



● Religious Traps in the Messianic Faith

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A Live Teaching by Arthur Bailey

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When people come into the Hebrew Roots, folks typically don't come into the Hebrew Roots, they come into the Messianic teachings. As a result of coming into the Messianic teachings, there are a variety of teachings out there and with that is a variety of traps.

The last thing we want is to come out of one religion and jump into another. The last thing we want is to come out of one degree of bondage and end up in another degree of bondage.

I've been watching some things and just paying attention and listening, and over the course of this journey that we've been on, I've seen a lot of things happen that are really grievous to my spirit. It's affected a number of people. It's affected House of Israel to some degree, but because of the Spirit and the leadership and teachings here, it has not had the effect on our ministry as it has had on so many other ministries.

As a lead-in to our teaching, I want to share with you some basic information on how to avoid certain pitfalls of the Hebrew Roots Messianic faith. What we're going to do is a quick teaching and demonstration on that particular issue, and then from there we're going to take a portion of this teaching, edit it and then post it as a stand-alone video on www.ArthurBaileyMinistries.com along with the House of Israel Charlotte YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ApostleArthurBailey1>

These are some of the traps that I've seen that people find themselves in. The first trap is:

1. The Culture Trap

The Culture Trap in the Messianic faith typically manifests itself in two forms. These aren't the only forms that it manifests in, but it typically manifests in these two forms.

Traps to avoid:

A. The Culture Trap manifests itself in two forms:

- 1. Look Jewish: wear a kippah, leaders are called Rabbi, Davidic dance. Jewish traditions and Kabbalah worship Torah not God. Can't use the Creator's name.**

If you will allow me, what I'm going to do is a quick demonstration [puts on a kippah and prayer shawl]. This is what you'll typically find in the first trap. I know for some of you, this is a shocker because you've never seen me dress like this or look like this.

The main trap is a culture trap. It can have whatever term people want to put on it, but basically it boils down to culture and the focus is to move into a Jewish tradition. What you'll find are Gentiles wearing caps — *kippahs* — you'll even find some Jews who are wearing kippahs. However, [indicates prayer shawl] this is not a definition of the Hebrew Roots faith. This is culture and this culture is typically associated with Jewish culture.

Some of the Messianic Congregations tell people that you have to wear a kippah in order to be a part of their service. They've got kippahs at the door; they've got prayer shawls at the door that people can put on. What happens is you've got people trying to look Jewish.

Typically, the leader is called rabbi. The music is more Hebraic or, as they would say, Davidic dance. You've got folks who are dancing in circles and all of that. Let me tell you something folks, that is **not** the Messianic faith. That is culture.

People come out of one culture — the Christian culture — into a Messianic Jewish culture. They get caught up in that. They're looking at traditions.

Now there are folks who are going around with the Torah; folks who want to kiss the Torah. You have folks who want to touch the Torah. You got people who want to carry the Torah. So you've got people who want to look Jewish. That's what goes on.

The dancing is more Jewish style. Everything about it becomes Jewish: the flag of Israel with its Star of David. You have to be careful.

Another thing is that people get into the worship of the Torah. We were never commanded to worship the Torah.

Who do we worship?

We worship YeHoVaH, but people get into Torah worship. They get into the Torah and now everything becomes about the Torah, not about the things of YeHoVaH. As a matter of fact, when we begin to look at the things of YeHoVaH, there are certain things that He said we are not to do that people who are caught up in this culture trap tend to do.

You've got rabbis who are trying to explain their existence in the face of what Yeshua said — we're not to call anybody rabbi, yet

you've got individuals who are telling you that you're supposed to call them rabbi.

This is one culture.

Kabbalah becomes a part of that culture. Most people in Messianic Judaism don't even realize that Kabbalah is so much a part of this culture. When you are not in tune with the Holy Spirit, you'll come under another spirit and that spirit is typically mysticism. We'll talk a little bit more about that later.

One of the unique factors about Messianic Judaism is the name of the Almighty is forbidden. Whenever you are in an environment where individuals say that you cannot say "the name," the excuse is:

"We don't know 'the name,' so we don't use 'the name.'"

