeshua returns) and why he was a man God considered "after His own heart."

IF we keep His covenant, we are sons and daughters and heirs to the promises. But IF we don't keep His covenant, we are not sons and daughters and we don't get to inherit the promised land. This is the instruction the children of Israel teach us. Yeshua said , "Abide in Me. IF you abide in Me, you keep My commandments." John defined loving God: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and they are not burdensome." The New Testament doesn't teach something different from the Old.

Exodus 20:1 says, "And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." God spoke these words to who? The Israelites. They were His chosen people, Israel. John 1:11 says "He came to His own." Israel. In Matthew 15:24, Yeshua says "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." The reason for this is because God knew before the foundation of the world who Israel is! He is outside of time. This means He knows everything before it happens. Ephesians 1:1 tells us "In Christ we were chosen to be God's people." He has brought us out of bondage, and we His chosen people with them! Our identity is Israel!

Paul said, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, **who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises** whose are the fathers and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever." Paul is telling us that the promises belonged to Israel. He saw all of these things as good—they were Israel's inheritance! That Christ belonged to Israel! There was no New Covenant given to "the church." Physical Israel is not excluded AS LONG AS they have faith in Messiah, but New Covenant believers are "spiritual Israel." Gentiles can also come to faith by God's grace through Messiah and be grafted

into Israel, God's set apart, holy nation. This means being set apart from the world. This is what Yeshua taught: We are in the world, but Yeshua chose us out of the world. John 15:19.

Romans 9:23-33 *"In order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— even us whom he has called, **not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?** As indeed he says in Hosea, **'Those who were not my people (Gentiles) I will call "my people," and her who was not beloved I will call "beloved" 'And in the very place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," there they will be called "sons of the living God. "'** And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: **'Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will be saved, for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.'** And as Isaiah predicted, **'If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.'** What shall we say, then? **That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. **They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.'**"*****

WAS IT THE LAW THAT WAS BAD? Can God do anything that's bad? Can He have a Law that's bad? He actually gave us His Law for our good. Israel didn't pursue the Law or God by faith. They weren't trying to pursue the law because they were in their flesh. Faith cannot be flesh and flesh cannot be faith. Most of Israel didn't believe in their Messiah either. So the Gentiles attained righteousness by God's grace, through faith. **Faith** is the key, and I need to say again that **it means believing and obeying.**

Now that you know you're identity is ISRAEL, in covenant with God, it changes things. You need know about covenant relationship, You need to know what's required in covenant relationship. We have a standard to meet. We have things to do. We have statutes to obey. **We are going to fall short, but we should be trying to study God's ways and DO them!**

Our standard is Jesus (Yeshua) who kept God's commandments perfectly and He told us to *"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* The enemy has convinced a lot of people that Jesus (Yeshua) is it. You just have to say you believe in Him, but you don't have to do anything else. **This is NOT what Jesus (Yeshua) and the disciples taught us. They taught us that faith is action, that faith without works is dead, and that doing God's will is the life of God's people.** Jesus (Yeshua) laid His own will down. As He prayed to the Father, He said, *"Not My will, but thine be done."* John 6:38 says, *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."* John 12:49 says, *"For I have not spoken of My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has given Me a commandment- what to say and how to speak. For I know that this commandment is eternal life. So I speak exactly what the Father has told Me to say."* And He said "follow Me." So if you think that Yeshua taught something different than His Father, you think something contrary to Scripture. The prayer of every believer should be that we speak what the Father tells us to say and that we speak of the authority of our Father. We should live our lives this way.

Revelation 12:17 and 14: 12 tell us who the seed of the woman (from Genesis 3:15) and who the remnant/saints are: *"Those who keep the commandments of God and have/hold to the faith/testimony of Yeshua."* These people are Israel, God's holy, set apart nation, the Body of Christ.

**OUR IDENTITY IS ISRAEL.
THERE IS NO NEW COVENANT GIVEN TO THE GENTILES. IT IS GIVEN TO ISRAEL.
THE "BODY OF CHRIST" IS ISRAEL—
THE SPIRITUAL SEED OF ABRAHAM, THE SEED OF THE WOMAN.
YOU'RE IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH YESHUA (JESUS).**

We need to ask the Father to teach us how to live in covenant with Him through the study of His Word.