

A look at the first century church 3-01

SUBJECTS 1st Century Church study Series

■ Series subjects:

- ◆ 1. The importance of God's Word, and "words" (Heb 4:12).
- ◆ 2. The sources used by Jesus and the disciples
- ◆ 3. The 1st century churches had **NO New Testament, only the Hebrew Scriptures.**
- ◆ 4. First Century church "services", Constantine - Roman Emperor, introduced the recognition of buildings as churches. Why anything Jewish was removed from the church. Syncretism defined. Church councils still fighting Jewish influences seven hundred years later.
- ◆ 5. The Scriptural definitions of 3 words: Righteousness, Covenant, and Holiness.
- ◆ 6. Passover, Unleavened Bread, Day of Firstfruits, 3 "connected" feasts.
- ◆ 7. Shavuot or Pentecost.
- ◆ 8. Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles.

A look at the first century church 3-02

No New Testament yet, ONLY Hebrew Scriptures

- **Question:** What were some of the things happening at the very beginning in the early church?
- What was **Acts chapter 6 and 7** all about?
- Followers of Yeshuah (Jesus), were quoting everything from the Torah, Prophets and the Writings, (the Old Testament).
- What was the issue? Were not the religious leaders also believers and following the Tanakh, the O.T.?
- **Acts Chapter 6 and 7. – Stephen WAS QUOTING EVERYTHING HE SAID FROM THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES (OLD TESTAMENT).**

A look at the first century church 3-03

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Topics covered in Acts Chapter 6:**
- Nr. of disciples multiplied, ... there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews,
- Not leave (stop spending time in) the word of God, and serve tables....?
- give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- Seven men (Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, appointed over this business.

A look at the first century church 3-04

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Topics covered in Acts Chapter 7:**
- Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.
- certain of the synagogue: Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, Cilicia Asia, **disputing with Stephen.**
- We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.
- **set up false witnesses**, speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:
- **Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.**
- the days of **David**; **desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.**

A look at the first century church 3-05

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Topics covered in Acts Chapter 7: - continued**
- 47 But Solomon built him an house. 48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, 49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: **what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?** 50 Hath not my hand made all these things?
- 51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.** 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of **the coming of the Just One;** of whom **ye have been now the betrayers and murderers!**

A look at the first century church 3-06

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Topics covered in Acts Chapter 7: - continued**
- 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. 54 **they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.**
- 55 But **he, being full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and **saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God**, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of man standing** on the right hand of God.

A look at the first century church 3-07

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Topics covered in Acts Chapter 7: - continued**
- 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,
- 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.
- 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
- 60 And he kneeled down, and **cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** And when he had said this, **he fell asleep.** -end Acts 7 –
- **Conclusion:**
- notice that Stephen's account summarizes Jewish history, about Moses, David, Salomon, and the attitude of the Jewish people towards the Holy Spirit of God, **are all references from the Tanach.**

A look at the first century church 3-08

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- The Greek word for Scripture(s)
- NT:1124 GREEK graphe (graf-ay'); a document
- Jesus established the consistent use of the Tanakh or Hebrew scripturesJesus taught from the (O.T.) Hebrew Scriptures, examples: Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18
- **Deut 6:5** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- **Lev 19:18** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

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NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- Dialogues with the religious leaders, a direct assault on **their traditions and additions** to the scriptures.
 - **Mat 15:9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.
 - **Mar 7:7** Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.
- **“Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”, result: the Pharisees were offended ..**
 - **Mat 15:7** Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
 - **Mat 15:8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.
 - **Mat 15:12** Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

A look at the first century church 3-10

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- a look at Peter: ... not redeemed by traditions
- 1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold**, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
- Isa 52:3 For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and **ye shall be redeemed without money.**
- ... a peculiar people
- 1 Pe 2:9 But **ye are a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- Deu 14:2 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself**, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.
- ... words spoken by the (O.T.) holy prophets:
- 2Pe 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

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NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **a look at Peter:** quotes Joel, being “drunken” on the high-sabbath.....
- **Act 2:15-18** For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:** 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
- **Joe 2:23-29** Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you **the former rain moderately**, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, **the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.** 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the **fats shall overflow with wine** and **oil.** 27 And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:* 29 And also **upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.**

A look at the first century church 3-12

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- a look at Paul: showing and proving by the Scriptures (Tenakh), that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).
- Keep in mind, during Paul's time there was no N.T.
- Act 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
- Act 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.
- Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. *(observation: ALSO, the Gentiles (Greeks) met in the synagogue on sabbath).*
- Act 18:5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.
- Act 18:28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

A look at the first century church 3-13

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **a look at and James: fulfill the royal Law in accordance with the Scripture, [Lev 19:18.]**
- James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law **according to the scripture**, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:
- Lev 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**: I *am* the LORD.
- Jas 2:23 **And the scripture was fulfilled** which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
- Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
- Gen 15:6 And he (Abram), believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

A look at the first century church 3-14

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- What is the result when The Church shifts it's focus from **“the Commandments of God to the traditions of man”**?
- **"Theology" vs. "receiving the scriptures by faith".**
- **Mat 15:6b**Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.
- **Mar 7:9** And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.
- **Mar 7:13** Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.
- **Col 2:8** Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

A look at the first century church 3-15

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- A look at the word: "pharmaceutical", the Greek word **farmakeia G5331**, and BOTH applications in 2013.

G5331 φαρμακεία pharmakeia far-mak-i'-ah

From **G5332**; *medication* ("pharmacy"), that is, (by extension) *magic* (literal or figurative): - sorcery, **witchcraft**.

- Reference: Revelation 9:21 and 18:23
- **Rev 9:21** Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their *sorceries*^{G5331}, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.
- **Rev 18:23** And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy *sorceries*^{G5331}, were all nations deceived.

A look at the first century church 3-16

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **CONCLUSIONS:**
- The **1st century churches** had **NO New Testament**, only the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Jesus established the consistent use of the Tanakh or Hebrew scriptures
- Jesus taught from the (O.T.) Hebrew Scriptures, Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18
- JESUS had many dialogues with the religious leaders,
- Jesus made a direct assault on their traditions/additions to the scriptures!
- Jesus came, set Jewish people free from man-made regulations, the “commandments of men”
- Jesus DID cause the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes to be offended !!

A look at the first century church 3-17

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

■ CONCLUSIONS:

- The 1st century churches had NO New Testament, only the Hebrew Scriptures. - continued
- A look at Peter: Examples of quotes from The Scriptures.
- A look at and Paul: Using The Scriptures to show Jesus Christ is The Messiah.
- A look at and James: Examples of quotes from The Scriptures.
- The disciples taught on: “The Commandments of God vs. the traditions of man”
- The disciples taught on: “receiving the scriptures by faith vs. Theology”.

A look at the first century church 3-18

NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures

- **END - "NO New Testament, ONLY the Hebrew Scriptures"**