That's an excuse because "the name" is not even sought. Folks are not looking. They're not trying to understand it. Whatever name you use, that is forbidden and typically the terms "Hashem" and "Adonai" become the terms that are used in reference to our Heavenly Father. Some outward signs of the culture are:

The tallit

The kippah

The Torah that is being carried around the congregation and people want to kiss it and touch it and all of that.

The dance — everything sounds Jewish. Everything is supposed to look Jewish.

The idea is to create an environment that is going to provoke Jews to wrath. Let me tell you something, folks. Every Messianic congregation I've been in, the last thing I see is something that would provoke.

You know what really provokes the Jewish people? It's when non-Jewish people start keeping the feasts. When non-Jewish people start keeping the Sabbath. That's really a provoking because they don't want you to keep it.

"Keep Christmas."

You know the whole idea of the Noahide Laws:

"Gentiles are not required to do that. That's only for us."

That's part of that 'Replacement Theology', but from another perspective. There is the Christian Replacement Theology and then there's the Jewish Replacement Theology, which comes at you on another level that says Gentiles are not required to keep the commands, when the Torah says that there is one law for everyone. There's not a separate law for the Gentile and a law for the Jew, but one law.

One of the things about the Messianic Jewish culture is the prayer and the lighting of candles. All of these, folks, are tradition.

Is there something wrong with tradition?

NO.

But when tradition becomes the norm, when tradition becomes required, then the traditions are now exalting themselves; they're becoming part of the Word. So culture is one trap. You can see it because outwardly you can recognize it, even though you may not know what's going on.

When you start seeing these kinds of things [holds up the kippah and prayer shawl], there's a good chance you're about to get into some Messianic Judaism.

The other trap is:

2. Black Hebraism

They believe that all or most all Jews are black or the true Jews are black. It is another form of Egyptology and closely related to the Nation of Islam. These people typically end up racist or have a strong dislike for white people.

The whole idea of this particular culture is it still has a look. The fact is that folks are supposed to look a certain way. The look is more African than it is Jewish, and there is a reason for that. The idea is that you look more like a Black Israelite.

The people who get caught up in the Jewish Messianic Roots are typically Caucasian - White people. You'll notice that there is something about these environments that are ethnic. It's culture. Certain cultures gravitate to one and another culture gravitates to another, but it's all about creating a cultural environment.

The Black Hebrews, or the Black Israelites, believe that all or most of all Jews are black or the true Jews are Black. It's another form of Egyptology. It's also closely related to the Nation of Islam. When you go into a black Israelite environment, typically everybody is Black. When you go into a lot of the Messianic Jewish environments, typically everybody is White, and there is a covert racism that takes place in the midst of this.

When it comes down to the kingdom it is not about race. It is not about nationality because every tongue, every race, every person is called into this faith in Messiah.

We've had some people come in here and we're not Jewish enough. You may not know this, but this is the kind of stuff that comes at me. We've got some people who come in here and we're not Black enough. So we're either not Black enough or we're not Jewish enough.

There are people who've come in here and they've got an issue.

"Well, where'd all these White people come from?"

The other day when we were praying for people and several white families came up for prayer, some folks sent me emails.

"I didn't know you had all them White people in your congregation."

It's like,

"What's up with you?"

Racism comes out in so many different ways and often times people don't even realize that they are racist claiming to have a love for YeHoVaH. I've seen this mess in Christianity. You've got the White church. You've got the Black church. You've got the Hispanic church. You've got the Asian church. You've got the African church. It is crazy because it's all based on culture. The culture trap comes out of Christianity and it finds itself in the Hebrew Roots.

I've come to conclude that there are some people in the Messianic faith that may never support this ministry because I'm a Black preacher. Now that's sad to say, but it's a fact, Jack, and I'm not scared to say it.

There are some racist Messianics and there are some racist Hebrew Israelites, but this is not about race. It's not about culture. It's about Messiah. In Him there is no Black. There is no White. There is no male. There is no female. There is no slave. There is no free. Its one people and the sooner we get to that point, the better.

Nobody is going to come in here and try to make us Jewish. Nobody is going to come in here and try to make us black. A lot of that is designed by music. The style of music is what attracts or repels. People don't realize this, but the music says,

"This is who we are. This is what we are about."

