



ONE NEW MAN

THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT

Psalm 19:7

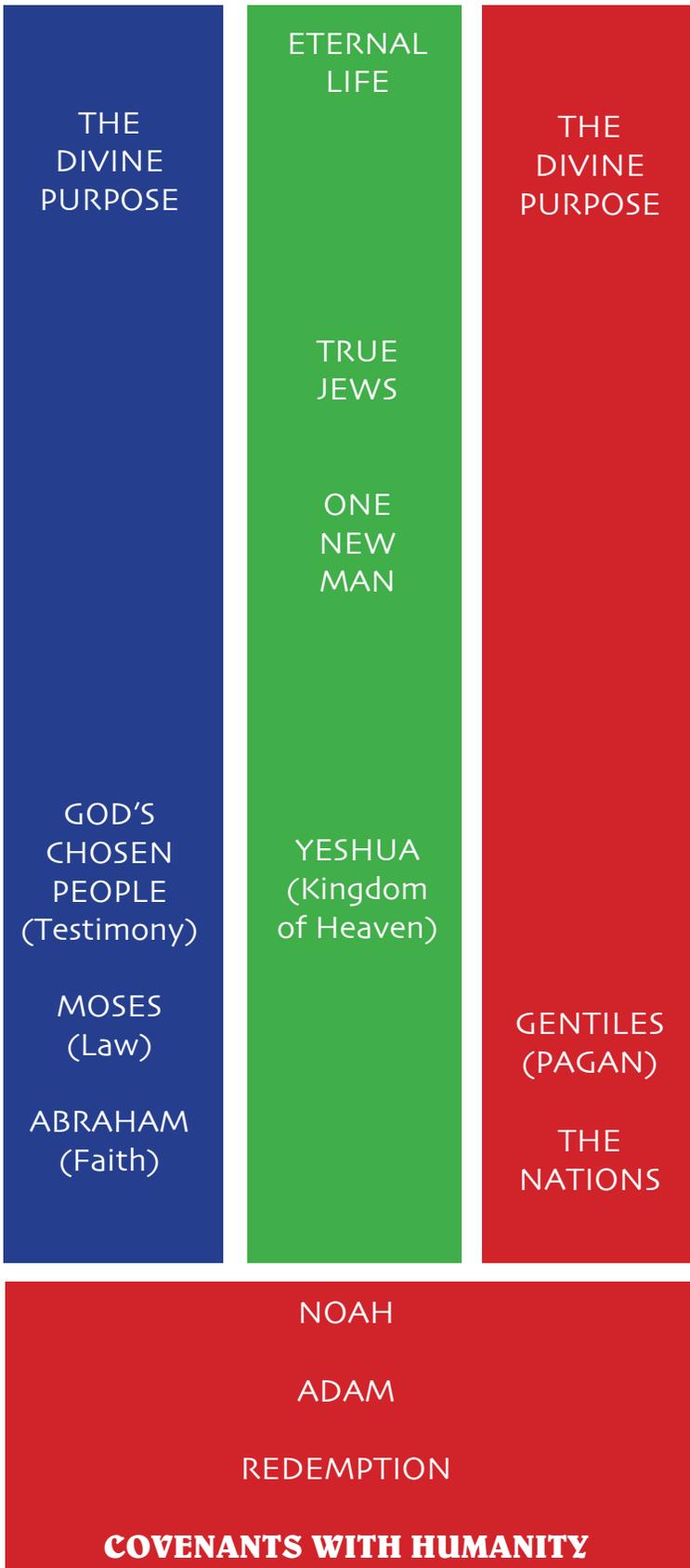
It is simply wrong to assert, as many have, that the Law of the Lord that Moses presented to the sons of Israel was somehow dissolved by Jesus (Yeshua). If the Law of the Lord is perfect (and it is - **Psalm 19**), why would the Jesus Who said “I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill the Law” in **Matthew 5:17-20**, set it aside to begin something new? In fact, there is no evidence that Jesus was anything other than a Law keeping and Law fulfilling rabbi (teacher).

It is important to realize that the *Law* (the 613 laws of Torah) is different from the *law* (thousands of clarifications added by rabbis throughout history). Jesus’ conflict with the religious leaders seldom occurred because of the Law, but because of the law. They were simply - hypocrites. In all of their devotion to their “law” they had missed the very essence and purpose of the Law. Gentiles find ourselves in even more dire straights. Without the Law, the Gentiles are pagan to the core, and like the arrogant Jews, lost in the labyrinth of *self-worship* (Romans 1,2).

