

Hebrew Roots Movement

1. Overall presupposition: We are saved by grace through faith but this means that we only enter into God's family by faith alone and grace alone. We get into the house. But in order to remain in the house we must follow the rule. The rule is Torah!
2. There is very little theological coherence even at the start. The nature of faith and grace is not discussed. At some points "following the rules" is evidence of true faith. At other points "following the rules" brings about blessings denied to those who do not "follow the rules" without consequence of salvation. At other points "not following the rules" means eviction. It is unclear if eviction means losing one's salvation. But one can get evicted and come back if one decides to follow the rules.
3. Eternal security is denied. Perseverance of the saints is denied. Continuation of suspected salvation is dependent upon (in some cases) or evidence of (in some cases) following Torah.

Note: It is unclear whether following Torah gains salvation, maintains salvation, or has nothing to do with salvation. At least one proponent of the Hebrew Roots Movement says all of the above. We are not sure if a failure to comply to this groups Torah obedience makes one the least in the Kingdom of God (yet still in), the least in the Kingdom of God and not blessed here on earth (yet still in), or kicked out of the Kingdom of God temporarily (until one repents and starts following Torah), or permanently if one does not agree to follow Torah!

4. Exactly what is entailed in obeying Torah is elusive. Also elusive is what penalties accrue for not obeying Torah.
5. The words of Jesus in this movement are more important than the words of Paul.
6. Matthew 5:17 is a critical passage.

HRM USE OF THE BIBLE

Romans 10:4

"For Christ is the goal of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes."

Note: If Christ is the goal of Torah then it is paramount to go to Christ and not to Torah. Verse 5 is critical. Only the Man who practices the righteousness based upon the law will live. That Man is Christ for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. It is futile to think that anyone can practice the law for justification or sanctification!

Hebrews 8:8

For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE

LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; NASU

HRM: The new covenant is not exactly new. It is a Renewed Covenant. Citing the example of the Hebrew word *chodesh*, the HRM finds this word for new to mean renewed in reference to the "new moon" in the OT. However in the Greek New Testament it is clear that new is in contrast to old making the old obsolete. The Greek word is to make old or declare obsolete. It is not to renew!

Gal 3:15

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. NASU

HRM wants to apply this to keeping the Torah. It is ratified by God they say and cannot be broken. However, the very next verse explains that the Torah cannot break the Abrahamic Covenant. The Torah came 430 years later! The law was added but cannot break the promise of justification by faith alone!

Acts 24:14-17

14 "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, **believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;** 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. 16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men. NASU

HRM takes from this that Paul had to follow everything in the Torah or he is a liar and double minded. However, to believe in the law and prophets is not the same as being under all aspects of the Torah. One can believe that God gave the Torah and still believe that he is free of Torah. Paul is not contradictory. Compare Philipians 3 and 1 Corinthians 9.

1 Cor. 9:19-22 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. NIV

Jer 31:33-34

33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, " I will put **My law within them and on their heart I will write it;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of

them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." NASU

HRM understands that God is prophesying that he would put Torah in the hearts of His own in the New Covenant.

The assumption of HRM is that unless Christians are under the Torah they are lawless. But this is not the assumption of the NT. The NT takes into account the OT Torah and brings forth a new relationship with God whereby all Christians are in-lawed our under the Law of Christ. The "how should we then live?" question is answered in an aggregate way. The writings of the apostles along with the conviction of the Holy Spirit bring the Christian under moral persuasion. There is also room for disagreement among Christians (Romans 14) and Christian liberty (1 Corinthians 10).

Acts 13:38-40

38 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. 40 Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you NIV

Acts 15:5-11

5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." 6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." NIV

We take note that the Jews took action against Paul on the basis of one primary complaint:

Acts 18:12-13 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. 13 "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law." NIV

2 Tim 3:14-17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

HRM would have us believe that verses 16, 17 apply to the OT and therefore would refer back to the Torah. However verse 15 indicates the culmination of Torah is salvation in Christ and hence brings us into the NT wherein the OT is brought into full focus.