"Oh, I don't like that kind of music."

"Wait a minute, it's glorifying the Father. What does that have to do with what you like or don't like?"

"Well, it just don't minister to me."

"We ain't trying to minister to you. Worship is not about ministering to you. Worship is about

ministering to Him.”

HalleluYah!

So we see there is racism in different cultures.

The fact of the matter is, as we’ve been looking in Acts chapter six, we’ve seen the first evidence of racism was among the Hebrew-speaking Jews and the Greek-speaking Jews. Racism is not something new, but it is something ongoing.

I know some close people who have been infected by this nonsense. I’ve told them, just like I’m telling you, that’s racist. I don’t buy it. I don’t care who it comes from, I’ll call it out.

Both cultures push the notion to:

1. Learn Hebrew.

2. Change your name. You’ve got to get a Hebrew name. Folks want to get a Hebrew name to sound more Hebrew.

Where did that come from?

I say to people,

“If you want to change your name, get it on your driver’s license. Don’t play these games. You want everybody to

call

you such-and-such, but what’s on your check? What

name

does your employer have? What's on your driver's license?

What's on your bank account? If you're serious about this Hebrew name, then go down and have your name legally changed. Don't get upset because somebody won't call you such-and-such."

I've seen people; they get a Hebrew name and then a week later they've got a different Hebrew name and then a week later they've got another Hebrew name.

It's like,

"Make up your mind. Either YeHoVaH told you to change your name or He didn't. If He told you to change your name, then change your name."

These cultures create an environment that reinforces this culture and we don't want to get caught up in that.

The other trap is:

3. The Sacred Name Trap

The name of Yeshua: (why we can't say Jesus?)

Is His name:

Yeshu

Yeshi Yasha/Yahsha

Yahoshua

Yahshua

Using any of these names is fine. What becomes a problem is when you begin to argue with people; when you get into these crazy debates that causes you to want to break fellowship because somebody is not saying it the way you're supposed to say it.

This is the whole purpose of looking at hermeneutics because a lot of hermeneutics is based on culture. There's cultural hermeneutics. There's not a term for it, but it shows up in different places — as we've looked at Alexandrian Jews, the Palestinian Jews, we see culture, folks.

Then there is the name of YeHoVaH. In the Messianic Hebrew, in the Messianic Jewish, it's Hashem, which means "The Name." Adonai, which means "The Lord."

Names Of YeHoVaH

Hashem

Adonai

YahqWeh, Yahweh, Yahwah

Yahuah, Yahuwah, Yehuah

Yehuwah, Yahowah, Yehowah

Ehyer Asher Ahyer, Ahyah

You've got all these people and they've got all these different names. Unfortunately, people get caught up. I'm a person who believes that YeHoVaH made this thing simple, but men have a way to complicate it.

The other one is:

4. The Lunar Sabbath trap

This trap is argument only. People who want to argue this topic

Typically DO NOT keep the Sabbath. This is practically impossible

to keep so it is just an argument without merit.

This trap is argument only. That's all it is, an argument. People who are talking about the Lunar Sabbath and what phase of the moon we should be acknowledging, if you go deep with these people, none of them keep a Sabbath. **They don't keep a Sabbath. Why?** Because it's almost impossible to keep a Sabbath. A Sabbath is not every seven days. A Sabbath changes with every cycle of the moon. The Sabbath could be on a Saturday, it could be on a Tuesday, it could be on a Wednesday; it all depends on the phase of the moon and their interpretation, which makes it impossible to keep a job. It's not about us trying to keep a job, it's really about what the Father established and where are these new teachings and new doctrines coming from?

The people who want to argue this topic typically do not keep the Sabbath. This is practically impossible because to keep so it is just an argument without merit. It's practically impossible to keep the Sabbath with the Lunar Sabbath method.

