<u>Mistaken Identity Part 3</u> <u>Choking off the Root</u>

Introduction



Love is the summit of all we do. It is an all-pervasive motivating force that even drives the beginning of wisdom, that fear of a Yahweh. It should be an ever present ingredient found in everything that we think, say and do.



"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)"

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA Mistaken Identity Grisis The three pillars of Isaiah 56 6

HaSatan used the counterfeit to take away our ability to love Yahshua when they removed the three pillars of **Isaiah 56:6**.

"If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15)"

"And foreigners who bind themselves to Yahweh to minister to him, to love the name of Yahweh, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer" (Isaiah 56:6-7a)"



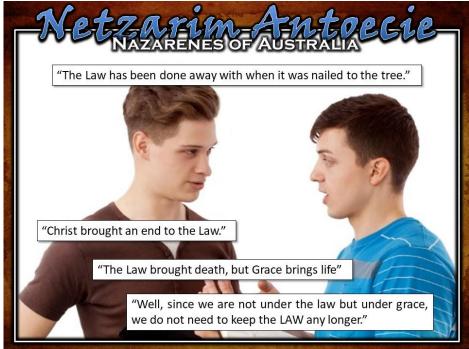
True followers of King Messiah Yahshua are unique in their faith by showing their love for Messiah by doing three distinct things. Loving the Name, keeping the Sabbaths and holding fast to the Covenant according to **Isaiah 56:6-7a**;

For many, it's become almost impossible to discern the true faith and many just give up and settle for a convenient one. If we don't know what to look for we don't know when we found what we should be looking for. You can spend your life combing through the far flung fringes of Christianity and Judaism and you won't find it unless you can read the signs. As we've seen, even those who come out of false religious systems and join themselves to a covenant keeping Messiah focused community, still have difficulty defining who they are and what their mission is. This series seeks to provide all the necessary tools to anchor a believer to a good solid foundation of their identity and mission.

Week one we looked at how many are being called back to Zion and leaving false religious systems. We found out how Christianity was conceived and looked at some of the contrasts between it and the original faith. We saw how this religious system was set up to compete with Judaism and its many sects, including those sects that adhered to Messiah.

Week two we began to look at how the three pillars of the faith were rejected and torn down at the conception the universal or Catholic Chuchianity. We set about through the application of Scripture to restore these pillars. Today, we'll continue where we left off and deal with the last pillar – the Covenant.

Disclaimer: Now before I start, I want to briefly address notions that might arise that I'm focusing on attacking Christianity and not giving equal measure to Orthodox Judaism. In my experience, 99.9% of Netzarim were Christians and the people they interact with are or were Christians, so we need to be equipped with the relevant tools to speak with sound knowledge as to how this version of religion differs from ours. I will endeavour to look at Orthodox Judaism in the coming weeks, but there is so much apostasy to expose with the leading Western religion that claims sole ownership of the Bible, that this may take some time. Suffice it to say, your level of difficulty with the current teachings will be directly proportionate to your level of attachment to your former religious system.

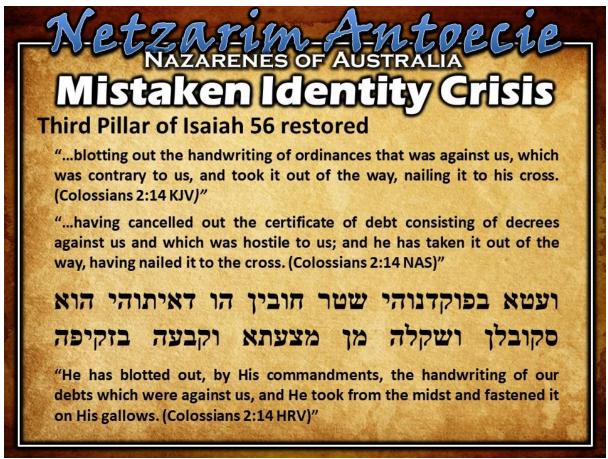


So we've done the Name, the Shabbat and now let's look at the Covenant.