NOTE: The premise of the **HRM** is that the commandments given at Sinai are the exact same commandments given to Christians in the NT. Hence John 14:15 ("If you love me keep My commandments") must mean Torah since God and Christ are the same God. There is an absolute failure to draw a distinction between what God prescribed for Israel and what binds the conscience of Christians. Here some objections to this line of thinking:

Gal 6:13-16

13 Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. 16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.
NIV

Phil 3:4-9

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. NIV

Gal 3:2-5

2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing-if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? NIV

Rom 7:4-6

4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. 5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. NIV

FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE BIBLE

Premise # 1.

2 Cor 3:7-4:1

7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, 13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. 14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. NASU

HRM: It is the contention of the HRM that the Torah of Moses is only to be considered the Old Covenant as long as it is understood without Messiah. Once we are in Christ the

veil is removed about Christ but the Torah remains in force. But this is not what Paul has said. Paul does not say that the veil about Christ is removed. He says the veil that reveals the fading away of the ministry of condemnation is removed so that all can see that the ministry of death is fading away and giving way to a surpassing glory!

Premise # 2.

HRM teaches that God gave the Torah to Israel after they were already redeemed hence God gives the Torah to Christians after they are redeemed. However, we are playing fast and loose with the OT concept of redemption from Egypt (a type) and the redemption in Christ (eternal salvation). Furthermore there is not a direct correspondence between what God has done with Israel and what God has done in Christ. This is proved over and over again by the emphasis on the NC. Furthermore it is a travesty to affirm that Israel was already “saved”, and needed to have commandments to keep their salvation, and then apply the same formula to Christianity.

Premise # 3.

HRM twists the Torah to save Jesus from the embarrassment of breaking the Torah. Jesus is said to have disqualified all the witnesses who wished to stone the woman taken in adultery. According to the Torah only qualified witnesses could throw the first stone. However, the Torah does not permit a liar to witness. If we were to take HRM seriously no one would be able to judge another based upon the Torah. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and are disqualified (according to HRM) to accuse another.

Premise # 4.

HRM replaces the word grace with the word Torah! “Jesus purpose was to establish God’s Torah among the Jews. Paul’s purpose was to extend forth God’s Torah to embrace non-Jews. For both Jesus and Paul, Torah was grace. The prophet Isaiah tells us that Messiah was sent to bring the Torah even to the uttermost parts of the earth” (page 50 Lancaster)

Premise # 5.

HRM teaches that the NT cannot be properly understood unless read through the eyes of the OT. The Torah is the foundation of all Scripture and cannot be broken. “If we read the Torah through the lenses of the New Testament, we are proceeding in the opposite direction. To fully understand God’s Word, we must read the Gospel and Epistles through the lens of Torah.” (page 54 Lancaster)

Premise #6.

HRM mis-leads those who ask, “Why not Temple Sacrifices?” by boldly saying that the Torah demands that sacrifices can only be made at the Temple. The problem is that nowhere in Leviticus or Deuteronomy does the Torah make such a demand. The only demand is that sacrifices be made in a suitable place. But all this begs the question. If the Torah cannot be broken then why not build a temple and sacrifice? Are we being disobedient in not making a suitable place? Also the hypocrisy and evasiveness of HRM is evident in finding ways to get around Torah even though HRM insists that God’s Torah is eternally binding.

“Similarly the strict measures of Torah justice –stoning and the like- are not applicable unless one is in the land of Israel under the authority of a duly ordained Torah court of law like the Sanhedrin. Since there has not been a functional Sanhedrin wielding civil authority in almost 2,000 years, there has not been a capital case tried in just as long. Most of the laws of Torah that Christians do not keep are laws that do not apply to us in the modern world. This is not to say that those laws are irrelevant or done away with, but under current circumstances, they cannot be practiced.” (page 76 Lancaster)

Note; The entire book of Hebrews might have something to say about sacrifices done away with!

Premise # 7.

