

# OPEN LETTER TO THE FIRST FRUITS OF ZION BRETHREN REGARDING THEIR “NEW” THEOLOGICAL POSITION

First, let me say thanks for the generally positive influence you have had for many years within the Messianic/Hebrew Roots movement. It has been appreciated by me and by many others.

Sadly, the rest of this communication will not be so positive. I was recently made aware of your “new” theological position – specifically, that compliance with Torah instruction regarding Shabbat, the festivals, and Leviticus 11 dietary standards is necessary for Jewish believers but optional for Gentile believers – and would like to offer the following commentary. My sincere hope is that it will help to convince you of your need to retrace your steps and once again stand on the high ground you have occupied in the past.

Your “new” position, aside from flat out contradicting the Messiah Himself when He said “WHOSOEVER therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:19) and “Go therefore and teach ALL NATIONS .... to observe ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19,20), will lead to a host of problems on a practical level. For example:

- **Re. Shabbat observance:** assuming that we all would agree that none of us (Gentiles included) are to offer worship to the true Elohim of Heaven in the ways that pagans offer worship to their deities (Deuteronomy 12:30-32), we could certainly also all agree, then, that weekly worship on the day of the sun (i.e. the day called Sunday, because the sun was worshipped on that day) would be unacceptable. That would mean that all True Worshipers would at least get together on Shabbat morning for worship - so far, so good - but after worship was over, life would get much more complicated. The Jews would re-assemble after fellowship dinner to midrash until sunset, the Gentiles would split to take in the football game (because they weren't bound by the Jewish “legalistic” Torah instruction not to seek your own pleasure during the holy hours) .... but what about the Ephraimites/ Israelites/ 9 ½ northern tribes, who assimilated so thoroughly into the nations during their exile that most of them lost their identity as Israelites, and came to consider themselves Gentiles? I have diligently studied (many times!) every verse of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, and have not found even a single verse indicating that our Creator and Redeemer established a lower standard for Torah compliance for Israel than He did for Judah/ the “Jews”. As a matter of fact, I found many passages that explain how judgments including exile fell on 9 ½ tribe northern Israel specifically because they disregarded Torah precepts, and began to copy the worship of the pagans. So .... determining who was a “true Gentile” and who was actually an Israelite disguised as a Gentile would become a most pressing necessity for any congregation adopting your

“new” theological position. And what about the “Jews” themselves? Many, if not most, of them could actually be descendants of Jews from the southern 2 ½ tribe Kingdom of Judah, but some could be Egyptians, Khazars, “converted” Edomites, or other “mixed multitude” poseurs who went along for the ride with the “true Jews” and finally came to identify themselves as Jews .... when they are actually Gentiles, and thus eligible to attend the football game rather than having to stay behind and midrash until the sun sets. What a can of worms your “new” position opens! Probably the only way to deal with this situation would be compulsory genetic testing for all worshippers. Regular members could be tested during the week of the switchover to your “new” position, but visitors would have to be tested on the Shabbat morning of their visit, meaning that venipuncture or throat swabbing supplies and qualified professionals to use them and interpret test results would always have to be available at each place of worship.....

- **Re. festival observance:** continuing to assume that all parties to this discussion would agree that worshipping the True Elohim of Heaven in the ways that pagans offer worship to their deities is unacceptable, we might conclude that festival observance under the new paradigm should not be a problem. That conclusion would be incorrect, however, as not only would the same problem encountered with Shabbat worship re-appear on each of the festival Sabbaths, but yet more problems would develop as Gentiles flexed their “liberty in Christ” muscles. Some Gentiles might suggest that since the sacrificial death of the Messiah was so important, it should be commemorated more often than once per year at Pesach .... and since they were not bound by rules given to the Jews for festival observance, they would prefer to have a service commemorating His death on a quarterly basis, or maybe even once per week. Other Gentiles might suggest that they would like to continue with some form of festival observance, but since they were not obliged to observe the Holy Days like the Jews, they would prefer to roll the festival observances into the closest Shabbat worship services, producing a smoother and more predictable worship calendar. Confusion, consternation, and conflict would certainly be the result of these Gentile worship initiatives, leading some to conclude that both Jews and Gentile would be better off if they worshipped separately ....
- **Re. Leviticus 11 dietary standards:** leaving aside for the time being the large collection of birds and animals discussed in this chapter which most of us would likely encounter only in a zoo, let us focus our attention on one animal in particular – the pig. Your “new” theological position would seem to provide a straight forward, clear cut ruling regarding this beast – Jews would be sinning if they ate it, but Gentiles would not be. Once again, however, the situation is not nearly as straight forward and clear cut as it seems. Not only would the issue encountered with Shabbat and festival observance (who is a “true Jew” and who is a “true Gentile”?) rear its ugly head once again, but another hugely important issue would take front and center position for urgent consideration and resolution. Our Creator and Redeemer repeated a total of 13 times in His Holy Torah a complete and total prohibition against the consumption of animal blood in any form whatsoever. The first of these prohibitions was given to Noah on the occasion of the first divine permission to eat flesh – long before the days of

