

## **The Synagogue of Satan – Part 2**

### **(An Examination of Rabbinical/Orthodox Judaism)**

#### **Note:**

In this article the term Judaism refers only to Rabbinical/Orthodox Judaism and the term Judaists refers only to those who follow Rabbinical/Orthodox Judaism.

#### **Preamble**

Let me reiterate what I said in Part 1 of this study, I am not anti-Semitic. Insofar as the Jewish people themselves are concerned, I welcome them all as a people as I do everyone but I stop short when it comes to worship. In terms of worship I only accept those who believe in Yahusha Mashiach. This paper is not about race it is about worship: true worship. Today there are many deceits affecting true worship and whilst the Scriptures provides us with the means to identify these deceits, the guidelines provided are often ignored or put to one side due to misconceptions or in the interest of appeasement. Appeasement in any way, shape or form is not Scriptural. The essence of this paper is to bring about awareness and expose a misconception among the Messianic community concerning Rabbinic Judaism and, as the title says, the study of a particular phrase from the Scriptures and its implications for those following the whole of Scriptures, that is, Genesis - Revelation.

#### **Introduction**

‘Synagogue of Satan’ this phrase appears only twice in the Scriptures and found only in the book of Revelation. It first appears in Chapter 2,

*I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the Synagogue of Satan. (Rev.2:9).*

It is difficult to discern from Rev.2:9 what the problem is to which Mashiach is referring: is Mashiach talking about imposters posing as Jews or is He accusing some within the Jewish fraternity of behaviour unbecoming of people purporting to follow Moshe? However, in His use of the same phrase in the following chapter 3, Mashiach is more forthcoming providing some clarification,

*I know your works – see, I have set before you an open door, and no one is able to shut it – that you have little power, yet have guarded My Word, and have not denied My Name. Behold, I will make them of the Synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. (Rev.3:8-9).*

On both occasions it is Mashiach talking and there can be no doubt to whom His criticism is directed. Mashiach is referring to a problem within the Jewish community that will be present at the end of this age that is, today. Yahusha Mashiach is accusing those within the Jewish fraternity who deny Him, that is, those who deny He was Mashiach in the flesh and labelling these unbelievers as a ‘Synagogue of Satan.’ So the issue is one of Jewish acceptance of Him, it is not an issue of custom or race. With Judaism’s vehement rejection of Him Mashiach’s words are just as valid today.

#### **Judaism Has Its Roots in Pharisaism.**

Traditionally Judaism has two Torahs; the written Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy) and the Oral Torah. Pharisaic doctrine says that the oral Torah was given to Moshe at the same time as the written Torah and according to Jewish Midrash; YHWH gave this second law orally so as to keep it hidden. It was meant to be a secret knowledge only for the Jewish religious leaders. This is of course Jewish mythology concocted by the Scribes/Pharisees to give them a position of authority over the Jewish religion which their descendants, the Rabbis, still enforce today. A second reason given in the Midrash, is that the oral Torah was never meant for the Gentiles but only for the Jewish people, a comment we will deal with later. The truth is, that the Talmud is the product of man not YHWH, created entirely for the purpose of controlling the religion. For millennia the oral Torah was never written down but today it is contained in Judaism’s Talmud. In his ‘*History of the Jews*’ Rabbi Finklestein removes all argument concerning the origin of Judaism’s Talmud,

“The Talmud derives its authority from the position held by the ancient academies (i.e. Pharisees). The teachers of those academies, both of Babylonia and of Palestine were considered the rightful successors of the older Sanhedrin.... At the present time, The Jewish people have no living central authority comparable in status to the ancient Sanhedrins or the later academies. Therefore, any decision regarding the Jewish religion must be based on the Talmud as the final resumé of the teaching of those authorities when they existed.” (*The Jews – Their History, Culture and Religion Vol. 4, Jewish Publication Society of America 1949*).

In 1937 Rabbi Louis Finklestein was chosen by the Jewish communities of the world as one of the top 120 Jews and with others, was voted as best representing, ‘A lamp of Judaism’ to the world, so his words carry authority.