Another is:

The Sacred Approach to the Torah (Kabbalah)

People want to talk about the four levels of Torah. I've covered some of this in our earlier discipleship class, but it bears repeating because I see it popping up again. The following is from

www.Kabbalah.org. This is from the Hasidic and the key to Kabbalah. I'm not making this stuff up, folks. I'm not pulling this stuff out of thin air. Some of you have been exposed to it. This is what it reads (www.Chabad.org):

The Key to Kabbalah:

***Therefore, when a person studies Torah in this world,
and the Torah speaks of physical
objects and people, this is only how Torah descended
and is interpreted in the world of
Assiyah.***

We went into depth when we dealt with this in our earlier teachings.

***As we go into the higher worlds, Torah may be
comprehended on a
higher level. In fact, the Kabbalists state that Torah
has four layers corresponding
to the four worlds:***

***1. Pshat — Simple interpretation corresponding to the
world of Assiyah.***

***2. Remez — Allusionary interpretation corresponding
to the world of Yetzirah.***

***3. Drush — Homiletical interpretation corresponding to
the world of Beriah.***

You're going to find that these are different worlds.

4. Sod — Secret/Mystical interpretation corresponding to the world of Atzilut.

Re-stated, one could say that in its journey from Above, as Torah descended into the world of Atzilut, Torah could be comprehended on the level of Sod.

As it descended further into Beriah and Yetzirah, Torah may be comprehended on the levels of Remez and Drush, and when Torah descends into the world of Assiyah, it is comprehended on its most simple level — Pshat, in its literal meaning as we understand it in this world.

What is apparently missing is dependence and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

The focus becomes information and/or knowledge. The emphasis is on ancient writing, historical documentation and the sages of old instead of the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

What is apparently missing, as I've realized it, is the dependence and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Whatever camp you find yourself in, whether it be in the Messianic Jewish camp with its traditions or in the Hebrew Israelite Black Hebraism camp, there is no dependence on the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is practically absent in these places. The focus becomes information; knowledge. The emphasis is on ancient writings, historical documentation and the sages of old instead of the illumination

of the Holy Spirit. The prayers are out of prayer books. There are recited prayers on certain days that are prayers that were prayed from ages ago. There is no moving of the Spirit. People are not relying or depending on or praying in the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are no longer operable. People are sick and fat and overweight and hurting.

Please don't get me wrong, I'm just saying that people are becoming reliant upon doctors. Food becomes a staple. Folks want to sit around and eat, eat, eat, eat and fellowship. They're depending on labels of rabbis to determine what they can eat and can't eat.

The last thing you want to depend on is a "U" or a "K" symbol on certain foods. The only thing I found that these are really excellent for is to determine whether or not there is pork or shellfish in a particular packaged product or in a particular cheese. There are people who won't eat something unless it's got the stamp of approval.

I've found kosher meats — kosher processed meats — that's got all kinds of chemicals in there that are not healthy nor are they good for the body. We look at the Hebrew Nationals; it's got nitrites and chemicals you can't even pronounce, but it's got the "U." And you look at some of the packaged products, and I'm not trying to—

What I'm saying is that we don't want to go from one trap to another trap. As we begin to look at this, the emphasis, again, is not on the work of the Spirit.

Folks, we just have to be careful. I'm saying these things because I've watched, I've looked, I've listened and I see people, whom I love, getting caught up in this. I see people being hurt and I'm really saddened by it because I've seen people who come into the knowledge of truth and things change. Their lives get better. Not only do their lives

get better, but their health gets better, their finances get better, their personal lives get better, their homes get better and then they move off into some other things.

It's unfortunate that some folks will not see that they've walked away from the Father through these practices even though the handwriting is on the wall.

You've got to understand something, folks. The book of Revelation tells us that there will be people rejoicing when the witnesses of Messiah — those two who have been sent by the Father — fall dead in the street. These are people who claim to love God. There are certain signs, even when you try to point them out to people.

Titus said, "Don't get caught up in these foolish genealogies and endless tales and arguing about this thing or that thing." If people want to know your faith, share it with them. If they want to debate and argue, then you need to be looking to end that conversation and move on to communicate with somebody else because these folks will suck up precious time. They will wear you out. They don't really have an argument, they're not trying to find truth, they just want to debate and argue.

If you've got time for that, that's fine. I just don't have time for it. I feel like I need to share it with you so that you can find a better use of your time than arguing with someone who's not looking for truth but simply looking for an argument.

