



YISRAEL AND THE 'BLACK' CHURCH

Shaleakh Yashah, a servant of YAHUWAH our Father, and Y'shua The Master, to the Mighty Elders of Yisrael in Ha Mashiakh, Shalom.

When it comes to the subject of how we as the 'Messianic' Hebrew Yisraelite-aware should relate to our so-called African-American brothers who use the terminology of the 'black' church, the controversy, along with the confusion, rages on. But despite the finger-pointing and endless debates, the truth still marches on as well.

A weed that grows wild and unchecked in the vineyard ultimately becomes a real and present danger to the fruitful vine...

Behold Yisrael - the source of division between the Hebrew Yisraelite-aware and our Hellenized 'African-American' brothers must finally be rooted out and exposed to the light of truth.

To begin with, the fact that those of us who are 'Yisraelite-aware' have been granted the revelation of our true identity in no way automatically suggests spiritual superiority over the unaware.

We would all be wise to remember that we were in full possession of the knowledge of self -- we were dwelling in our own land, speaking our own language and living our own lifestyle -- when the Roman legions sacked Jerusalem, leveled our Temple, and slaughtered over one million of us; with most of the rest of us fleeing into Pella, Egypt and Ethiopia for our very lives. Selah.

In the words of Paul, the apostle, "I say the truth in Mashiakh, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in Ruakh Ha Qodesh, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, *my kinsmen according to the flesh...*" (Romans 9:1-3).

The vexation of spirit caused by endless strife of words is an every day fact of life. And this principle holds true in even greater measure when it comes to reasoning in the word and doctrine among warring brothers.

The division, cynicism, sarcasm and in many instances, outright hostility existing between what are in truth, two factions of the same family, is debilitating and tragic. And while this subject is highly volatile and complex, as with every crisis under heaven, it does have a very basic set of underlying causes; easy to be understood.

The first fundamental cause of this division among our people is, in my judgment, the matter of language.

In a simple equation: the snare of dialects = the curse of confusion. The idea of a man rejecting

his brother because he uses the words God and Christ, or YAH and Yah'shua, for example, is short-sighted and distracting - a straining at gnats.

For example, the word Christ is nothing more than the English transliteration of the Greek word 'Khristos' which simply means 'anointed one.' So then "Christ-ian" or 'Christian' simply means one who's anointed, and in the Anointed One.

It's just another word to describe Mashiakh and His anointed ones. Likewise, YAH and Yahushua, etc. are legitimate translations and acceptable pronunciations.

And yet there are those who insist that the word "Christian" represents the religion of our enemies; when for example, the apostle Peter used the word, saying "...if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify YAH on this behalf" (1 Peter 4:16).

Now we know he wasn't writing in 'Koine', the Greek "Ebonics" of the day, when he wrote those words (the apostle Paul used it when addressing the Greeks). But the word Christian is clearly in keeping with a true-on translation from Greek to English.

And on the other hand, there are those among our Yisraelite-unaware brothers who immediately categorize anyone who uses Yahushua, Yahusha, Yahshua, Yahawashi and so on, as not knowing the Messiah at all, but as being a part of a 'cult' or 'hate-group.' Whew...

The truth of the matter is, the very words God, Christ, etc. were coined as a result of the Gentiles being exposed to *our* culture and faith to begin with. And while it's obviously preferable not to refer to a brother Juan as "brother John," one should not be ex-communicated from a congregation on that basis!

And likewise, the use of Hebrew as an outward sign of reclaiming one's lost heritage and of identifying with the roots of the faith is no automatic indication of anything other than just that.

When we fall into the snare of warring dialects, we lose our ability to distinguish the truly sacred from the truly profane - a real deal-breaker when it comes to our ultimate redemption! With the all-out assault our enemies are leveling against us, shall we continue to divide over pronunciation?

Brethren, with all the endless strife and the evil surmisings that follow, our Father is not pleased.

Questioning a man's standing in the Kingdom based upon the teaching that Mashiakh's name **MUST** be pronounced Yahushua, Yahshua, Yahawashi, etc. is like suggesting that if *you* say "Loes-ahng'-eles" and *I* say "Lahs-ang'-elis", it shows that I'm somehow more of an authority on the city of L.A. than you are.

Let us no longer err, my beloved brethren. It is written, YAH is *love*, not YAH is language. As it is also written, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 Yochanan/John 3:18). Selah.

A second basic cause for our disunity is simply cultural pride.

Again, there are those who revel in the knowledge of Hebrew, however limited; and then strive over which version must be used - whether ancient or modern - while they themselves are fluent

in neither of the four current versions. Again, the word says Elohim is love, not language.

And then there are those who glory in the Law of Mosheh, and zealously seek to impose them upon the unaware while they themselves are yet under its curse. In reality, such men are guilty of lawlessness just like the Hellenized brothers they seek to condemn - and manifest only envy, strife and confusion in the flesh, rather than love, joy and peace in the Spirit.

For example, some even insist that the wearing of certain special garments unique to their camps or congregations is a mandatory requirement for citizenship in the nation - and they wear this religious regalia with great cultural pride.

Is this not the same worldly tendency the rebellious ancient Israelites were given to, that ultimately led to rejection of her Messiah and expulsion from the promised land?

Ha Mashiakh put it this way: "But all their works they do to be seen of men; they make broad their phylacteries and enlarge the borders of their garments..." (Matt. 23:5).

The truth is, the garments that are *most* critical among the faithful remnant in Mashiakh at this hour are robes of righteousness, being clothed with humility, and putting on the garments of praise. Brethren, this cultural arrogance and hypocrisy toward the black church ought not to be.

Let us no longer persecute and vilify our Yisraelite-unaware brethren; but rather let us earnestly pray for them, that they may be granted the restoration of their true Biblical heritage as well - remembering also that most among our ranks were in times past, walking in ignorance of our true identity and destiny in like manner.

Finally, my brethren; we as the faithful remnant of Hebrew Yisraelites in Mashiakh must once and for all, put away the formulating of doctrine and interpreting of scripture as a reaction to the lies and heresies of our enemies.

We must preach, teach and confirm the word of YAHUWAH based solely upon that which is written, and that which is uttered and confirmed under the inspiration of Ruakh Ha Qodesh. And we must take back *all* that our enemies have stolen from us, including the very terminology of scripture - even in their own languages!

For example, the word 'Catholic' simply means "universal." And again, 'Christian' simply means "an anointed one", and the word 'church' means "A called-out political body."

Be not deceived, O Messianic Yisrael. In the sight of YAH, the faithful remnant consists not only of the "Messianic" Yisraelite-aware, but the *true* disciples of Mashiakh among the *unaware* as well. Together, we are the lost/found Kingdom of Yahudah in Ha Mashiakh.

The hour has come for the faithful remnant from both factions of Hebrews in Mashiakh to come together in love, peace, and Kingdom order.

Let the Commonwealth as a whole (the faithful remnant out of *every* system) behold our reconciliation; and rejoice; and let them join themselves to the united Royal Priesthood of Yisrael unto an authentic, uncompromised, and unprecedented unity of the faith.

May the Grace, Mercy and Peace of Abeinu YAH Continually Abide with Us All. Ahmein.

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