It is through its Talmud that Judaism has kept alive Pharisaic thought, teaching and custom, a fact confirmed by the Jewish Encyclopaedia,

With the destruction of the Temple (70 AD) the Sadducees disappeared altogether, leaving the regulation of all Jewish affairs in the hands of the Pharisees. Henceforth, Jewish life was regulated by the Pharisees; the whole history of Judaism was reconstructed from the Pharisaic point of view, and a new aspect was given to the Sanhedrin of the past. A new train of tradition supplanted the older priestly tradition (Abot.1:1). Pharisaism shaped the character of Judaism and the life and thought of the Jew for all the future, (JE 1905 Ed).

The Jewish religion as it is today traces its descent, without a break, through all the centuries, from the Pharisees. Their leading ideas and methods found expression in a literature of enormous extent, of which a very great deal is still in existence. The Talmud is the largest and most important single piece of that literature ... and the study of it is essential for any real understanding of Pharisaism, (JE 1943 Ed).

In the November 1959 edition of his best-selling book, ‘The Talmud: Heart’s Blood of the Jewish Faith,’ Herman Wouk writes,

The Talmud is to this day the circulating heart’s blood of the Jewish religion. Whatever laws, customs or ceremonies we observe – whether Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or merely spasmodic sentimentalists – we follow the Talmud. It is our common law.

Judaism’s Talmud is the religion’s main instrument of authority, thus it is Pharisaism that is the foundation of modern day Judaism and we know what Mashiach thought of Pharisaism. His discourse in Matthew 23 is a whiplash of condemnation. He compares Pharisaism to a white sepulchre; outwardly attractive but inside full of dead man’s bones and all that is unclean. Mashiach climaxed one condemnation after another with the expletive “Hypocrites!” His condemnation of Pharisaism worsens in the Gospel of John when He accuses the Pharisees of having the spirit of HaSatan,

*“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you wish to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it.”* (John 8:44).

What Mashiach is saying is that their understanding didn't come from YHWH; it came from HaSatan! HaSatan was their spiritual father. Modern day Judaism is founded on an unrighteous footing; Pharisaism and with its steadfast rejection of the Gospel record, Judaism has no opportunity of recovery. Let us consider what the Scriptures have to say about this mode of worship.

### **Judaism – What the Scriptures Say**

Whilst Rabbinical Judaism is purported to follow the Torah, it is not YHWH’s Torah but its own Torah, incorporating its own rules of Talmud which distort the true Torah. We are referring to deliberate distortions feeding an agenda and not textual inconsistencies that can be found between translations. Distortions are a direct violation of YHWH’s decree not to corrupt His Word.

*“Do not add to the Word which I command you, and do not take away from it, so as to guard the commands of YHWH your Elohim which I am commanding you.” (Deut.4:2).*

Many believe that Judaism leads the way but considering the origin of Judaism, this cannot be true. We can read in the Tanakh how millennia ago the people were being misled by what the Tanakh terms as ‘bad shepherds.’ These leaders had distorted the true Torah and were teaching their own brand of Torah,

*“How do you say, ‘We are wise, and the Torah of YHWH is with us’? But look, the false pen of the scribe has worked falsehood.” (Jer.8:8).*

There can be little doubt that the Torah being taught today has been tampered with and is probably not the pure word of Elohim as revealed to Moshe. Unfortunately we are unable to ascertain how far from YHWH’s truth are the Scriptures we are using. As said, Mashiach himself spoke very disparagingly when addressing the religious teachers of His day. What is certain is that nothing has changed, the religious teachers of today, including the leaders of Judaism, have shown themselves equally capable of manipulation and falsehood as those of millennia ago. YHWH has not provided any flexibility, we cannot worship Him outside of His rules, to do so is to worship in disobedience and that is not acceptable. To change what He has given is tantamount to telling YHWH He got it wrong and that is blasphemy. He is very direct on this issue,

*“For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and they seek the Torah from his mouth, for he is the messenger of YHWH of hosts. But you, you have turned from the way, you have caused many to stumble in the Torah. You have corrupted the covenant of Levy” said YHWH of hosts. “And I also, I shall make you despised and low before all the people, because you are not guarding My ways, and are showing partiality in the Torah.” (Mal.2:7-9)*

Do not these words apply equally to day to the leaders of Judaism? But today the situation is worse, Judaism cannot escape the ramifications of its denial of Yahusha Mashiach which are described in the apostolic Scriptures,

*And every spirit that does not confess that Yahusha Mashiach has come in the flesh is not of Elohim. And this is the spirit of the anti-Mashiach which you heard is coming, and now is already in the world. (The Synagogue of Satan).* (1 John 4:3).

