

The Difference Between Israel & the Church, *part 1*

Sanctify Yourselves In The Truth (Jn 17:17)

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Leviticus 19:1-2:

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר :
דַּבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-עֲדַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם קְדוֹשִׁים תְּהִיוּ כִּי קָדוֹשׁ אֲנִי
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

¹The LORD [YHVH] said to Moses, ²“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD [YHVH] your God, am holy. Lev 19:1-2 NIV, also in 1Pet 1:16.

In 2021, the LORD [YHVH] would tell us the same thing as He said to believers in the last days:

“⁴I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, **My people**, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive *any* of her plagues; ⁵for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her offenses.” Rev 18:4-5 NIV (also read Rev 18:1-22:21)

What is the difference between Israel and the Church?

1. The word *church* is not found anywhere in the Bible. During the 2nd Temple period, no one – not even Yeshua, nor the Apostles, Paul nor any of the writers of the Apostolic Scriptures (N.T.) – used the term *church*.
2. In 313AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine claimed the title of “High Priest” and oversaw religion in the empire. He granted “Christianity” legal status; in 325AD, he established the Council of Nicaea, and institutionalized the “Universal Church of God.” Later, the Universal Church became “The Roman Catholic Church.” This was the beginning of what was to be believed to be the first reference to the word *church*. Again, note that none of the followers of the Messiah used the term *church*. The word *church* was never used in the Scriptures nor any other literature. Furthermore, the word *church* did not appear in the Apostolic Scriptures until sometime after 318AD.
3. Emperor Theodosius in 380AD decreed “the Edict of Thessalonica” which established Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The language and stipulations of the “Nicaean council” set forth by Constantine superseded the Apostolic Scriptures.

The Roman Catholic Church became the only version of Christianity that could be practiced without being declared heretical and illegal.

4. In the Apostolic Scriptures, the Greek word “Ekklesia” (meaning *the called-out ones* or *assembly*) has been erroneously translated as *church*.

Yeshua said “¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **ἐκκλησία** “**the called out ones**” and the gates of Hades will not overpower it,” Matt 16:18 NIV.

The word *church* carries the authority or hierarchy of the “Roman Catholic Church” which had established their own doctrines, eg, Sunday Worship (Day of the Sun) and forbidding Sabbath worship and circumcision. Easter replaced the Hebrew festivals (eg, Passover, etc). Any and all practices in the TaNaKh, which were deemed as Jewish, became illegal. This was especially true concerning the Torah and its public reading which had been normal during the time of Yeshua. Jews were now ostracized from the Roman Catholic Church and were forbidden from all forms of Torah observance; in addition, this also applied to gentiles.

This anti-Semitic legislation established the “Roman Catholic Church” as the sole religion, which replaced “Israel” especially from Scriptural interpretation. This is called Replacement Theology.

5. Can you find anywhere in Scripture where there are “two Covenants”? One for Israel and another Covenant for the church? NO, because there is no such thing as the “church.” There is the religion of the “Roman Catholic Church,” but there is no covenant nor mentioning in Scripture of the word *church* nor the establishment of the “Roman Catholic Church” as being the mother church.
6. During the 1st century, Believers submitted to the “Messiah” as the Head of His **ἐκκλησία** (Greek) *called our ones* or *assembly* which is **His Body**

²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and made Him head over all things to the **ἐκκλησία church**, ²³which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph 1:22-23).

His Body is the **ἐκκλησία** not the “church.” Individuals of Replacement theology contend that Israel forfeited its position by breaking the Law.

Paul in Romans

7. Some contend that the New Covenant is where Yeshua started a new religion with the Gentiles. And that the Old Testament (TaNaKh) and its Law is for Israel (the Jews) and that the New Covenant is for the gentiles. And the New Testament (Apostolic Scriptures) is exclusively for the gentiles.

Did Yeshua come out of the Abrahamic Covenant and did He start a *new religion*?

Bring these papers back, and we will continue with this.

Baruch YHVH,

Pastor Don

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