



Messiah House's Official Response

The Commandments and Judaism

When God led the people out of Egypt, He provided for them by giving them an entire system for living and government for when they arrived to the Promised Land. The laws included all-encompassing provisions for all areas of society, such as housing and safety codes, health and personal hygiene, and spiritual instructions for how to obey God and how to be different from the rest of the world. God promised long life for all those who followed His instructions.

God's system of government took care of everyone, both to the native-born and the foreigner who wanted to live among them. There was to be no distinction of justice between citizen and foreigner in regards to the law (Exodus 12:49).

God even created holidays scattered throughout the year (Leviticus 23), for the people to come to His sanctuary and offer the prescribed sacrifices.

Due to a misinterpretation of the writings of the Apostle Paul, many Christians in the church believe all those instructions were finished when Yeshua died and rose again. The sacrifices were indeed ended, but everything else remained. And they were never intended to give us eternal salvation because we never can earn God's salvation.

The argument is, "He died, and therefore we are saved from the Law." Yeshua indeed us, but not from God's Law and instructions. He rescued us from the punishment of not following the instructions; that is why He died on the cross. Since we are no longer bound to the curse that comes from disobedience, we are able to follow them as the Holy Spirit directs us. Paul wrote the law is perfect and shows us how to live pure and godly lives. Yeshua Himself declared the entire law is and always will be valid (Matthew 5:17-19).

Many in the Church threw out God's instructions and God's holidays and created its own calendar that have their origins in Babylonian paganism, that the Church still stubbornly maintains (1 Samuel 15:23). And the usual response to why they persist in their pagan idolatry is "It's tradition." Yeshua's response to that is simple: "You nullify the Word of God by your tradition" (Mark 7:13). Not only did God establish particular holidays throughout the year, He also established a day that would be a day off from all work, and He named the seventh day as the day of rest (Genesis 2:2). The Church changed it to the first day. It is not a sin to rest and worship God on the first day of the week, but it is not the day that God already established. God does not change, and neither does his decrees and statutes (Exodus 31:16-17). Resting on the seventh day is one major indicator of who God's people are, a visible sign for the pagans.

It is true the Rabbis and Sages of old abandoned the established calendar to create their own, but Yeshua grew up in that Pharisaical system. Some people decided to return to the ancient calendar, but they end up walking away from God as a result. The Shabbat is on Saturday, not Tuesday. Even if the ancient Shabbat was on a different day, Yeshua instructed us to follow the interpretations of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:3). The Gospel of Yeshua arose out of the Pharisaical culture of Judea, not from the Essenes. Yeshua of course will restore everything when He returns, but in the meantime, Yeshua defends His people and will defend us when we walk with His chosen people (Matthew 16:19).

Over time, the Jews twisted that day off from work into something to worship. They added extra laws and surround those laws with extra laws and extra laws, creating a different religion based upon tradition and human-made commentary. They took their additions and wrote their own book called the *Talmud*, saying "We cannot read the Bible without the commentary of the ancient Rabbis and Teachers." They even coerce and threaten the people with hellfire if they do not follow the laws of the Rabbis and Sages. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, we do not depend or base our lives around the opinions of people who hate Yeshua (2 Corinthians 6:14).



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Tragically, many people who are drawn by the Holy Spirit into Messianic Judaism (Judaism according to the Messiah) fall into the trap of Rabbinic Judaism (Judaism according to the Rabbis) which hates Yeshua (Galatians 1:8). Rabbinic Judaism is nothing more than tradition upon tradition upon tradition. Not every Jewish tradition is bad. Some traditions are harmless, some are quite good, but if a certain tradition violates the Bible, we remove it from our lives and community (Philippians 3:7-9).

We at Messiah House stand firmly in the established dates and times that God established, as maintained by His chosen people the Jews, and to change/add/remove any of His instructions or disregard them brings on punishment (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18). Following God's instructions in the light of Yeshua by the leading of the Holy Spirit tells God that we love Him, and God reveals Himself to those who love and obey Him (John 14:15, 21).