

GATES TO ZION MINISTRIES
(SHA' ARIM L' TZION)

Presents

The Foundation Series

Pt. 1: Understanding The Mystery of Godliness

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
(Yochanon/John 1:1 NASB)*

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of
the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”(Yochanon/John 1:14)*

In this message we are going to spend our time shoring up the foundation of what can only be called the Sure Foundation of The Faith. It is not that *The Foundation* needs shoring up in itself. It is our perception of that Foundation. For those of us who have come into the rediscovery of the wealth of the Hebraic roots of our faith, we have gained immeasurable insights into the Scriptures. However, we must not fool ourselves into thinking that our enemy, hasatan¹ (may his name be blotted out forever)² will sit idly by and let this happen. No! He will do his best to muddy the waters of Truth and distract as many as possible from that Sure Foundation of their faith. The hope is to move them past distraction to delusion, and finally into the fullness of deception. The end result will be the certain destruction of their eternal hope. Let us be clear, the two main weapons by which the enemy will seek to disqualify those of us who are pressing in to know the more perfect knowledge of *who* we are as redeemed/ReNewed Covenant Yisrael, are moral failure and doctrinal deception. When the former fails, then hasatan will seek to drive the zealous talmid (disciple) into areas of Scriptural excess and onto the jagged rocks of deception. The end result will be to make shipwreck of their faith.

In all moves of restoration there comes a swing of the pendulum usually to the opposite extreme. Those of us who come from a background of the church of Christendom have come to see how wrong many of the doctrines and principles we have learned along the way are. Abba YHWH³ has shown His grace to us by allowing us to experience the renewing of our minds to Hebraic concepts and patterns of life. The ReNewed Covenant⁴ Scriptures have especially come to life with such profound clarity and deeper insights. It is simply because they have been put back into their proper Hebraic conceptual setting. As a result, we are being transformed into ReNewed Covenant Yisraelites⁵ and at the same time being conformed more perfectly into the blessed image of our Mashiach Yeshua. However, as is human nature, some have reacted rather than responded to these errors which we have come to know as Replacement Theology⁶. In turn, some have unwittingly embraced the Jewish rabbinical ideal almost without question. Beloved, ALL religion has in some way been tainted. The systematic theology of the church of Christendom is nothing more than religious man's attempt to

carve YHWH down into an image he can deal with intellectually. It is idolatry! However, rabbinical Judaism (which is not the same as biblical Judaism) has just as surely missed the mark too. The Torah in its Oral form, which preceded the written Torah as given through Moshe, was handed down from one generation of the elders and sages to the next. The Oral Torah continued to be passed down to successive generations even from Moshe's time. While the Oral Torah may have retained its purity for some time, it can no longer be held to be so today. The addition of commentary by the Rabbi's over these past few thousand years, especially since the compilation of what is known today as the Talmud, makes it almost impossible to distinguish the words given to Moshe, and the words added by men. At best, we still hold the Mishna (commentary on the Torah) and the Talmud (commentary on the Mishna) as a good means of reference, but not on the same level as the revelation of the written Scriptures themselves. Master Yeshua Himself quoted and upheld the traditions of the elders so long as they agreed in spirit to the written Torah. In direct contrast, He had no problem disregarding those traditions when they contradicted the written Torah.

One of the basic tenets of rabbinical Judaism is that the Mashiach will be completely human. He will not be YHWH. Because of the extreme position of monotheism⁷ embraced by rabbinical Judaism, it keeps them from recognizing the divine mystery associated with the fact that YHWH could possibly assume and manifest Himself in and through a human vessel. We don't have the space here to speak more clearly on the plurality of divinity that will come in another one of our Foundation Series. Suffice it to say, as quoted above, YHWH did indeed become flesh and He did tabernacle among us. We must not, and we cannot depart from this basic premise of Scripture. The whole of our hope of redemption and eternal salvation rests on this bedrock truth. The honest student of both biblical Judaism (again, not the same as rabbinical Judaism) as well as the Scriptures in Aramaic (the sister language to Hebrew) will conclude that the incarnation of YHWH in the flesh to be the Redeemer and Savior of Yisrael and the world is not only clearly revealed as Scriptural Truth, it is a required prerequisite of our redemptive hope.