Another Scripture is 2 John 1:7. According to the apostolic Scriptures anyone denying that Mashiach came in the flesh, as does Judaism, does not have the spirit of YHWH but the spirit of HaSatan and Mashiach unequivocally confirms that Pharisaism is of HaSatan,

*“I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Yahusha Mashiach said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has spoken to you the truth which I heard from Elohim. Abraham did not do this. You do the works of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of whoring, we have one Father: Elohim.” Yahusha Mashiach said to them, “If Elohim were your Father, you would love Me, for I came forth from Elohim, and am here. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not know what I say? Because you are unable to hear My Word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you wish to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it. “And because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. “Who of you proves Me wrong concerning sin? And if I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me? “He who is of Elohim hears the Words of Elohim, therefore you do not hear because you are not of Elohim.” (John 8:38-47).*

In His dialogue with the Jewish leaders Mashiach is very clear; those who deny Him do not have the spirit of Elohim and are not therefore of Abraham: in His opinion, spiritually they are not Jews. The apostle speaks in the same vein in his epistle to the Roman congregation,

*But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of Elohim. (Rom.2:29).*

Clearly this is the same issue as referred to in Revelation and the title 'Synagogue of Satan' would equally apply to the people Paul is addressing in the above passage. There is no argument that Mashiach would have to repeat the same condemnation if He were to speak to the leaders of Judaism today, nothing has changed. Today Judaism is only willing to accept Yahusha Mashiach as an ordinary man, another prophet having no greater esteem than the prophets described in the Tanakh (Old Testament).

If we are to acknowledge what is said in the Brit Hadashah (New Testament), it is impossible to accept those following Judaism.

## **Judaism and True Faith**

Judaism has a very conceited and myopic view of salvation: we mentioned earlier how Jewish Midrash says that the second Torah was given orally so as to keep it from the Gentiles. From a Jewish perspective Gentiles, not having the whole Torah at their disposal, have no opportunity of salvation unless they accept proselytism. It is this attitude that fuels the Jewish sense of superiority found in Judaism and exhibited by many of its followers today.

The Messianic community needs to accept that Judaism is a different religion. Whilst both faiths may share a degree of similarity, is there sufficient commonality to consider both faiths lead to the same goal? After all, it could be argued that, at their core, all religions share a degree of 'common doctrine,' such as that associated with moral commitment – do not murder, do not steal, be truthful, be tolerant of others etc. So sharing a common doctrine, whatever the extent, is not sufficient to answer our question, it simply raises another, is the commonality shared between the Messianic community and Judaism of sufficient extent for the former to accept the latter? True faith is built on Yahusha Mashiach, remove Him and there is no true faith. We are told He is the chief 'cornerstone' for true worship (Eph.2:20) and the dictionary defines cornerstone as:

- Something that is essential, indispensable, or basic,

Not only is Yahusha Mashiach indispensable to true worship, He tells us He is the only route to the Father (John 14:6), without Him the Father's door is not just shut, it is locked and bolted. Yet Rabbinical Judaism, not satisfied with merely denying Yahusha Mashiach, finds it necessary to describe Him in the most derogatory and blasphemous terms in its Talmud, which is present today in every orthodox synagogue.

In 2 Samuel chapter 7, YHWH sends the prophet Nathan to inform king David that it will be a descendant of his who will be the eternal ruler of the Kingdom of Heaven. All understand this to be a prophetic reference to Mashiach's everlasting throne. It is in the context of Mashiach coming from the line of David, that at times Israel is referred to as the 'house of David,' (Isa.7:12, Jer.21:12).

