

The Remnant

The original believers in Yeshua as Messiah were a sect of Judaism known as the Sect of the Nazarenes (Acts 24:5)

In the first century there were hundreds of thousands of these Jewish followers of Yeshua (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31; 21:20). They were zealous for the Torah (Acts 21:17-27) and met in Synagogues (James 1:1; 2:2)

In the last days YHWH still has a small remnant people who accept Yeshua as the Messiah and are Torah Observant (Rev. 12:17)

What is the "Church"?

To begin with we must understand that the Assembly which is also known as the "Body of Messiah" (Col. 1:18 ; Eph. 1:22-23)

What "Assembly" is the allegorical Body of Messiah? To find the answer to that question lets look at Matthew 2:14-15.
Here Matthew is citing a prophecy in Hosea 11:1 and applying it to Messiah. Now let us go back and look at this prophecy in Hosea 11:1 in context we learn that the "son" in this passage is actually Israel. (see also Ex. 4:22-23)

In Col. 1:18 Messiah is the "firstborn". Moreover Hebrews speaks of the "church of the firstborn" (Heb. 12:23).

Thus Israel is the allegorical "Body of Messiah". Moreover in the Tanak, Israel is commonly called "The Assembly of Israel" and wherever the phrase "The Assembly of Israel" appears in the Tanak the Greek Septuagint has "EKKLESIA of Israel".

The so-called "church" which is the "Body of Messiah" is in reality "the Assembly of Israel".

The Two Houses

At the time of Solomon's death the Kingdom of Israel was divided into two Houses, the House of Israel and the House of Judah. The Kingdom of Israel abandoned true worship but the Kingdom of Judah remained in the true faith. (1Kn. 12). The Kingdom of Israel was invaded by Assyria and its people exiled to the outskirts of Assyria (2Kn. 17) so that "none was left except the tribe of Judah" (2Kn. 17:18). These Lost 10 tribes were resettled in "another land" (2 Esdras 13:39-46) They were divorced by YHWH (Jer. 3:8) but there was yet a promise of an eventual reunion of the two houses of Israel (Is. 11:11-12; Jer. 3:6-18; Hosea 1-3; Amos 9:8-10; Obad. 15-21; Micah 2:12-13; 5:3-15; Zech. 8:13; 9 & 10; Ezekiel 34-37 esp. 37). According to Obadiah the House of Israel eventually would resettle in Zarephath (Heb: Tzarfat) (Ob. 1:20). Tzarfat is Hebrew for "France". The Lost Ten Tribes would migrate to Europe.

Salvation is of the Jews

The House of Israel abandoned the one true faith, a remnant of the House of Judah remained faithful (Is. 1:9; Rom. 9:29).

There is only one true faith (Eph. 4:4-5) which was for once and for all time delivered (Jude 1:3). "Christianity" is, at best, 2,000 years old, it is to young to be this one true faith. Yeshua did not come to create a new religion, he came to be the Messiah of Judaism.

This brings us to the encounter between Yeshua and an Ephraimite woman (a Samaritan). There is no doubt that this Samaritan woman is to be counted as an Ephraimite because she refers to "our father Jacob" (Jn. 4:12) and Yeshua makes no attempt to correct her on this point. (Note she mentions the two different places of worship on different mountains in 4:20). Then Yeshua tells her that her religion is false and that the Jewish religion is the one true faith (Jn. 4:22-23). Paul writes: "...what is the advantage of the Jew? Or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in everything!..." (Rom. 3:1-2)

What Can You Do?

Accept Yeshua as the Messiah, not of a new religion, but of Judaism.

Begin learning and keeping Torah.

Begin fellowshipping with other members of Elohim's Worldwide Nazarene Assembly.

As you continue to study, you will learn more of the Torah.

Next visit time for Discussion 5:

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THE ASSEMBLY OF ELOHIM STUDYGUIDE 4