The Mystery of Godliness

“By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16 NASB)

Rav Sha'ul calls the incarnation of YHWH's manifestation in the flesh “*the mystery of godliness*”. I believe we would do well to remind ourselves that Paul, who by his Hebraic identity would be known as Rav Sha'ul, was first of all a Jew, and second of all raised and trained as a member of the sect of Judaism, a Pharisee. Unlike what the church of Christendom would have us to believe, Rav Sha'ul did not reject his Pharisical background en Toto, nor leave behind his lifetime of training and influence in the Hebraic mind and culture. He very clearly retained these things and used them in his life and ministry. As such, Rav Sha'ul would clearly understand the place which *mystery* held in both rabbinic and Hebraic expression. To the Hebrew mind, *mystery* is not

synonymous with *contradiction*. The Hebraic mind accepts the fact that YHWH and His thoughts are so vast and unfathomable that it is impossible for us as humans to even begin to try and comprehend them. (Yeshayahu/Isaiah 55:9) However, in His mercy, YHWH has opened up to man the portions of His mind that He has chosen to reveal. What He has allowed us to know is only a drop in comparison with what there is that could be known. Now one important principle we must learn to accept is, *YHWH has hidden things concerning Himself and His ways in such a manner that only those who search to know Him with all their heart will ever come to see those Truths*. Literally, *they are hidden not FROM us, but FOR us!*⁸

Now YHWH has gone about the above with a predetermined plan. First, it will keep His Truth away from merely the curious who only want to expand their heads; and second, it will serve as a form of judgment upon those whose hearts seek to use such Truth for their own end. It is interesting to note that to the Corinthian assembly Rav Sha'ul wrote the following sobering thought,

“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” (1 Corinthians 11:19 KJV)

Please note that Rav Sha'ul did not say there *might* be heresies among you. He said, *there MUST be heresies among you!* Why? In order that those which are approved may be made manifest. In other words, YHWH's way of revealing those who are true to His purpose is by allowing there to come false information in order to test the hearts of those who claim allegiance to Him. We find that Yeshua used this principle in His parable of the wheat and tares. It is also a principle of Torah regarding the coming forth of false prophets among the nation of Yisrael.

***“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,
and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you,
saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'
you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for
the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all
your heart and with all your soul.” (Devarim/Deut. 13:1-3 NASB)***

To be a follower of YHWH is all about the heart. He wants to know about our motives. Only those who want Him, love Him with their entire being, and will allow nothing to sway them from that place of absolute allegiance will in the end find themselves approved. Yeshua put it this way,

***"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold."
(Mattityahu/Matthew 24:11-12 NASB)***

Master Yeshua speaks about it in the negative. In the days preceding His second coming, many false prophets will arise and will lead many away after their spirit of

delusion. Why? Because of torah-lessness. Torah-lessness is iniquity or lawlessness. It is what happens when the world rejects the Ancient Paths of YHWH's Instructions for life, His Torah. When we depart from Torah, then our heart will begin to grow cold. Now, the opposite of this also holds true. We will escape the snare of false prophets that prey on the hearts of those who reject YHWH's Torah, when we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Rav Sha'ul understood the ways of YHWH. He understood how great YHWH is, but he also knew that He would communicate what He wanted to be known through the revelation knowledge of the Ruach HaKodesh. Though we must not be presumptuous and go beyond what is made known; we also must not fail to press out in faith and come up short either. Both extremes are wrong. In this passage to Timothy, Rav Sha'ul expresses to us what this mystery of g-dliness is. It is the fact that there was a part of YHWH that was allowed to be manifest or revealed in the flesh. This was the Word of YHWH. Now notice, that Rav Sha'ul says that this was a *common confession* held among the assemblies of the Mashiach Yeshua. There are those today, and the internet is full of them, who proclaim a Mashiach who does not fit with this common confession. They are trying to force this mystery of godliness to conform to the opinion of rabbinical Judaism, which is the belief that the Mashiach would be merely a man. Beloved, just because something is Jewish doesn't mean it is right. The church of Christendom has been guilty of teaching many doctrines that simply are not true, and in some instances even heretical. However, you can't just throw all that has been taught away in a wholesale manner. The rabbinical idea that the Mashiach is to be just a man was devised and incorporated into Judaism to counter the influence of the early sect of the Nazarenes, who believed in Yeshua as the Mashiach, but readily continued to remain Torah keepers also. Later, because of the diabolical suffering imposed upon Jews by the crusades and inquisitions, and the attempts to forcefully convert the Jewish people to Christianity, this belief became a cemented part of the Jewish faith. Literally, it was an attempt to keep Judaism alive and separate from its age old enemy known as assimilation.