*And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.(Isa.22:22)*

What I understand this verse to be saying, is that the salvation of Israel (house of David) rest in Mashiach. The term key is a pseudonym for salvation and when we combine what is said in 2 Samuel with Isai.22:22, it is upon the shoulders of the ruler of the Kingdom of Heaven that the key to the 'house of David' rests. Proof of this understanding is provided in Yahusha Mashiach's message to the congregation in Philadelphia,

*And to the messenger of the assembly in Philadelphia write; These things says he who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, he who opens, and no man shuts and shuts and no man opens. (Rev.3:7).*

Only the Gospel record together with Revelation enables us to realise that Yahusha Mashiach is the key of the house of David and Israel's salvation rests on His shoulders alone. But Judaism vehemently rejects the Brit Hadashah (New

Testament) denying the truth therein and instead prefers the defamatory descriptions of the true 'key' as contained in its Talmud. Judaists have no 'key' and therefore they have no salvation.

Not to know Yahusha Mashiach is not to know YHWH, they are one and the same and with its refusal to accept Yahusha Mashiach, Judaism is its own stumbling block to its salvation. The apostle says the Jews, because of their denial, are lost and separated from YHWH (2Cor.4:3-4): isn't the apostle placing Judaism in the same category as Islam, Buddhism etc. and most in the Messianic community would consider these separate religions. What is more, we are instructed not to become yoked with unbelievers (2Cor.6:14). This directive should be sufficient for all in the Messianic community, yet there are some within the community who insist on incorporating Judaic dress, ritual and custom into their worship ceremony and festivals. I know of one community that celebrates Pesach in two parts, the first part is traditionally Rabbinic copying the Jewish Seder, only the second part recognised Yahusha Mashiach's sacrifice: this was in an effort to appease any Judaists present by enabling them to leave after the first half of the celebration. Not only is this yoking oneself with unbelievers, such acquiescence as this, is tantamount to respecting their position of denial.

### **Judaists Refuse To Help Themselves**

Some believe that the Jews denial of Mashiach is not their fault and that they have, for the sake of the Gentiles, been deliberated blinded from seeing Mashiach by YHWH, that this blindness is temporary, only to be removed when Mashiach returns. Consequently, advocates of this thinking teach that the Jewish people cannot help themselves and need to be shown a level of sympathy and special consideration by all in the Messianic community. This understanding may have moral fortitude but it certainly cannot be supported with Scripture. Firstly, it makes little sense to blame YHWH for the blindness of the Jews. Mashiach said the Father sent Him for the lost sheep of Israel, that being the case, why would YHWH blind the sheep from recognizing the shepherd He purposely sent to them? What is more, the apostolic Scriptures leave no doubt who is responsible for their blindness,

*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Yahusha Mashiach, who is the image of Elohim, should shine unto them. (2 Cor.4:3-4).*

In rejecting the Gospels, those following Judaism have allowed HaSatan, not YHWH, to corrupt them and whilst they continue to reject the Brit Hadashah (New Testament) they will remain in separation from YHWH with no means of return. The apostle Paul affirms this,

*But their minds were hardened, for to this day, when the old covenant is being read, that same veil remains, not lifted, because in Messiah it is taken away. But to this day, when Moshe is being read, a veil lies on their heart. And when one turns to the Master, the veil is taken away. (2 Cor.3:14-16).*

The irony is that Judaism knows the truth of the Gospels but refuses to accept it. The Jews are fully aware of the seventy weeks prophesy in the book of Daniel chapter 4 and know that this prophesy was wholly and only fulfilled by Yahusha Mashiach. Knowing this truth the leaders of Judaism, to maintain their own agenda, had to devise a means to prevent their followers reading Daniel and accepting Yahusha Mashiach. They have done this by placing a curse on anyone reading Daniel's prophesy,

#### **The Rabbinic Curse of the Talmud**

**May the bones of the hand and the bones of the fingers decay and decompose of him who turns the pages of the book of Daniel to find out the time of Daniel 9:24-27 and may his memory rot off the face of the earth forever. (Talmudic Law page 978, section 2, line 28).**

This demonstrates the inequity of the Rabbis. Placing a taboo on the Scriptures such as this demonstrates the total control the Rabbis have over Judaism. There is absolutely no excuse: anyone with an ounce of integrity would question the imposition of a curse for reading what is in the Scriptures. All Judaists should be challenging the validity of this curse. The fact that this curse applies only to a specific section of Scripture should raise everyone's curiosity. Then we have Isaiah chapter 53 where YHWH provides a detailed description of the fate of Mashiach, which again Yahusha fulfilled. So the information is there for all to recognize that it was the true Mashiach who was killed 2000 years ago.