Christianity says that "The Law has been done away with when it was nailed to the tree." It tells us that according to "Scripture...salvation is a free gift of G-d that comes solely through the redemptive work of Christ. The way to obtain salvation is to have Christ in one's life *period*, based on **Romans 9:9-11**, rather than having Christ *plus* keeping certain old covenant laws." – Grace Communion International

The Law Nailed to the Tree

Now technically, if Yahshua was the living Torah, yes the Torah was nailed to the tree indeed. But his offering didn't spell an end to the Torah at all.



"The law was blotted out" statement is alluded to from **Colossians 2:14** which reads, "...blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. (Colossians 2:14 KJV)"

This very poor translation has perpetuated a false theology, which has caused us to have our third and final departure from the three pillars of **Isaiah 56:6**. The Greek phrase in **Colossians 2:14** translated as "handwriting of ordinances" is better translated as "certificate of debt." The Greek is better translated as it appears in the New American Standard translation:

"...having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14 NAS)

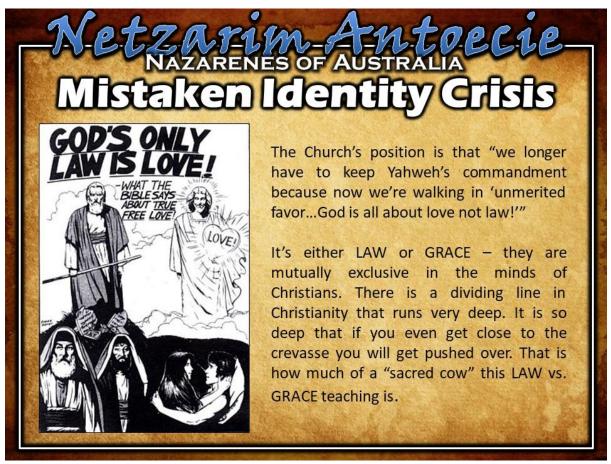
The reading of the KJV "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us" is interpreted by many to refer to the Torah, however the Greek actually means "the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us" which is actually referring not to the Torah, but to the record of our sins.

The original Aramaic is clearer:

ועטא בפוקדנוהי שטר חובין הו דאיתוהי הוא סקובלן ושקלה מן מצעתא וקבעה בזקיפה

"He has blotted out, by His commandments, the handwriting of our debts which were against us, and He took from the midst and fastened it on His gallows. (Colossians 2:14 HRV)"

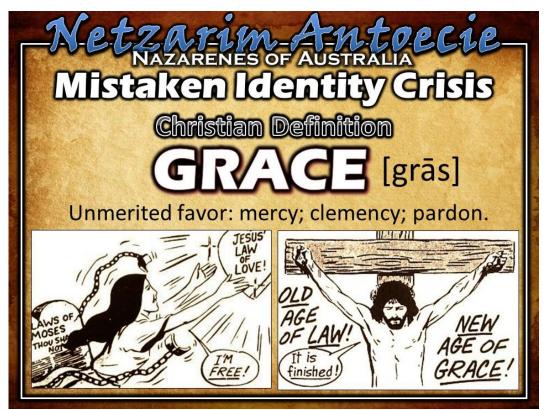
In the original Aramaic Paul is actually saying that it is by the Torah that "**the handwriting of our debts which were against us**" were blotted out. In both the Aramaic and the Greek it is not the Torah which was blotted out in **Colossians 2:14**, but the record of our sins.