Now, today, in this move of restoration of the Hebraic we are realizing that the truth of the so-called New Covenant must be taught from its roots of Torah and the TaNaKh.⁹ It is in fact, a very Hebraic idea that the coming of the Mashiach would be a manifestation of YHWH in the flesh. When such is taught in the proper manner, it doesn't violate Torah. It doesn't destroy the proclamation of the Sh'mah¹⁰, "*Hear O Yisrael, YHWH is our Elohim, YHWH is one.*" Rav Sha'ul would have NEVER taught something in opposition of the Torah. The foundation of his Pharisaical training in Torah would not have allowed for it. Like his Master Yeshua before him, Rav Sha'ul did not reject every tradition of the elders. He only rejected those that definitely were in contradiction to the written Torah given through Moshe. Even so, today, we must allow the Ruach HaKodesh to reveal to us how to teach the truths of the Brit Chadashah/ReNewed Covenant so that they agree in spirit with its roots which are embedded in Torah.

So as we move on in our subject at hand, we will see how Yeshua HaMashiach is truly the Word of YHWH manifest in the flesh. We will see how that Truth flows in

perfect agreement with the whole of Torah. May Abba multiply His grace to us as we progress.

Understanding Yeshua's Role As The Last Adam

***“So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam {became} a life-giving spirit.
However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.
The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.” (1
Corinthians 12:45-47 NASB)***

One of the most important revelations given to Rav Sha’ul concerning how YHWH went about implementing the plan of redemption is what we find written above. All that Adam was as the first man, Master Yeshua would become Himself as the Last Adam. He must partake of all that Adam was in essence, except without sin, in order to become mankind’s perfect sacrificial Substitute. While at the same time remaining in essence who He was as the Word of YHWH. It was this taking on of humanity that was referred to by Rav Sha’ul as the *mystery of godliness*. It is impossible for us to break this mystery down so that it may be completely understood. Yet, we may come as close as possible without going too far.

The first Adam failed. The Last Adam did not. As wholly Man and wholly YHWH the Last Adam has made an end of all that the first Adam brought into this world by his disobedience...sin and death. As the Second Man, Master Yeshua has become the Head of an entirely new creation of redeemed mankind. As perfect YHWH and perfect Man Master Yeshua is able to be the perfect Mediator. It was YHWH who was offended at the fall. It was mankind that suffered the repercussions. Master Yeshua can put one hand in Father YHWH’s and satisfy His need for justice and righteousness. As Man, He can put His hand in ours’ and bridge the gap between us and our Creator. As our Kinsman Redeemer¹¹, Master Yeshua can pay the price for our redemption, and He has!

There is a theological statement that goes something like this: *What Yeshua did not assume, He can not redeem*. Simply stated, Yeshua as the Last Adam, in order to redeem all who descend from the first Adam, must take upon Himself those very same characteristics (eg. spirit, mind, physiology...etc.) By so doing Yeshua can fully be qualified to redeem those same areas from the fall. Thus you have the words of Rav Sha’ul to the Philippians,

“but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men.”(Philippians 2:7 NASB)

Master Yeshua, as the Word of YHWH, fully partook of the flesh of all humanity (*yet without sin*). As a result, He might fully redeem and remove all that we are from under the dominion of the kingdom of darkness. As the Last Adam He would take our place on the execution stake. He would drink fully the cup of our judgment. Though He was innocent, Master Yeshua would allow the full force that YHWH’s judgment

demanded by Torah for our willful disobedience to fall upon Himself! As a result, all our humanity could know redemption on every level. While we may not know all of how this works, we may have a glimpse into YHWH's glorious plan of redemption.