HRM boldly states that God commands His people to cease from labor on the 7th day of the week! **HRM** likens the Sabbath to the supposed millennial reign of Christ by using Colossians 2:16,17. It appears that this passage works against HRM by forbidding anyone to be a judge of your Sabbath day! **HRM** says the Sabbath is about Messiah and therefore the Sabbath is for the followers of Messiah! Colossians 2:16 does not say that the Sabbath is the substance of Messiah. Rather the Sabbath, food, drink, new moon, and festivals are all pointing to the substance which is Christ and no one is to determine a legal usage of them for another person! To what end will HRM push its legalism?

“The original context of creation makes it clear that the work God rested from on the Sabbath is the work of creation. Therefore, on the Sabbath day, we rest from the work of creating as well. We cease from the work of shaping, creating, forming, making, ordering, structuring, organizing, mixing, and molding things to produce results.”
Imposing our will onto substance, and creating order from disorder, is work. Production is work. Creation is work. Making money is work. We cease from works as a remembrance of creation, and we cease from work to remember our salvation.” (page 80 Lancaster)

Premise # 8.

HRM teaches that the Greek text of Acts 20:7 makes it clear that the reference is the Sabbath end (Saturday) and not to the first day of the week.

The literal Greek reads: "And on the first of the sabbaths..." There are some questions here that need to be answered. First, is Luke using Jewish reckoning or Roman reckoning for what constitutes a day? If Roman then the days start at mid-night and go to the following mid-night just like ours. If Jewish then Sunset to Sunset. Most think that Luke is using Roman time.

The second and more important question concerns the meaning of "first of the sabbaths". This construction in Matthew 28:1 means a week. So here Luke probably means the first day of the week. Matthew 28:1 is strong. I would not know how to translate it other than first day of the week. Take a look at Mark 16:9. It is the same word 'sabbaths' as found in Acts 20:7 and Matthew 28:1.

Evidently a week (7days) can be designated as a sabbath week with the first day after sabbath being Sunday and the second day Monday and so on. Evidently Paul began speaking on Sunday evening and left the next day on Monday. John 20:19 clinches it for me. Jesus appears to His disciples. John records Jesus appearing "on the first of the sabbaths" same exact construction as Acts 20:7 and Matthew 28:1.(Compare John 20:1 for same construction as well). 1 Corinthians 16:2 adds weight to meeting on the first day of the week (every first sabbatou).

Premise #9.

HRM teaches that the book of Acts shows that believers remained *engaged* in Temple system long after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Acts 2:45-47

. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. NIV

Acts 3:1-3

3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer-at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. NIV

Acts 5:41-6:1

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. NIV

Acts 21:26

26 The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them. NIV

Acts 25:8

8 Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." NIV

Premise # 10.

HRM plays fast and loose with the applications of their own avowed principles! The Torah teaches it is OK to have and own slaves providing they are not Israelites. Even then you can buy a slave from Israel if you let them go on the 7th year. But the laws of modern society trump the Torah when convenient. "The same passage does, however, allow for the purchase of heathens as lifelong slaves. Of course, slavery is illegal in Canada, the United States and Mexico, so even if he were to find some heathens for sale in either Canada or Mexico he would have other legal issues to deal with." (page 131 Lancaster) Since the Sanhedrin does not exist today all corporal punishment is waved off! But why not have new Christian courts?

Helpful NOTES: Mishnah =’s written form of Oral Torah. It means Repetition of the Oral Torah (similar to RC Holy Tradition, the Oral Torah was passed along the generations as the "how to do it" word of Moses)

The *Gamara* (or completion) is the commentary on the Mishnah. There is the Israel *Gamara* and the Babylonian *Gamara*. Both are called Talmud (study) and hence there is the Talmud Jerusalem and the Talmud Babylonian.

Matthew 5:17: Law and Prophets refer to OT. "The best interpretation of these difficult verses says that Jesus fulfills the Law and Prophets in that they point to him, and he is their fulfillment. The antithesis is not between "abolish" and "keep" but between "abolish" and fulfill." For Matthew, then, it is not the question of Jesus' relation to the law that is in doubt but rather its relation to Him!" (Carson pages 145,6)

"The law pointed forward to Jesus and His teaching; so it is properly obeyed by conforming to His word. As it points to Him, so He, in fulfilling it, establishes what continuity it has, the true direction to which it points and the way it is to be obeyed. Thus ranking in the kingdom turns on the degree of conformity to Jesus' teaching as that teaching fulfills OT revelation. His teaching, toward which the OT pointed, must be obeyed." (Carson page 146)

NOTE: Jesus proclaimed all foods clean (Mark 7:19). Compare the change in law observance in Acts 10-11 and Hebrews 7:1-9:10. Quote here the insanity of HRM pg. 36 Olive Branch F.