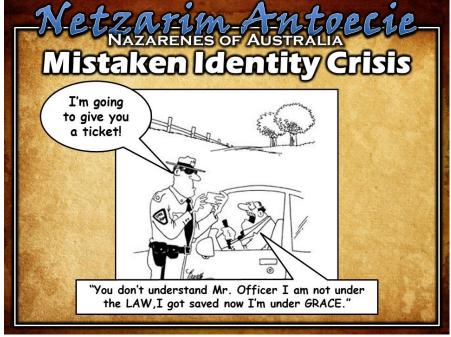
The Church's position is that "we longer have to keep Yahweh's commandment because now we're walking in 'unmerited favor...God is all about love not law!'" Is this a valid point? The Scriptures certainly do say that we are not **"under the law,"** but does that imply that we are free from the obligation to obey the Torah?

Grace vs. Law

It's either LAW or GRACE – they are mutually exclusive in the minds of Christians. There is a dividing line in Christianity that runs very deep. It is so deep that if you even get close to the crevasse you will get pushed over. That is how much of a "sacred cow" this LAW vs. GRACE teaching is.



The Christian definition of **"grace"** is unmerited favour, mercy or clemency. Problem is, the word **"mercy,"** which appears in Scripture alongside grace means the same thing.



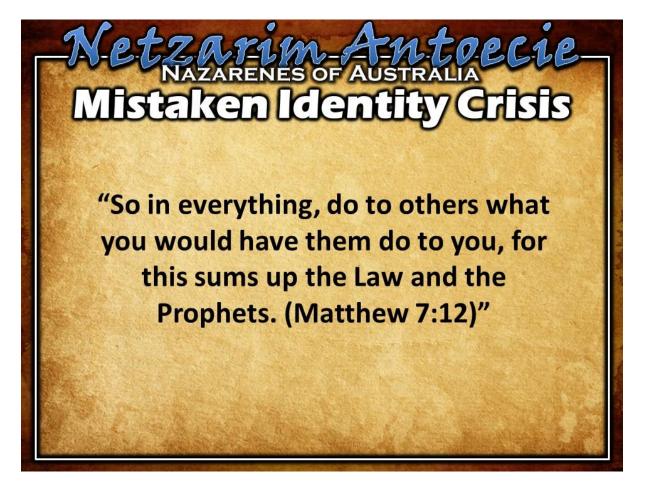
It is like the new Believer that is pulled over for breaking the speed limit. The patrolman walks and inquires why the driver has broken the speed limit. The Believer say, **"You don't understand Mr. Officer I am not under the LAW, I got saved now I'm under GRACE."** The patrolman says, **"Would you like to be under arrest?"**

If a person does not willingly want to live in the economy of Grace he will be **"under the Law"**. In other words the Law will arrest your actions and bring charges against you.

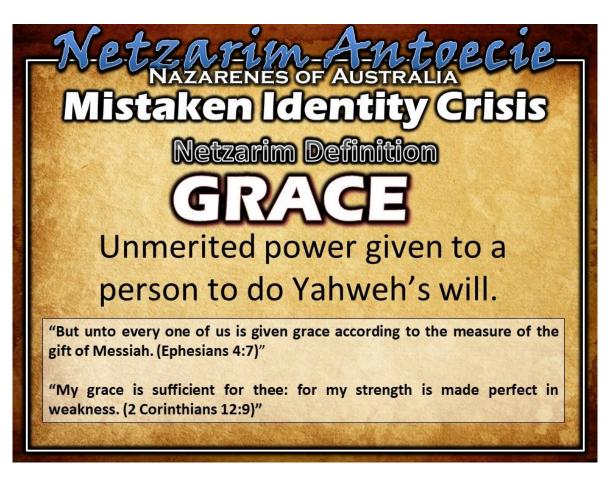
At heart, most people are rebels. We do not like to be told what to do. We celebrate rebellion. We view Law as restrictive.