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Endnotes Part One

¹ I have purposefully used a small "h" in reference to hasatan. This is not a *typo*. On the contrary, it is my predetermined intention. I realize that this is an error in the use of proper grammar. However, I so despise the enemy of all righteousness that I am willing to commit such an error rather than give him even the slightest bit of recognition.

² This parenthetical phrase is used by the Jewish rabbi's when referring to someone of wicked memory. It is an effort to remove any honor from such a worthless being in the thoughts of all who are righteous before YHWH our Elohim.

³ YHWH- the four letter tetragrammaton used to designate the sacred memorial name.

⁴ **ReNewed Covenant**- the Hebraic mind does not see things through a filter of division. It sees things as a unity. The Greek mind divides. The Hebraic mind unites. The so called *New Covenant* is the ***Brit Chadashah*** in Hebrew. It comes from the same root word that we get the Jewish celebration of the New Moon or Rosh Chodesh. It is a *renewal* of the moon, not that the moon is literally remade every month. So, the New Covenant is literally the *ReNewed Covenant*. It is the record of those promises made under the Older Covenant that have been fulfilled, and the renewal of all those promises that have yet to be realized that will just as surely be fulfilled. The Hebraic idea of the covenants of YHWH is that they are stacked one upon another so they maintain their relationship and continuity. The Greek mind, upon which the idea of systematic theology is founded, divides each covenant from its predecessor. It forces each covenant to become an entity within itself. It is only when the ReNewed Covenant is placed back in its conceptual relationship with its root and source, the TaNaKh (see end note #8 below), that the true mind of YHWH can be revealed.

⁵ **ReNewed Covenant Yisrael**- we do not have the space to give a full view of the continuing evolvment of the nation of Yisrael. It began as a single man, Ya'akov/Jacob, who was later named by YHWH as Yisrael. Out from this one man came twelve sons, who continued to evolve from a family into a nation of twelve tribes. The Older Covenant Scriptures provide us with the history of this nation. Unfortunately, through the church of Christendom's choice to embrace the false and heretical doctrine known as *Replacement Theology* (see endnote #6 below), the attempt has been made to write Yisrael out of the picture of YHWH's redemptive plan. A new entity, known as "*the church*" has been written into the picture. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact it is through the writings of Rav Sha'ul that we learn that the nation of Yisrael is not only still a viable entity, but that YHWH through Master Yeshua has fulfilled His Older Covenant promises to redeem her. In turn, YHWH has *renewed* the promises He made under this same Older Covenant to Yisrael, and promised to restore Yisrael to its promised place as chief among the nations. These renewed promises are what are given to us in the so-called New Testament. In the millennial kingdom, all of the nations of the earth will come to Yisrael to worship Yeshua HaMashiach as the Greater Son of David, King of all the earth, and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles every year in Yerushalayim/Jerusalem. If this is true, (and it is), then where is this replacement entity known as the church? The centrality of Yisrael is even to be found in the New Yerushalayim/Jerusalem which is to come down from YHWH out of heaven during the millennial kingdom. The twelve gates of city are named after the twelve tribes of Yisrael. Which gate is the "church" supposed to go through into the city? Rav Sha'ul gives us the answer in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter two. All who come through Mashiach Yeshua into eternal salvation by believing upon His finished work of redemption become a part of this nation of redeemed/ReNewed Covenant Yisrael. It doesn't matter whether they are Jewish Yisraelites from the house of Judah, non-Jewish Yisraelites from the returning house of Joseph/Ephraim, or true Gentiles from among the nations. Rav Sha'ul tells us that we are all Yisraelites! We all, through Yeshua HaMashiach, become

part of the commonwealth nation of redeemed/ReNewed Covenant Yisrael. You may call yourself Gentile, Baptist, Christian, Jewish or whatever. But if you have been born again by putting your trusting faithfulness in Yeshua as your Mashiach, then you are a Yisraelite! Go back and read the promise made by the prophet Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31:31-33. Who is the new or *ReNewed Covenant* made with? Is it a entity called the church? No! It is with the house of Yisrael (the northern tribes of non-Jewish Yisrael) and the house of Judah (the southern tribes of Jewish Yisrael). The kingdom will be restored to the nation to which it was promised, not a replacement entity called “*the church*”. (*A fuller insight into Yisrael’s continuing existence as YHWH’s prophetic instrument in the completion of His masterwork of redemption will be available shortly on our web-site*)