But the Talmud awards the Rabbis complete authority and demands the Rabbis are given complete obedience, which those following them willingly accede to. The blindness of all Judaists is of their own making; their denial is of their own choosing. It is difficult to have sympathy for people who have the truth before them but persist in allowing themselves to be whitewashed by the Rabbis. Are we here describing people or 'sheeple?' Today there is no excuse for ignorance, the truth is readily available to all but there has to be a desire to learn it. Fortunately, YHWH is slowly opening the eyes of individuals within the Jewish fraternity to the truth and we should welcome these individuals into our community. However, if we are going to pay attention to what is said in our Scriptures, we have no choice but to consider the stalwarts of Judaism with the same jaundiced eye as we do Islam, Buddhism and the like.

In his epistle to the Philippian congregation Paul, after enumerating his qualifications in Pharisaism, subsequently describes his past knowledge and teaching as being worthy of dung,

*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks to trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Yahusha Mashiach. Yes doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Yahusha Mashiach my Master: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Mashiach. (Phil.3:4-8).*

The apostle described Pharisaism as dung because he realised there was no salvation without Yahusha Mashiach. Would he not be compelled to describe today's Judaism in the same way?

## **The Controlling Rabbis**

Why is it that Judaism requires a twelve volume Talmud to explain the five books of Torah and the Messianic community does not? Moshe told the people that the Torah was not too hard for them to understand: these were a simple, uneducated people, a slave nation. Yet YHWH's Torah was not too difficult for them to understand. But today the Jews need the Rabbis and a twelve volume Talmud to explain YHWH's word. What is more the Talmud is written in such a tortuous manner that only the Rabbis can correctly interpret its true meaning and their interpretation is binding on all Judaists. The Word has been deliberately confused and complicated by the religious leaders, hence only they are able to explain the correct interpretations of that which Moshe promised was straight forward enough for an uneducated people to follow. There is a deliberate dislocation here and it is borne of a need to control. Whilst there always was and always will be a need for leaders to provide guidance, we must differentiate between guidance and control. The true purpose of the Talmud is to award the religious leaders of Judaism with total control. Let me ask a question, do you think Moshe referred to Elohim as 'Hashem' having been commanded to tell the people 'Yud Heh Vav Heh?' Hashem is an imposition of the Pharisees/Rabbis who then fabricate a justification using Exod.20:7 and decreeing their rule must be observed.

What is more, the religious leaders of Judaism have shown their willingness to distort the Torah when necessary to legitimise their authoritative position. A good example is the distortion of Exodus 23:2 highlighted by the Karaite Jew; Nehemia Gordon in his book 'The Hebrew Yeshua Verses The Greek Jesus.' Gordon provides the correct rendering of this verse as follows,

*You shall not go after the majority to do evil; neither shall you testify in a manner of strife to incline after the majority, to pervert justice. (Exod.23:2)*

He then explains the true intent of the verse and its distortion by the religious leaders to provide them the control they desire,

What this verse means is that we should not testify that a person is guilty just because everyone else says he is guilty this would be a perversion of justice. We must testify to the truth whatever that happens to be, even if we are the lone voice of reason. The Rabbis take this same verse and derive a

completely different principle from it. They arbitrarily remove words from the beginning and end of the verse, as such,

~~You shall not go after the majority to do evil; neither shall you testify in a manner of strife to incline after the majority, to pervert justice~~

What is left is 'incline after the majority.' Disembodied from their original context, these words are 'interpreted' as a commandment to 'go after the majority.' Whatever the majority of Rabbis says is binding because of Exodus 23:2. Never mind that Exodus 23:2 actually says 'not to go after the majority but to go after what is true.' This does not matter because the Rabbis have the prerogative to 'interpret' as they see fit.