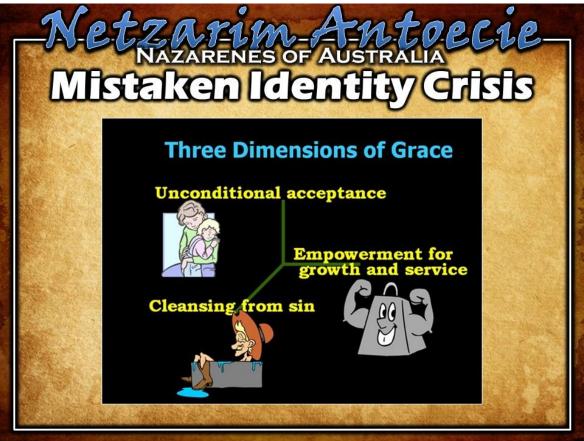
There are those that put two fingers up and with a faraway look in their eyes that betray past euphoria say, **"God is love, man!"** That might have played well at Woodstock but if you mean by this He is anti-Law you are woefully mistaken.

I do agree **"Yahweh is love."** However, we need to know what does that mean? What's our obligation to it?

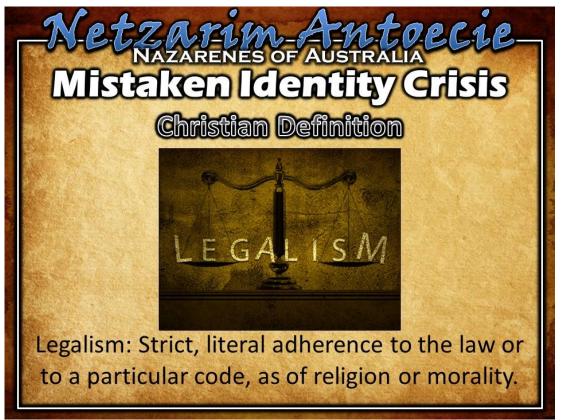


Love is the basis of the Law.

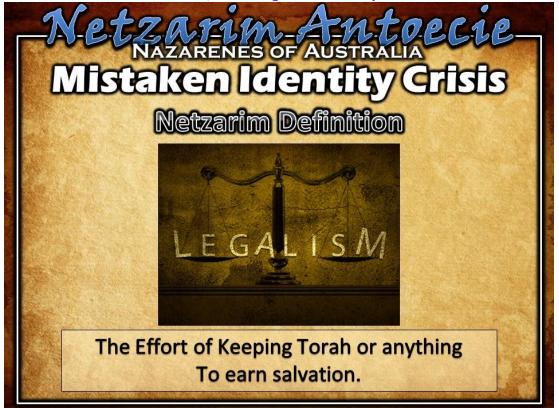




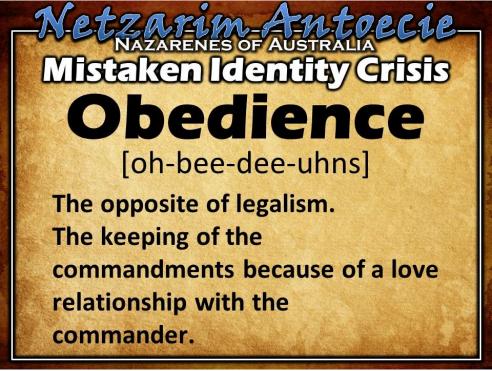
There are 3 dimensions of Grace: unmerited acceptance; empowerment for service and growth; and cleansing from sin.



The Christian Definition of Legalism is: Strict, literal adherence to the law or to a particular code, as of religion or morality.

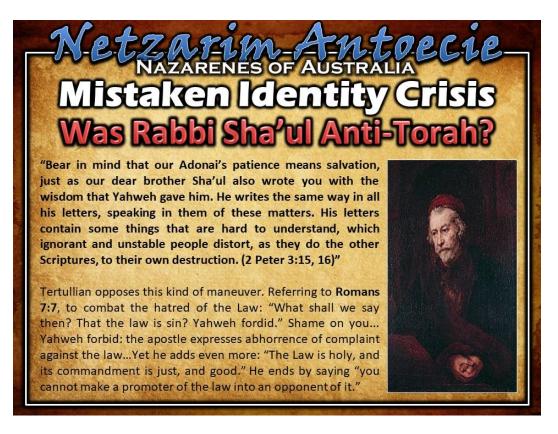


What others call legalism in actuality obedience, the definition of which is: **"The keeping of the commandments because of a love relationship with the commander.** This is the opposite of **"legalism."**



Was Sha'ul Anti-Torah?