Abraham or the Nation of Israel (Genesis 9:4), and thus applies to every descendant of Noah, including every Gentile who has ever walked on Yahuah's green earth since the time of the flood. This prohibition against eating blood is repeated several times in the prophets, and again in the Brit Chadashah/ "New Testament" in Acts 15, where both the Ruach ha Kodesh/ Holy Spirit and the elders of the original Jewish messianic congregation declared that it would be necessary for all Gentile believers in the Messiah of Israel to abstain from the consumption of blood (see my study "Are You Going To Hell? No?? Are You Sure???" enclosed, or on my website "truthdepot.net"). Rather obviously, then, congregations adopting your "new" position would have a major problem here – namely, how to obtain a supply of certified "kosher" bacon, or shall we say "semi-kosher" bacon, or maybe we should just say "blood-free" bacon, for their certified Gentile worshippers? As the old saying goes, however, "one man's problem is another man's opportunity" .... and in this case, it might just be a very viable business opportunity! If your "new" position really catches on, I can envision entrepreneurs all over the country establishing "semi-kosher" slaughterhouses to provide Acts 15-compliant bacon and other pork products for Gentile worshippers. Their new businesses could charge premium prices for their products, as well, because they would be effectively insulated from competition – traditional kosher and hallal slaughterhouses would not be allowed by the inspecting rabbis or imams to slaughter pigs on their premises and keep their kosher or hallal certification. And what about fellowship dinners? They have always presented some challenges to congregations which provide them – desserts too sweet, not enough food, too much food of one type, etc – but with your "new" position in place, a whole new set of challenges would arise! Obviously, the Gentiles would need to place their food contributions on a separate table so as not to contaminate the Jews – so far, so good – but problems would arise whenever the Gentiles' serving table did not have enough sustenance to fully address Gentile needs. One, and then another, and then several Gentiles might casually make their way over to the Jews' serving table and help themselves, leading to immediate charges that the Gentiles were not carrying their weight. It might not be so bad if the Jews could partake of the Gentiles' serving table if and when the situation was reversed, but for obvious reason they could not. One Jew might finally suggest that they build a wall in the (food) court to keep Gentiles out of the Jewish area, and another Jew might say that it would simply be better if Jews and Gentiles worshipped separately ....

In conclusion, I would remind you brethren that it is Heaven's plan to make Jew and Gentile into one new man in Messiah by abolishing Gentile enmity against the Torah (see article enclosed on Ephesians 2:15), but your "new" position (which isn't really new at all, but is simply a repackaged version of traditional anti-Torah "church fathers" Scripture interpretation) would reverse the progress made so far by the Messianic movement, and would perpetuate the status quo of the last 1900 years! My prayer is that your eyes may be opened to the reality of what you are doing, and that you will quickly get back on the track of truth. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word which proceedeth from the mouth of Yahuah" (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3) and

“One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you” (Exodus 12:49).

Ron Buhler -- Two-House Messianic Israelite, scribe of the Kingdom of Heaven, Bible student, pilgrim, and stranger

Website: [truthdepot.net](http://truthdepot.net)

“Salvation is of the Yahudim (Jews) .... we know what we worship.”  
Yahuahshua ha Mashiach (Yahuchanan/John 4:22)