We have of course the other examples of washing of hands before a meal and the dishonouring of parents highlighted by Mashiach Himself in Matt.15:1-6. YHWH commanded not to change His Torah (Deut.4:2, 12:32) but the religious leaders of Judaism, past and present, have invested upon themselves the authority to overrule the Elohim they purport to worship. How can any Judaist accede to this situation?

### Salvation is for Israel

YHWH made a covenant with Avraham which extended to Avraham's descendants and YHWH has to keep His covenants. So where does that leave those who follow Judaism. Well, firstly we have to accept that we do not know who within the Jewish fraternity is truly a descendant of the patriarchs, a truth which has been accepted within the Jewish fraternity for centuries. In his book, 'History of the Jews.' Vol.II, Heinrich Graetz makes reference to a certain Juda Ben Ezekiel (AD 220-299) and a conversation he had with his friend Ulla,

As has already been mentioned, another of Judah's peculiarities was an extreme severity with regard to the purity of the race. He was so particular on this point that he delayed marrying his son Isaac long after the latter had reached maturity, because he was not certain whether the family from which he desired to procure him a wife was spotless beyond all dispute. Upon this point his friend Ulla pertinently remarked: "How do we know for certain that we ourselves are not descended from the heathens who violated the maidens of Zion at the siege of Jerusalem?"

Whilst this conversation took place early third century, it reveals that the problem of identifying the true seed of Israel existed from earlier times. However, this paper is not about the purity of the Jewish race so why raise the issue? It is because we have a dilemma, the dilemma we have is this, if we are to follow the apostolic Scriptures, we cannot accommodate Judaism and those who follow it. But Scripture tells us that Israel, (physical Israel) which must include all Judaists, will, at least in part, be saved. Revelation infers that the twelve tribes are integral to the new Yerushalayim and therefore the eighth Day, thus it is inconceivable to assume the tribes will not have a presence in the seventh Day. What is more the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.15:18, Deut.1:7, Ps.105:7-11) remains to be fulfilled and this will not occur without the return of Mashiach and the millennial rule. Consequently, there is a feeling that the Judaists position is temporal and that they will be restored to their 'chosen' position. Hence it is advocated by some, that Jews, which must include Judaists, should be shown special reverence. However, this philosophy is hardly supported by Scripture, indeed the Tanakh testifies to Israel's repeated failure to obey YHWH and ultimately, His rejection of them,

*For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, says YHWH. (Jer.32:30).*

*And YHWH rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight (2Ki.17:20).*

If YHWH is capable of rejecting Jews then so should we be capable. However, YHWH promises not to completely destroy the whole of Israel,

*"And it shall be throughout all the land," declares YHWH, "that two thirds therein are cut off and die, and one third is left therein. And I shall bring the third into fire, and refine them as silver is refined, and try them*

*as gold is tried. They shall call on My Name, and I shall answer them. I shall say, this is My people, while they say, 'YHWH is my Elohim.'” (Zech.13:8-9).*

The term land is a translation of the Hebrew (*erets*) which according to Brown Driver Briggs may mean land or earth. So there is some contention over the specifics of this verse; is the passage referring to the land of Israel or does it refer to the earth as a whole? Zechariah chapter 13 is a continuation from the previous chapter which describes events specific to Israel, thus it is logical to assume the above passage also is specific to Israel. From this passage it is my understanding that not all Jews will be saved, the majority will perish along with the heathen of the world but only YHWH knows who within the Jewish fraternity will survive, we do not.

The above passage from Zechariah is not referring to those Jews who have accepted Mashiach because there is no need for them to pass through the refining fire, so it has to be referring to the Judaists and the refining fire is, I believe, YHWH's wrath. Remember it is only those who have accepted Yahusha Mashiach and keep Torah who will be collected and taken to a place of safety prior to the out pouring of wrath upon the earth.<sup>1</sup>

In describing end time events, 2Thess.2:3 talks of a 'falling away' of humanity, describing humanity's en-masse rejection of the truth. This 'falling away' is the prerequisite to the out pouring of YHWH's wrath upon the earth and all Judaists will be part of this falling away.