Many cite Sha'ul's teachings as being anti-Torah.



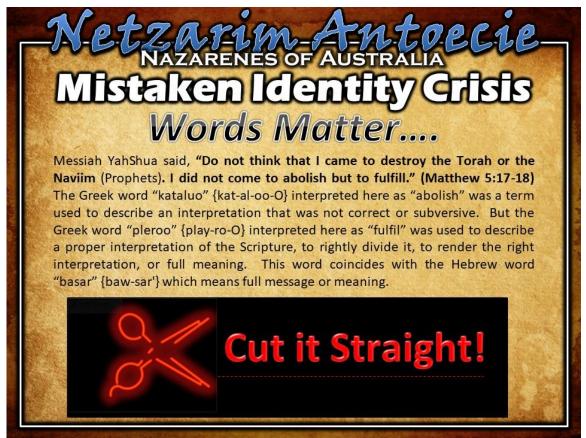
"Bear in mind that our Adonai's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Sha'ul also wrote you with the wisdom that Yahweh gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15, 16)"

Tertullian opposes this kind of maneuver. Referring to **Romans 7:7**, to combat the hatred of the Law: "What shall we say then? That the law is sin? Yahweh fordid." Shame on you... Yahweh forbid: the apostle expresses abhorrence of complaint against the law...Yet he adds even more: "The Law is holy, and its commandment is just, and good." He ends by saying "you cannot make a promoter of the law into an opponent of it."

Jesus Fulfilled the Law

Another verse often cited to support that the Torah is done away with is that Jesus fulfilled it. YahShua said:

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Naviim (Prophets). I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one yod (smallest letter in the AlephBet) or one taug (accent marks above the letters) will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Rabbis of the Torah and Parushim (Pharisees - separated ones), you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:17-20) "Tittle" (repaire) "Crownlet" "Jot" (iwta)



So no, **"fulfill"** is not implying an end to the Torah. The word **"empty,"** the opposite of **"fill"** would have been used had this been the case'

In actuality, Christianity does not throw out the entire Torah, it simply picks and chooses. Generally speaking, observances that follow the natural laws of nature are usually upheld whilst laws that carry cultural identification to Israel are dropped.

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The law against murder, lying, coveting, the law to love your neighbour and respect your parents are all adhered to because they follow natural laws and have no unique national connection.

This is called "cherry picking!"

As we seek the True Light of Torah, Rebbe YahShua provides the means by which our fleshly weakness can be overcome and our transgressions of Torah be forgiven as we continue our walk of sanctification continually seeking the greater illumination of the Secrets of Torah in our lives.

1 "For they being ignorant of Yahweh's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of Yahweh. For Messiah is the goal of the Torah for righteousness to everyone that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the Torah, that the man which doeth those things shall live by them. (Romans 10:3-5)" It is through Messiah that we are able to strive to live by the instructions & teachings – Torah of our Creator – Yahweh. Centuries of Christian Anti-Semitism, Anti-Hebraic, and Anti-Torah replacement theology has resulted in a religion that promotes darkness and rebellion against Yahweh by ignoring, replacing, or discarding His instructions to mankind. The Christian belief that the Torah has been abolished would have been viewed as ridiculous and wicked by King Messiah YahShua and his Talmidim (Disciples). This kind of theology is in direct opposition to the teachings of the man who Christians claim is their Christ. "The rejection of the Law by Christianity, therefore, was a departure from its Christ." (Jewish Encyclopaedia, ed. Isidore Singer New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls, 1903), Vol.V., p.52)

In order to perpetuate the lie of the death of the Torah, Christian leaders had to reach back into the musty corridors of time and find a theological way of eliminating the bulk of Rebbe YahShua's own teachings. They found this by a slight-of-hand interpretation of the writings of Rabbi Sha'ul, in a way that is un-Hebraic and which Rabbi Sha'ul, that they call Paul (midget), would vehemently oppose.