It is equally disturbing to juxtapose the “Law” as antithetical to “grace.” The Law is a part of His grace, inviting the law of Faith (Romans 3:27) to deliver the souls of men, even as the Law given through Moses reveals our sin (Romans 7:7). Through faith in Messiah the Law relinquishes its’ death grip on all who believe. This is a huge part of the argument of Paul’s letter to the **Romans**, and is completely consistent with what the scriptures of the Law claim for themselves (Deuteronomy 30:11-20).

There is very good reason to believe that the WRITTEN Torah (Moses) and the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44) were exact representations of YESHUA - the LIVING Torah (John 1:14). After all, why would the God-breathed written Law differ in any way from the “Word Made Flesh?” (Luke 16:17)

It is my purpose to investigate the biblical arguments related to the “one new man” spoken of in **Ephesians 2**, where Jew and Gentile alike are brought together in the faith of Abraham, and delivered from futility and death by the work of Jesus (Yeshua), Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



THEOLOGY OF TIME

I am a student of the big picture, trying not to get too wrapped up in details until I can place them in the greater context. While this has proven to be an arduous way to interpret the scriptures, it has protected me from proof-texting and adding to or taking away from what has been written.

All conclusions about doctrine must flow from the scriptures interpreting themselves. There seem to be some critical elements needing to be reintroduced to the Kingdom conversation as we approach the precipice of the consummation of all things.

Through ADAM comes life and death and the need to cover sin.

(Romans 5:12)

Through ABRAHAM comes the promised SEED.

(Galatians 3:16)

The HEBREWS are the ROOT of the Kingdom. (Romans 11:18)

JESUS is the TRUE VINE and the King.

(John 15; 18:37)

His FOLLOWERS (True Jews) are the BRANCHES. They are harvested from among both Jews and Gentiles.

(Romans 11:16-24)

We are to bear MUCH FRUIT in love.

(Matthew 13:23; John 15:8)

Together Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua make up the one new man of Ephesians 2.

The closest red box above outlines the pre-Hebrew history of the human race. The vertical red area displays His continued plan for the nations or "Gentiles." The blue column recounts His plan for His Chosen People. The green box represents Yahweh's plan to bring Jew and Gentile together in Messiah or Jesus. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

NOAH

ADAM

REDEMPTION

COVENANTS WITH HUMANITY

COVENANTS WITH HUMANITY

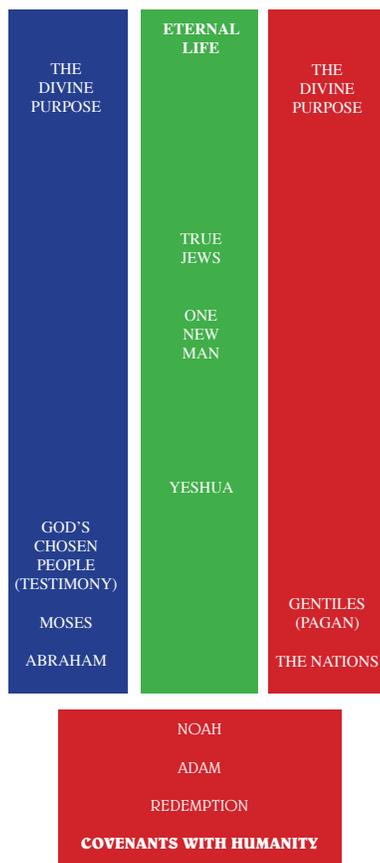
The bible does not begin with the Hebrew story. It begins with the human story. Adam and Eve were not Jews, they were the offspring of God. Paul the Apostle understood this when he spoke to the Greeks in Athens (Acts 17). God made a covenant with the Son before the foundation of the world - to redeem the world (Revelation 13:8). He was not taken by surprise when Adam and Eve sinned. He made a covenant with Noah when He placed the bow in the sky. Once more He will shake the earth (Hebrew 12:26,27). This is important - because even the Hebrew story has a greater context. *Something all Jews would do well to pay attention.*

When Yahweh (our Creator) placed His hand upon Abram He set into motion His plan to set apart a people to demonstrate His power to the nations - His favor and His presence until the end of time. The Jews would be given His "oracles" or Law - so that both Jews and Gentiles would understand our precarious, lost position - as well as to demonstrate how special the children of faith are to our Creator. He would display His power among them, and His Chosen people would be the apple of His eye. From this people would come the Messiah - the One who would save Jew and Gentile alike. *Something all Gentiles would do well to pay attention.*

The way of faith has always been His way. If Adam and Eve had placed faith in His Word - they would have believed Him rather than the Tempter. We learn from Hebrews 11 that imperfect men and women of faith have always been His instruments. Faith is always His goal - for through faith we honor Him and find eternal life.