⁶ **Replacement Theology** is that sort of theological mindset that seeks to remove or reduce the place that Yisrael has in the purposes of YHWH. The church of Christendom is woefully guilty of this heretical practice. The emperor Constantine of Rome is credited as the one who was finally able to succeed in removing Yisrael, Jewish roots, and Hebraic customs in general from the church. Somehow, the *church* has become the true Yisrael. Old Testament Yisrael along with present day Jewish Yisrael have been consigned a very limited place in YHWH’s prophetic purposes in redemption. Nothing could be further from the Truth. The restoration of the Two Houses of Yisrael is beginning to set the record straight. There is only one prophetic instrument that YHWH has chosen to use to work out His wisdom as set forth in the plan of redemption. That is Yisrael. 1948 proved that Abba YHWH intends on placing Yisrael back in the center of all of mankind’s history. Even now He is working to bring forth a remnant from both houses of Yisrael. Out from Jewish Yisrael (house of Judah) and from the midst of the organized church, the place where most of the house of Ephraim (the house of non-Jewish Yisrael) can now be found, there is coming a new expression of the nation of Yisrael. It is redeemed/ReNewed Covenant Yisrael. This nation is not a replacement of Yisrael. It is in its very essence the fulfillment of all that the prophets have declared. The Two Houses will be restored in the hand of the Mashiach. (see Yechezk’el/Ezekiel 37) Yeshua our blessed HaMashiach, the Greater Son of David, will return to take up His kingdom and elevate the Whole House of Yisrael to its promised place in Abba YHWH’s glorious redemptive plan. May we labor in the power of His Spirit to see that day hastened in its coming.

⁷ **Monotheism** is the view that God is one and only one. The church of Christendom holds to the view that God is triune (three distinct Persons). Judaism cites D’varim/Deuteronomy 6:4 as its foundation for holding its rigid monotheistic view. It is also why Judaism rejected Christianity. It sees the Trinitarian view as a violation of its most sacred tenet. However, neither Christianity nor rabbinical Judaism have the proper perspective. The word “one” is “*echad*” in Hebrew and it can mean one, as in one and only one. However, it can also mean *one as in a plurality of parts*. (eg. the two parts of the Hebraic day- evening and morning. The Scripture calls this plurality “*one [echad] day*”. *Also the man and woman, Adam and Chava (Eve) as husband and wife, are declared by Scripture to be “one [echad]”*.) The Hebraic ideal sees YHWH as a plurality of divinity. They are three parts (not distinct Persons) of the same Being. While Judaism does not go far enough in their defining of YHWH, the church of Christendom goes too far. ***There will be a fuller explanation of YHWH’s Being that will appear on our soon to be constructed web-site under the section: Foundation Series.**

⁸ **Mishle/Proverbs 25:2-** “*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*” Abba YHWH wants to see how deeply we want to know Him and His ways. He intentionally hides His truths with the very intention to motivate us to seek them out.

⁹ **TaNaKh** is an acrostic used by Judaism to identify the contents of the Older Covenant. It includes *Torah*. In its most basic form, it is the first five books of the Older Covenant. The *Nevi’im* which is the prophetic writings. Then there is the *K’tuvim*, the historical and poetic writings.

¹⁰ **The Sh’mah** is one of the most sacred prayers in Judaism. It is the declaration of dependence upon YHWH as the ONE and ONLY living Elohim of Yisrael. It is recited at least twice a day, and is the last words uttered by brother Judah at his death.

¹¹ **Kinsman Redeemer-** Heb. *goel*, from root meaning to redeem. The *goel* among the Hebrews was the nearest male blood relation alive. Certain important obligations devolved upon him toward his next of kin. (1.) If any one from poverty was unable to redeem his inheritance, it was the duty of the kinsman to redeem it (Lev. 25:25,28; Ruth 3:9, 12). He was also required to redeem his relation who had sold himself into slavery (Lev. 25:48, 49). God is the *Goel* of his people because he redeems them (Ex. 6:6; Isa. 43:1; 41:14; 44:6, 22; 48:20; Ps. 103:4; Job 19:25, etc.). [note from Easton’s Bible Dictionary]