Just for the Jews!

Another argument against keeping the Torah is the belief that the Torah or the Law was just for Jews.

In addition to this, so-called **"Messianic Judaism"** and other groups have been teaching **"Two Torah"** theology. This is a theology that lays out one path for Jews and another for Gentiles.

The Systematic theology of the **"One Faith Two Expression"** theology or **"Two Torah"** Theology is the theology of much of Messianic Judaism today.

Two Torah Theology maintains that the "**Church**" or "**Body of Messiah**" is made up of two groups who are united together in one body. The two Groups are Messianic Jews and Gentile Christians. This is illustrated in diagram form on page 46 of his *Messianic Jewish Manifesto* with a circle graph. The graph shows the "**Church**" and "**Jewish People**" (Israel) as two overlapping circles. The area of the overlap is labeled "**Messianic Jews**". The chart also places some dots in the "**Church**" circle but outside the overlap with the "**Jewish People**" circle and labels this "**Jews who are saved and freely choose to express their faith in a non-Jewish context.**"

Stern then writes:

"...the small circle represents the Jews and the large circle the Church, but now they overlap. The intersection of the two circles represents Messianic Jews. ...the remainder of the Church circle represents Gentile Christians." (Messianic Jewish Manifesto p. 46)

Later in the same book Stern writes:

"The Messianic Jew has two non-neurotic roles to play in the Church. ...the issues raised in this book need to be brought to the attention of all in the Church, Gentile Christians as well as Messianic Jews. ... The second role he has to play is being instrumental in fostering Jewish evangelism, helping the Church..." (ibid p. 71)

This theology is wrong, wrong, wrong!

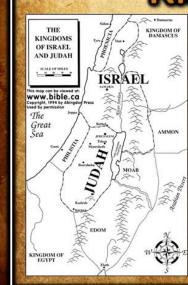


ALL 12 Tribes + their Gentile Companions, How many Tribes were Jewish? 1 Tribe! The other tribes were **Reuben**, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, **Asher**, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Manasseh and **Ephraim**.

Where are the other ones?



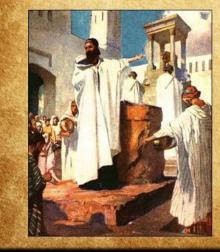
Staken Identity Grisis Kingdom Lost



The ten "lost" tribes constituted the northern kingdom of Israel that broke away from the kingdom of Judah after the death of King Solomon.

"Yahweh became angry with Solomon ...So Yahweh said to Solomon, '...you have not kept My covenant ...I will most certainly tear the Kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David My servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen. (1 Kings 11:9-13)'"



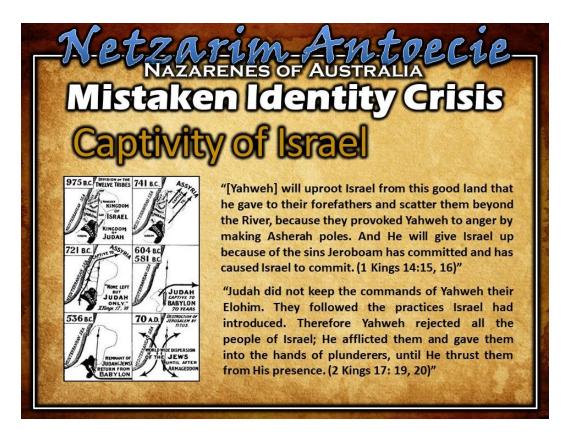


"Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following Yahweh and caused them to commit a great sin. (2 Kings 17:21)"

"...he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made. (2 Chronicles 11:15)" A civil servant to King Solomon named Jeroboam observed the widespread discontent among the Ten Tribes, caused by the extravagances which marked the reign of Solomon. It was prophesied to him that if he would remain faithful the Kingship would rightly pass to him. Not satisfied with this he attempted a coup, but when it was put down he fled to Egypt until the death of King Solomon.