But being born a Jew insured nothing of a spiritual nature. This is one of the chief messages of the Hebrew story and witness. For without **faith** it is impossible to please God. Period. Though the Chosen People were delivered, given the Law and the Tabernacle, a way of sacrifice and honor, and invited to know the One who had formed them - spirituality would come only by **faith**.

The Gentiles did not have the experience of being God's chosen people and yet seem to be able instinctively to do "the Law." (Romans 2:14) The law of faith is never kept from Jew or Gentile. Faith is the only way any human may please God (Matthew 8:10).



Now observe the blue column that displays the lineage of Abraham, the chosen people, and Moses the prophet. From the Jews would come the Messiah Yeshua - He would save the world from our sins. Not only would the written word be given to the chosen people, the Light of the World would be born of a Jewish virgin. Within Israel the eternal Son of God would nurture and grow. Under the tutor of the Law He would train. And this very Law that revealed the holiness of our Creator would be applied to Him - and He would die. Just like the blood on the door post (Exodus 12:22) He would become our Passover. For without the shedding of blood there is no remitting of sins (Hebrews 9:22). No forgiveness. It was absolutely necessary that the Lamb be sinless - without blemish (Hebrews 9:14). There was no other way for mankind to find forgiveness.

But Israel rejected Yeshua as her Messiah. He became the prophesied stumbling block of Psalm 118. The Jews would now “go it alone” until the end of the age, when Jew and Gentile will come together in “**one new man.**” Jesus (Yeshua) through faith is the Lord of all children of **faith** - whether of Israel or those from among the Gentiles. For according to Paul, “they are not all Israel who are of Israel.” (Romans 2:28,29; 9:6-8)

The Divine purpose is clear - He will call from among Jews and Gentiles the true Israel of God. While Jews look for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, **the substance belongs Christ** (Colossians 2:17). He will make “one new man” who through faith will form the great people who will dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:12-21). May the Name of the Living God be blessed forever and ever!

Jews look for signs and most have rejected Messiah. Their arrogance has become a snare. But this does not negate the fact that they are God’s chosen people. For God has not rejected His people, has He? (Romans 11). While Greeks search for wisdom, we are puffed up in our knowledge and cling to our pagan roots. The nations (who do instinctively the Law) and the Jews (who have the Law) are all shut up under sin by the Law (Romans 2; 11:32).

Abraham is the father of faith - Jesus/Yeshua is the **Seed** (Galatians 3:16). The Jews are the **root** (Romans 11:16-18), Jesus is the **Vine** (John 15:1), we (followers of Jesus) are the **branches** (Romans 11:16-24). It is His intention that these “true Jews” and sons of Abraham (faith) produce **fruit** John 15:5,8).

As the diagram to the left indicates, **all things begin with faith**. Adam's faith. Cain and Abel's faith and sacrifice. Noah's faith. Abraham's faith. 430 years later - the Law. How will this nation be His nation? How will this profane people become holy before their Deliverer? The purpose of the Law given through Moses was to bring this idea of God's ownership of His people (and all of humanity) into focus - and to distinguish the Jews among the nations for the Father's purposes (Leviticus 11:44/Exodus 15:26). He was their God - and they were His people.

The Hebrew story unfolds through Moses, Joshua, the Judges, and the Kings. The 400 silent years have been completed. No prophet has spoken since Malachi promised that the "Sun of Righteousness would arise with healing in His wings." The silence is broken by the one who would "prepare the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40). And what does John the Baptist say? (Matthew 3:2) And what does Jesus say? (Matthew 4:17) **There is now a very definite focus on the Kingdom**. His people (and the rest of the nations) are asked to "repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Not since David and the Psalms have we seen such a watershed of information about the Kingdom. Why? Because with the coming of Yeshua, God's Son, the Kingdom of heaven was at hand! Who is the King? Yeshua, Son of the Living God. Of what does His kingdom consist? Men and women of faith - true Jews of the "one new man."