Print

Page 1 of 6

Subject: Re: hebrew roots
From: Larry Wessels (lawessels@sbcglobal.net)
To: rzins@carolina.rr.com;
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:01 AM

Hello Rob,

Excellent stuff here on the HRM. You have just helped me understand how I want to set up this show for presentation. Here's how I envision it to proceed: 1. we spend the first 30 minutes or so of the show going through your outline point by point with you doing most of the talking because after all we'll using your outline 2. Next you'll proceed to have a dialogue with me throwing out HRM specific beliefs & you responding to them in kind (I'll bring up their point & you present a counterpoint to each issue). Thus, I will bring up the following to you: Hebrew Roots Movement advocates say: 1. the New Testament was first written in Hebrew & Aramaic while the Greek NT came later thus you have to use specific Jewish terminology such as a) the Sacred name only such as YHWH (Yahweh) for God & not other terms like Jehovah, Lord, etc. b) the name Jesus is a false name & really should only be called by the Hebrew name such as Yeshua or other specific Hebrew names, they say there is no one named "Jesus Christ;" c) using Hebrew phrases & terminology as much as possible is a good idea in the Christian life; 2. The Torah observant life must be part of the Christian life now (Torah observant Gentiles); 3. Jewish clothing particularly with tassels is a good idea in the Christian life; 4. Observing Torah dietary laws (no pork, etc.) & eating Kosher foods is part of the Christian life; 5. Wearing Star of David jewelry & displaying the Star of David in your home or work place is a

good idea for the Christian life; 6. Supporting the secular state of Israel in the Middle East is a very Christian thing to do; 7. Placing a mezuzah on your doorpost is the Christian thing to do (a **mezuzah** (Hebrew: מַזְזֻזָּה "doorpost"; plural: מַזְזֻזוֹת **mezuzot**) is a piece of parchment (often contained in a decorative case) inscribed with specified Hebrew verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21). These verses comprise the Jewish prayer "Shema Yisrael", beginning with the phrase: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is One". A mezuzah is affixed to the doorframe in Jewish homes to fulfill the mitzvah (Biblical commandment) to inscribe the words of the Shema "on the doorposts of your house" (Deuteronomy 6:9). Some interpret Jewish law to require a mezuzah on every doorway in the home^[1] apart from bathrooms and closets too small to qualify as rooms.^[2] The parchment is prepared by a qualified scribe (a "sofer stam") who has undergone many years of meticulous training, and the verses are written in black indelible ink with a special quill pen. The parchment is then rolled up and placed inside the case.); 8. As true Christians you must observe Passover but not the heathen holidays of Easter & Christmas; 9. As true Christians you must observe Sabbath Keeping & reject worshipping on Sunday (a day worshipping the Sun god); 10. As true Christians you must observe all Hebrew feast days: Passover (Pesach), Unleavened Bread (Hag Hamatzot), First Fruits (Yom Habikkurim), Weeks (Shavout or Hag Hashavuot), Trumpets (Rosh Hashana), Day of Atonement (Yom Kipur), & Tabernacles (Sukkoth) because the Torah is still binding; 11. Christians are not allowed to touch money on the Sabbath day; 12. Christians do not celebrate birthdays because it is a pagan custom; 13. Protestant preachers & Roman Catholics are pagans because they worship on

Sundays; 14. Christians should observe the significance of "Blood Moons" in regard to end time Bible prophecies & Catastrophic Events -

A "blood moon" is the name that has often been assigned to a complete lunar eclipse, which occurs when the earth comes between the sun and the moon, putting the moon into a complete shadow. Such a moon often (but not always) appears to be red in color because of the way light bends around the earth's atmosphere, scattering short wavelength light (green through violet) and leaving longer wavelength light (red, orange and yellow). It's why sunsets and sunrises generally are red.⁶