David!' So the Israelites went home. (1 Kings 12:16-17)" In 722 BCE, the kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians under King Shalmaneser, who deported many Israelites to Halah and Habor by the river Gozan and to the cities of the Medes (II Kings 17:6; 18:11).

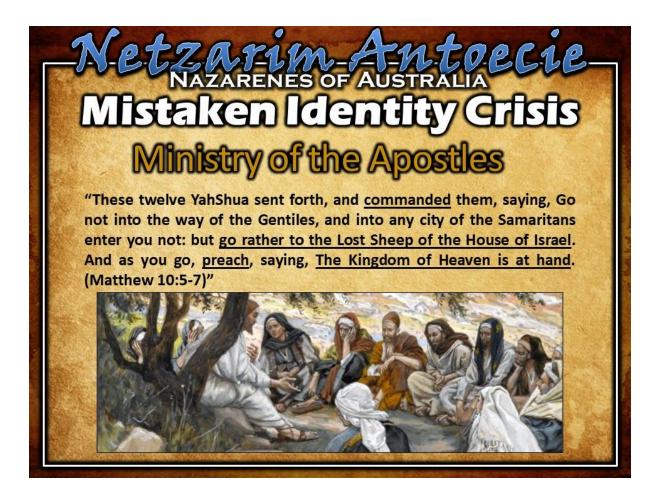


"[Yahweh] will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their forefathers and scatter them beyond the River, because they provoked Yahweh to anger by making Asherah poles. And He will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit. (1 Kings 14:15, 16)"

"Judah did not keep the commands of Yahweh their Elohim. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore Yahweh rejected all the people of Israel; He afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until He thrust them from His presence. (2 Kings 17: 19, 20)"

One Torah for All

This is the heart of the Great Commission, to go out and re-gather lost Israel scattered "everywhere!" to the fore corners of the earth.

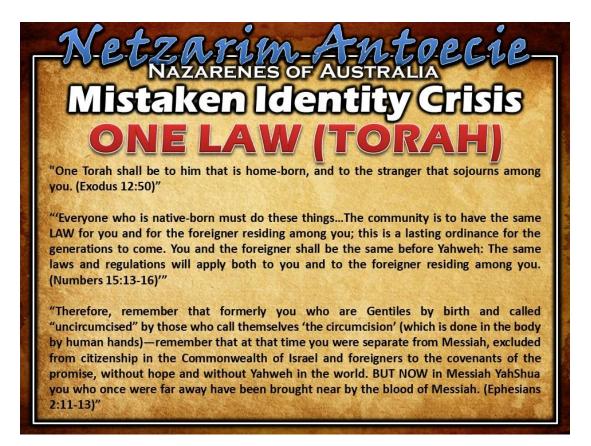


Torah observance for all mankind is hinged on the nature of every Israelites very mission. If there's no Torah with the Testimony, you have a false testimony. What do we call people to outside intellectual acceptance of a Messiah if we have no covenant observance to present with our message? We have a hollow message!

By observing our true calling to sift Israel we are enacting Biblical prophecy every single time we do this.



To say, believe and live a lie that the Torah, that sole defining feature that attaches us to the Creator, is just for Jews is not only wrong, but it robs a believer of the whole point for which he is called. The whole meaning of everything in Scripture becomes lost. The Torah is for everybody! Covenant living is global! According to the Torah, Jews and Gentiles must follow the ONE Torah.



Some have pointed to James's letter, the Didache, in Acts 15 as teaching a different path for Gentiles.

"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to Elohim. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moshe has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath. (Acts 15:19-21)"

Acts 15 concerns minimum standards of righteousness while attending synagogue and learning the Torah. In Acts 15 we read of the Gentiles in question being presupposed that they would attend synagogue on Shabbat and be taught the Torah of Moshe (Acts 15:21).