From Zechariah the majority of the Jewish people will perish along with the heathen of the world and the remnant to be saved will only achieve salvation after suffering YHWH's wrath (refining fire). The effect of this refining process will result in their acknowledging the true Mashiach having earlier 'fallen away' and given their allegiance to the false messiah.<sup>2</sup>

## **Romans Chapter 11**

There are a couple of verses within Romans chapter 11: verse 8 and verses 25-26 that some may believe contradict what has been said above and so we need to examine these two passages.

### **Verse 8**

*As it has been written, YHWH has given them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes not to see and ears not to hear, unto this day.*

This verse should not be seen to contest our claim that HaSatan, not YHWH, has put a blind fold on the House of Ya'akov. This verse is repeating what is said in Isa.29:10 which provides clarification of the words spoken,

*For YHWH has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers: the seers, hath he covered.*

Isaiah explains that eyes is a euphemism for prophets and ears a euphemism for seers. So what is being said and repeated in Romans, is that YHWH has prevented the Jews from realising that their leaders and wise men are teaching falsely, teaching foolishness. This is a different exclamation from the apostle's claim that HaSatan is responsible for the blindfold preventing the House of Ya'akov recognising that Yahusha was the Mashiach in the flesh. Moshe also spoke

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<sup>1</sup> This issue is discussed in the separate articles "Tribulation, Wrath and After: Parts 1 & 2" found on the website [www.undertorah.com](http://www.undertorah.com)

<sup>2</sup> Judaists believe that the existence of a third temple is a prerequisite for the Mashiach to come and are determined that this will eventuate. Unfortunately they are unaware that this temple will be the residence of the false messiah (2Thess.2:4) and not the true Mashiach. In their ignorance Judaists will probably join with Rome, giving allegiance to the false messiah who will fulfil their expectations of the true Mashiach and they will follow him, no doubt believing the true Mashiach is the false one, when He subsequently comes to execute YHWH's wrath on the earth. Suffering the effect of YHWH's wrath (the refining fire) some will apprehend the delusion they were under, acknowledge their mistake and accept the true Mashiach. The culmination of their refinement/purification is described in Zech.12:10 with their realisation that it was the Mashiach who they rejected 2000 years earlier.



the same words to Israel in Deut.29:4. Neither Moshe nor Isaiah was referring to Mashiach's much later appearance in the form of man.

### **Verses 25-26**

Neither do verses 25-26 pose a challenge to this article,

*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Rom.11:25-26).*

We need to understand the issue the apostle is answering and must not read this passage in isolation of all that preceded it. Considering his command for the congregation not to be boastful, it is most probable the issue is that of replacement theology: believers thinking they have replaced Israel as YHWH's chosen and that the Jewish people are finished. Whilst such a belief is of course incorrect, we must not misconstrue the phrase '*all Israel shall be saved.*' Earlier in the same chapter the apostle reminds the congregation that YHWH will never allow the destruction of the whole of the house of Ya'akov but equally he exclaims that it is only a remnant of physical Israel that will be saved.

The above passage is very clear, without the requisite number of Gentiles and YHWH knows what this number is, YHWH's Israel (spiritual Israel) will not be complete. Without the fullness of the Gentiles the 'all' in the phrase 'all Israel' will not be achieved. As the passage infers, achieving the 'all' is wholly dependent on the inclusion of the full complement of Gentiles. We must not interpret the phrase 'all Israel' to simply mean all Jews or the whole of today's physical Israel.

The essence of chapter 11 lies with the fact that YHWH's covenants are with Israel and for Gentiles to become covenant beneficiaries they must join with (not replace) Israel, thus the reference 'all Israel' is not to the physical Israel of today but to a confederate Israel of believing Jews and Gentiles: that is believing in Yahusha Mashiach. As the apostle confirms in chapter 9, YHWH's Israel: the Israel that will achieve salvation will not include all of the Jewish people neither is it confined to the Jewish people,

*However, it is not as though the word of Elohim has failed. For they are not all Israel (Spiritual Israel) who are of Israel (House of Ya'akov). (Rom.9:6).*

We must also be cautious not to read verse 4 of chapter 9 in isolation, the early verses of chapter 9 have Paul lamenting over the position of his brethren and hence his comment above. Salvation is for those who are spiritually correct and in John 8:38-44 Yahusha Mashiach exclaims those denying Him are of the spirit of HaSatan thereby disqualifying them as seed of Abraham and being the 'Synagogue of Satan.' The apostle aligns himself with this statement,