Even now I feel echoes of Romans 11:33 overcoming my mind and my heart. For "His ways are not my ways, His thoughts not my thoughts!" (Isaiah 55:8,9)

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Now the King has arrived upon the earth to save the souls of men and to enter into His role as High priest in the heavenly sanctuary. (Hebrews 6:20) He will not **abolish** anything that has been written. He is the **object** of all that has been written!

He is all in all. He is better than the angels, better than Moses, better than Aaron (the teaching of the book of Hebrews). He is the Mediator of a better covenant, enacted upon better promises." (Hebrews 8:6) All things authentic on earth are mere copies of what is in heaven. (Hebrews 9:11-14). He has torn the veil to the Holy place from top to bottom. The mercy seat is His. The covered holiness is His. The blood once and for all sprinkled upon the mercy seat is His (Hebrews 9:12). He will come again as King and Righteous Judge of the earth (Revelation 19:13).

He is the fulfillment of all that has been spoken and written by the Father.

Colossians 1:15-20

This is why the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:17

The focus in the scriptures through Messiah becomes, once again, His ownership of His people for the praise of His magnificent Name. It is now time to make both groups into One New Man.

"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." (Romans 2:29)

CONNECTING THE BRANCHES WITH THE ROOT

Romans 9-11

Historical and modern thinkers would have us believe that Jesus started His new religion in 34 AD. The Scriptures teach nothing of the sort. Abraham is the Father of the Hebrews, the Living God created these Jews for His own purposes, and that purpose included delivering the written Word to man, and then, in the fullness of times - the Living Word, His Son Yeshua or "Jesus" to the world. Jesus' followers are "true Jews" and are the beneficiaries of being "grafted in" to the covenant of redemption and the promise made to Abraham.

Jesus was the "Messiah" whom the Living God had promised. According to the Scriptures, Jesus is His Son - and He is the same Jesus Who made the world! When Elohim killed animals to cover Adam and Eve's sin He set into motion a "shedding of blood" that would find its pinnacle in the spilled blood of His own willing Son. The Son would birth into the world and sinlessly give Himself for the sin of the world. He would die, raise from the dead, and take the role of High Priest - at the right hand of His Father - and cover the sins of all who believe in His Name (Hebrews 7).

To paint authentic Christianity without the roots of our Hebrew heritage is a sad error. We owe our human story to the Hebrews. The scriptures were given to and cared for by the Jews. Jesus or "Yeshua" was Hebrew. The first tens of thousands of converts following Christ were Jewish. Though the Good News has been taken to the Gentiles, for thousands of years it was protected in the cradle of Judaism. It would be a huge mistake to try to grow the branches without the root.

It is not a matter of making Gentile Christ-followers into Jews. We are not related to Abraham by blood. It is, however, hugely important to discover what a "true Jew" is - and what it means to BE one of these true Jews. Every word and letter of the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms and the Messiah and the Apostles - all give us keys to understand what it means to live by faith and not by sight. After all, Abraham (faith) precedes Moses, according to Paul and the rest of the scriptures, by 430 years (Galatians 3:17).

THE JEW & THE TRUE JEW

Romans 2

It appears that Yahweh appointed and anointed Paul to be the bridge from the Hebrew experience to the gathering of the nations at the end of the age. The Father had (and has) very special plans for His Chosen People. They are His instruments to bring His righteousness to the world. Through the Jews the written Word would be preserved, His power would be made known, and through the tribe of Judah the Messiah would come.

THE TRUE JEW

The true Jew is not Jewish and not Gentile. He or she is “a new man,” old things have passed away - all things have become new. Simply a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Everything written in the Law is profitable for doctrine, teaching, and training in righteousness. The whole “new testament” is built upon the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to **fulfill** it (Matthew 5:17). In fact, He IS the Living “Torah” or Law (John 1:1,14). There is only ONE testament. There is only One Living God.

This fulfillment of the Law begins with **His perfect sacrifice**. By believing in the sacrifice of Jesus, the need for the Aaronic priesthood and the blood of bulls and goats is no longer required (Hebrews 10:4). The “better covenant” is so-termed because it fulfills the requirements of the Law in Messiah (Hebrews 8:6). *This in no way means that we cannot learn from understanding what the Law says about sacrifice. It does mean that the requirement of the Law is satisfied with regard to sacrifice.* This is the central teaching of Hebrews. Jesus’ covenant is better than angels, better than Moses, better than Aaron. He created the angels, fulfilled Moses’ (Yahweh’s) requirement for blood, and became our perfect High Priest - taking away the need for the Aaronic priesthood to offer the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 7:27).