Complete or total lunar eclipses are relatively rare. During the 20th Century, there was a total of 229 lunar eclipses of all types, but only 81 of these were total eclipses (completely obscuring the moon in the earth's shadow). The rest were partial eclipses. In this century there will be 228 lunar eclipses of all types and 85 total eclipses.⁷

What is rarer is what is called a "tetrad." This is a series of four total lunar eclipses in a row over a two year period of time. Since the time of Christ there have been a total of 87 tetrads, including the last one that occurred in 2003-2004. In this century, we are scheduled to experience 8 tetrads, the most that can occur in a century's time (some centuries have had none at all).⁸

Even rarer is a phenomenon that Mark Biltz discovered. Of the 87 tetrads that have occurred since the time of Christ, only 8 have fallen on Jewish feast days. Those eight occurred in the following years: 162-163, 795-796, 842-843, 860-861, 1428-1429, 1493-1494, 1949-1950 and 1967-1968.⁹

For an example of what is meant by a tetrad falling on Jewish feast days, consider the tetrad of 1967-1968.¹⁰

Print

Page 4 of 6

1. Passover, April 24, 1967 — Blood Moon
2. Feast of Tabernacles, October 18, 1967 — Blood Moon
(Total Solar Eclipse, November 2, 1967)
3. Passover, April 13, 1968 — Blood Moon
4. Feast of Tabernacles, October 6, 1968 — Blood Moon

Hebrew Roots & Blood Moon conspiracy advocates make much of the fact that the last three tetrads that fell on Jewish feast days occurred at times when significant events were happening among the Jewish people:

1. 1493-1494 — This tetrad followed the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.
2. 1949-1950 — This tetrad followed the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.
3. 1967-1968 — The beginning of this tetrad occurred right before the beginning of the Six Day war in 1967.

Notice that two of these tetrads *followed* the significant events. Only one (1967-1968) served as a partial precursor of the event. And notice that there was no significant event in Jewish history that was related to the first five tetrads that fell on Jewish feast days. As for blood moons, the Bible refers to them several times. Some of the references only imply a blood moon when they speak of the moon being "darkened" (Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:10, Joel 3:15, and Matthew 24:29). Others specifically mention a moon "turned to blood" (Joel 2:31 and Revelation 6:12); 15. The Year of Jubilee should be observed as well as shmita rules (The **sabbath year** (*shmita* Hebrew: שמיטה, literally "release") also called the **sabbatical year** or *sheviit* (Hebrew: שביעית, literally "seventh") is the seventh year of the seven-year

Print

Page 5 of 6

agricultural cycle mandated by the Torah for the Land of Israel,^[1] and still observed in contemporary Judaism.

During *shmita*, the land is left to lie fallow and all agricultural activity, including plowing, planting, pruning and harvesting, is forbidden by *halakha* (Jewish law). Other cultivation techniques (such as watering, fertilizing, weeding, spraying, trimming and mowing) may be performed as a preventative measure only, not to improve the growth of trees or other plants. Additionally, any fruits which grow of their own accord are deemed *hefker* (ownerless) and may be picked by anyone. A variety of laws also apply to the sale, consumption and disposal of *shmita* produce. All debts, except those of foreigners, were to be remitted.^[2]

Chapter 25 of the Book of Leviticus promises bountiful harvests to those who observe the *shmita*, and describes its observance as a test of religious faith. There is little notice of the observance of this year in Biblical history and it appears to have been much neglected.) & 16. Many in the Hebrew Roots Movement believe that the apostle Paul was a false prophet who perverted Christianity & brought in a false gospel by moving it away from its Hebrew Roots.

Rob, I'll have some other general information I'll be bring up after we get through your outline & these questions. I haven't quite finished putting all that research together yet but I think in the end we'll have a show that will Biblically help a lot of people with this Galatian Judaizing religious deception & hopefully all within an hour or so.

Blessings to you in Christ,

I'll pray for your safe arrival,