*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of Elohim. (Rom.2:28-29).*

### **Conclusion**

*But their minds were hardened, for to this day, when the old covenant is being read, that same veil remains, not lifted, because in Messiah it is taken away. (2Cor.3:14)*

Talking of the Pharisees Paul says they are unable to understand the truth of the Scriptures why is that? Mashiach provides the answer,

*"And in vain do they worship Me, (YHWH) teaching as teachings the commands of men. Forsaking the command of Elohim, you hold fast the tradition of men." And He said to them, "Well do you set aside the command of Elohim, in order to guard your tradition. (Mar.7:7-9)*

With its Talmud, Judaism continues in the same vein as those to whom Mashiach is addressing. In terms of worship we have to decide, is a religion having its roots in Pharisaism acceptable and are those that support it worthy of our respect? Yahusha Mashiach was very scathing of Pharisaism and He commanded for us all to “take up the stake and follow Him,” a euphemism for us to copy His example. Tolerating Judaism is not following His example. If we are to understand Zechariah correctly, beyond those who have accepted Yahusha Mashiach, none of world Jewry is acceptable to YHWH and only a minority will survive His wrath. There are some who teach that what is prophesied in Zechariah was fulfilled in AD 70 when the Romans raised the city and the temple and took the surviving Jews into exile. Well such teaching may well be correct but that does not mean the same cannot happen to the Jewish people again if YHWH decides the circumstances warrant it. Scripture tells us the future is in the past.

According to Yahusha Mashiach, Judaism has the wrong spirit and is not of YHWH. If He walked the earth today He would be as scathing of the Rabbis as He was of the Pharisees 2000 years ago. He condemned the Pharisees for imposing their own traditions at the expense of YHWH’s Word. What has changed? Today Judaism puts its Talmud before the Torah and places a prohibition on Daniel: a situation readily accepted by all Judaists. However, as we said earlier, we are today seeing isolated incidents of people discarding the words of the Rabbis, coming to the truth and finding Yahusha Mashiach, itself proof that the truth is there for anyone searching for it. The Rabbis however, with their intolerance towards the Gospel record and the apostolic Scriptures and with their curse on Daniel, are deliberately deceiving those that choose to follow them. Our destiny is in our own hands and whilst blindly following the false shepherds of Judaism, Judaists have freely chosen to wear HaSatan’s blindfold. Let’s not forget the words of Yahusha Mashiach,

*“Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”*  
(Matt.10:33)

Irrespective of whether or not it is a descendant of the patriarchs, there is no salvation for anyone who denies Yahusha Mashiach. If YHWH will not tolerate Judaism or its followers, why should the Messianic community choose to do so? The Messianic community has no choice but to listen to Yahusha Mashiach and the apostles, consequently, there is no reason to treat Judaism and its followers any differently than the followers of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism etc.

A religion is truthful or false, honest or deceitful, there is no half way and a false religion does not have the spirit of YHWH, it has the spirit of HaSatan. Yahusha Mashiach has defined Judaists as having the wrong spirit.

Mashiach divided Israel into physical Israel and spiritual Israel and described physical Israel as the ‘Synagogue of Satan.’ It is YHWH’s Israel: Spiritual Israel, which is, the ‘body of Mashiach’ that will achieve salvation, not the physical Israel of today and certainly not all those we call Jews. Many Messianics and Christians are deluded when it comes to the Land, the religion and the people. Many today are duped into supporting an apostate Israel having a political leadership which is Luciferian and a deliberately deceitful religious leadership determined to build the false messiah’s temple.

*For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth. (Eph.5:9)*

There is little spiritual goodness, righteousness or truth in either the political or religious leadership in the Land today. Let me repeat again the words of the apostle,

*Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers... (2 Cor.6:14).*

Considering the situation today and Mashiach’s words we could rephrase this verse,

Do not become unevenly yoked with the Synagogue of Satan (Judaists)

It is interesting that Judaists want no part of the Messianic community, it the Messianic community that wishes to establish an association with Judaists in violation of what the apostle instructs.

Clifford Fearnley 2018