Like the need for **sacrifice** being fulfilled in Christ, the need for circumcision has also been met through faith. A circumcised heart is the mark of a true Jew (Romans 2:29), and to make a converted Gentile live like a Jew would be as faulty as trying to make a Jew to live like a Gentile. The promises and purposes belong to the Jews, and we have been “grafted in” to their story through faith. This is why Paul goes to such pains to explain the “law of faith” in Galatians (Romans 3:27), contrasting the bondwoman with the free woman. But Jew and Gentile alike find their home in the **One New Man**. True Jews, circumcised in heart and guided in conscience by the Spirit of the Living God (Hebrews 9:14).

Because physical **circumcision** was the sign of the covenant for the Jews, but heart circumcision for true Jews. The Law’ required sacrifices were completed in Christ and the 613 Laws of the Torah continue to explain righteousness (Matthew 5:18; Romans 7:18; 1 Timothy 1:8). But the substance belongs to Christ. The Hebrew “copies” find their fullness in the One who is the Great High Priest - Yeshua, Son of God. This in no way means the Tabernacle and the Temple and everything in them are not “profitable for doctrine.” It does, however, mean that the goal is to make all children of faith, Jew and Gentile, into “true Jews.”

According to Yeshua in Matthew 22, all of the Law flows from two commandments. “One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The Ten Commandments were given two times on tablets to Moses at Horeb, and in them we find the guideposts upon which all the Law, psalms, and the prophets hinge. These guideposts lead us to Messiah, and our birth into the spiritual family of “one new man.” Through the foundation of His eternal Word and His written Law upon our hearts, our consciences are renewed day by day - as **true Jews of the Spirit through the law of faith**.

DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS

Colossians 2:16-23

Because **the substance belongs to Christ**, neither Jew nor Gentile should be concerned about another's days and observances. Even meat sacrificed to idols was nothing - it was left to conscience (1 Corinthians 10). In Romans 14 Paul goes to great lengths to explain that meat and days are not the issue. The substance belongs to Christ. And what did Jesus say about the work of God? It was to "believe in Him Whom He had sent." So personal holiness is a matter of personal obedience to a clear conscience. Wow. (1 Corinthians 8,10). 1 Timothy 1:5.9; Hebrews 9:14; 10:22)

Should I sin that grace might abound? God forbid! The commandments of God have not been abolished have they? Absolutely not! They continue as guideposts for godly living among Jew and Gentile alike. God's Law is for the Nations! (1 Timothy 1:8)

If a Jewish believer wishes to observe the Sabbath, who am I as a Gentile to "act as his or her judge?" If a Gentile wishes to celebrate worship on the first day of the week, who is a Jew to judge? After all, the day has come that the location and times of worship should penetrate into every day, week, month, and year (Hebrews 4). True Jews (those who claim Jesus is Messiah) worship Him in spirit and truth - something that apparently began to occur as Jesus fulfilled His mission (John 4). This does not mean Gentiles are not bound to understand sound doctrine about the Sabbath, the feasts, circumcision, the civil and health laws; etc. "All scripture is God-breathed - and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction." It is our spiritual history and heritage.

Paul became a Jew to win Jews (this is why he had Timothy circumcised in Acts 16). He also protected the freedom of Gentiles to present the Good News apart from the need to make Jewish proselytes - because *the substance belongs to Messiah - not to Judaism*. True circumcision is of the heart (Philippians 3:3). This is the main reason that the letter to the Galatians was written. There is little doubt from this book that Paul had no intention of allowing Gentiles to be made into Jews. They were true Jews through the law of faith (belief in Messiah).

Both Jews and Gentiles see Colossians chapter 2 as a case for their own special days, observances, and celebrations. And they should! Why should a Jew not keep the feasts of Yahweh? They were commanded throughout their generations. Why should a Jew not keep the Sabbath? It was a perpetual statute throughout all of their generations. Why should a Gentile not be free to contextualize the Good News into every nation where it is preached? This was the passion of our brother, Paul. To keep the Gospel unfettered from both the limitations of the Jews and the pagan observances of the Gentiles (Acts 14:8-20).