Yahshua did not teach one law for Gentiles and another for Jews. Yahshua commissioned his Talmidim as follows:

"Go you therefore, and teach all the Goyim, and immerse them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Ruach HaKodesh and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you, and here I am with you all the days, to the end of the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)"

Messiah was a Torah observant Jew, and our conduct should be the same, if we are in him.

All the big players that you've always had put in front of you since a child all had the same mission!



(Ya'akov) James, Kepha (Peter) and Sha'ul (Paul) and Messiah, attested to in the very passages of Scripture itself, were sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.



Ministry of Rabbi Shimon Kepha



"Kepha, an apostle of Messiah YahShua, To Yahweh's elect, <u>strangers in the world,</u> <u>scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia,</u> <u>Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia</u>. (1 Peter 1:1)"

παϱεπίδημος "parepidemos" = "an alien alongside"

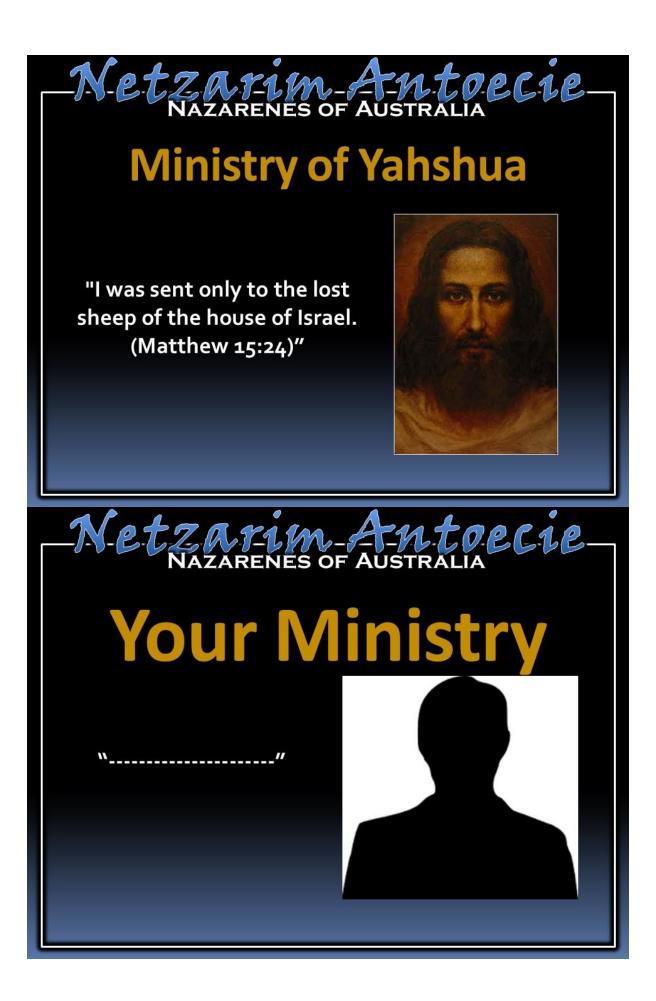
הְפָזוּרִים הַגָּרִים "hapetzurim hagarim" = "the scattered strangers"



Ministry of Rabbi Sha'ul

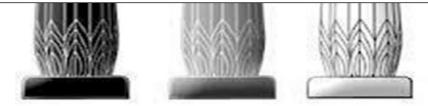
"Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the nations and their kings and before the people of Israel. (Acts 9:15)"







Isaiah 56:6-7a; "And foreigners who bind themselves to Yahweh to minister to him, to love the name of Yahweh, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer"



The Three Pillars of Our Faith

Here concludes the restoration of the last pillar, that of the covenant according to Isaiah 56:6.



What is the Most Common Instruction in the So-Called Old Testament?



"Hear, O Israel: Yahweh is Elohim, Yahweh is One. Love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts." (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)