And yet the newfound church eventually rejects Her Hebrew roots and embraces the traditions of paganism. And the modern church has been built upon this pagan foundation, rather than the "One Lord" of the Jews and the Apostles (Deuteronomy 6 and Ephesians 4). Sad indeed.

ONE NEW MAN

The Law of the Lord is perfect (Psalm 19:7).

Jesus did not come to abolish but to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17-20).

Jesus is the Living Torah (John 1:14).

The Law is a part of His grace (Romans 7:7) inviting us to the law of faith (Romans 3:27).

The requirements of the Law are completely fulfilled in the work of Messiah (Deuteronomy 30:11-20 and Galatians).

Through ADAM comes life and death and the need to cover sin. (Romans 5:12)

Through ABRAHAM comes the promised SEED. (Galatians 3:16)

The HEBREWS are the ROOT of the Kingdom. (Romans 11:18)

JESUS (Yeshua) is the TRUE VINE and the King. (John 15; 18:37)

His FOLLOWERS (True Jews) are the BRANCHES. They are harvested from among both Jews and Gentiles. (Romans 11:16-24)

We are to bear MUCH FRUIT in love. (Matthew 13:23; John 15:8)

Together Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua make up the one new man of Ephesians 2:15.

His divine purpose is to bring His Kingdom to fruition within this one new man (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Revelation 19:16).

The Jews have the Law, the Gentiles instinctively “do the things of the law” (Romans 2:14) because we are all the offspring of God (Acts 17).

True Jews (Romans 2:28,29; 9:6-8) are those who embrace His Son and are children of faith through the Seed (Galatians 3:16).

The substance belongs to Messiah, because He fulfills the Law (Colossians 2:17; Galatians 2:16).

To paint authentic Christianity without the roots of our Hebrew heritage is a sad error. We owe our human story to the Hebrews. The scriptures were given to and cared for by the Jews. Jesus or “Yeshua” was Hebrew. The first tens of thousands of converts following Christ were Jewish. Though the Good News has been brought to the Gentiles, for thousands of years it was protected in the cradle of Judaism. It would be a huge mistake to try to grow the branches without the root.

It is not a matter of making Gentile Christ-followers into Jews. We are not related to Abraham by blood. It is, however, hugely important to discover what a “true Jew” is - and what it means to BE one of these true Jews. Every word and letter of the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms and the Messiah and the Apostles - all give us keys to understand what it means to live by faith and not by sight. After all, Abraham (faith) precedes Moses, according to Paul and the rest of the scriptures, by 430 years (Galatians 3:17). Our goal is not to become law-keepers, but to use (obey) the law lawfully to bring about a clear conscience before our King and Creator (Hebrews 10:22).

For Jewish and Gentile followers of Messiah to search for **harmony** under the promises and covenants fulfilled in Jesus is a privilege of the end of the age. While such enquiry provides a **tension** that neither Jew or Gentile will find “comfortable,” it is key to the fulfillment of the one new man of Ephesians 2.

Selah!

IN CHRIST
"one new man"
Ephesians 2:11-22

JEWS
Yahweh

GENTILES
The Living God

"Both groups into one"

The Written Torah
(613 laws of life)

The Living Torah: Yeshua
(Two "Hanging" Commands)

WORD OF GOD

Written upon our hearts by
the Spirit of the Living God.
Jeremiah 31:31

**The TEN & the 603
Honor Yahweh.
Honor His Word.
Keep His signs.**

**Times and the seasons. Feasts, Sabbaths, etc.
Dietary holiness and purity.
Pray and bless.
Love the Brotherhood.
Remembering the poor.
The Gentiles.
Marriage, Divorce, and family.
Sexual purity.**

**How we conduct business.
Employees, servants, and slaves.
Vows, oaths, and swearing.**

**The Sabbatic year/and the year of Jubilee.
The court and judicial procedures.
Injuries and damages.
Property and Property rights.
Criminal laws.
Punishment and restitution.
Response to the prophets.
Idolatry and idolatrous practices.
Agriculture and animals.
Clothing.**

**The Firstborn.
Kohanim and Levites.
Offerings, tithes, taxes.
The Temple, the Sanctuary, the Sacred Objects.
Sacrifices and Offerings.
Ritual purity and impurity.
Lepers and leprosy.
The King.
Nazarites.
Wars.**

All of the 613 laws of Torah (the Law and the Prophets and Psalms) "are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16