

Greetings from Jerusalem!

I. The Elohim of Yeshua

Something about myself!

I was born in Austria in a RC setting at the beginning of WW II and have lived in Australia since 1962. After my second visit to Israel in 1984, I started to become deeply troubled over the many obvious inconsistencies and apparent mistranslations in the NT. Ignorant of the historical connections, I turned my back on the RC Church on Oct 31 of that year (I didn't want to participate in *All Saints Day* Celebrations on Nov 1), to devote my life to the fulltime study of the Scriptures. It was not until several years later that I discovered that I had – unwittingly emulated Martin Luther, who had nailed his 95 theses onto the church-door at Wittenburg also on Oct 31, some 400 years earlier in 1517!

I began to write on the subject and by 1986 I had gathered a fairly substantial body of evidence to show that (at least) our English versions of the Bible are deeply flawed. What had become evident to me was that a number of theological filters had seemingly been applied in producing, what we call, the NT. Although my understanding of Greek and Hebrew was very limited at that time, but it was sufficient, to set alarm-bells ringing for me. I thought at the time that my findings would generate sufficient interest to have them published. I was sorely mistaken – virtually no one was interested as I did not have any letters to my name! Be that as it may, I called that initial MS '*Covenant or Testament*' and that is where my journey began that led me to this platform.

There is a global Spirituality Identity Crisis. Ps 4:2

That such a global confusion would come to pass was foretold by Jeremiah in the context a return of Israel to her covenanted possession. Jer.16:14-18

“O LORD, my strength and my stronghold,
And my refuge in the day of distress,
To You the nations will come
From the ends of the earth and say,
Our fathers have inherited nothing, but falsehood—
Futility and things of no profit.” Jer.16:19-20

This prophecy is being fulfilled in our day & time. The reason you are here is indicates that you are seeking to know the truth. And I say this also, that just as the form of Biblical Judaism practiced in Jesus' day had become grossly distorted, so has just about everything that was once true in Christianity— up to our day.

In his book, ***Making Christology Relevant to the Third World***, published in 1998, **Daniel Lukito** reveals that theological developments in **Bible Colleges in Asia deem it prudent** for potential converts from Hinduism, Buddhism, etc, to retain their original religions after accepting Christian salvation, in order not to destroy the culture aligned with those beliefs.

The Indonesian Constitution reads: "The State shall be based on the belief in the one and only God". It is worth observing that the Indonesian Bibles are using the Arabic term Allah in place of the Hebrew Elohim in order not too offend the Muslims, which represent the dominant religion – Islam. Yet, the Indonesian language DOES have a word for the generic term 'god' - namely 'Tuhan'!

Nearer to home we find an evermore intensifying fusion in the Christian ecumenical movement between RCs and the Protestant world; albeit not on Biblical, but philosophical/humanistic grounds. Biblical doctrines are becoming more and more blurred as the years pass.

My son in law has likened it to a UBD where minor alterations are made to street names, etc with each new edition. Eventually it will no longer be a useful instrument for any driver, because he can no longer rely on the information contained in it.

Therefore, this conference has a significance like few in human history.

For the first time since Constantine, people have actually called out to one another and said, "... *let us find ways to reconcile the Faith of Abraham with the doctrines passed onto the Gentile world through Yeshua and his disciples – especially the Apostle or (more correctly) Emissary— Saul of Tarsus.*"

Hence the title of this gathering: ***The Creed, or Doctrinal Foundation of Jesus!*** This conference is a groundbreaking opportunity, not to create another denomination – may the Almighty preserve us from such – but to take a solid, and hard, look at the spiritual quagmire that is supposed to hold the answer(s) for a lost and hurting world.

A (slightly paraphrased) quote from Ed Murrows:

On March 9, 1954, while battling MacCarthy-ism in the US, Murrows had this to say:

*"Let us not walk in fear, one of another. Let us not be driven by fear into **an age of Unreason**— if we dig deep in our history and doctrine, and remember, that we are not descended from fearful men, not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes, which were for the moment unpopular. We can deny our heritage and our history, but we cannot escape responsibility for the result. There is no way for a citizen of a nation to abdicate his responsibility."*

"No one man can terrorize a whole nation unless we are all his accomplices."

"We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty."

Introduction

*“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes!”
Judges 21:25*

The scripture teaches us that the sons of Israel entered into an identity crisis all of their own very early in their tenure in the promised land. Yes, they virtually forgot the identity of the “Elohim of their fathers.

This dilemma continued more or less until the time of the exile – knowledge of the Most High vanished almost entirely from the minds of the people apart from a few, viz. the prophets, the judges of Israel, King David, some of righteous kings, the latter prophets.

*‘But if they confess (or better: **acknowledge with humility**) their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies: if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt.... ‘
Lev.26:40-41*

We all share a collective guilt that the knowledge of the Most High is at such a low level throughout the world – it **MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY US** – especially by those in leadership. We must also be prepared to accept the strong possibility that all the calamities that have befallen the world are the direct action of an offended Holy God to remind us that He is still on the throne of the Universe. As the scripture in **2 Chron 7:14** also says, “if my people will humble themselves and pray...!” Question: Who does the author mean by ‘My people’: **The church or Israel?**

*“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” ’ ”
Zech. 8:23*

As I said earlier, the world is in an Identity Crisis! For the sake of an economic prosperity (of a select few???) i.e. wealth creation, we have cast off all restraints pertaining to righteousness and truth. As a consequence, many who are thus spiritually disenfranchised are seeking truth in Judaism or Noahide religion (Acts 15:15-17). What is the meaning of ‘ten men’? c/f. Genesis 18:32. Ten men constitutes a minyan – below this number corporate Jewish prayer is not possible. For the sake of ten righteous the LORD would have spared Sodom – obviously He didn’t find them otherwise S’dom would not have been destroyed. The number in Zechariah seems to indicate only a minority of Gentiles will seek the face of HaShem (God) in the latter days!

Who is the Elohim of Yeshua? (Mark 12:29-30; c/f Ex.20:3; De. 5:7)

The plain answer to this question is: “He is the same as the Elohim of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob! You may wonder why the unusual title, why I chose the Hebrew names over their English substitutes?

The main reason for doing so is to remind ourselves that the origin of our faith is among the sons of Jacob, not from the Greeks or the Romans, or invented by the RC Church. If we seek to be restorers of any kind, we cannot work outside the parameter of what constitutes our Hebrew Roots.

If therefore the church wants to see herself as having replaced Israel and claim the promises for herself, she will also have to accept Him Who called Israel into being in the first place – not only Him, but His Instructions as well!

But...! We are the branch that was grafted – against nature (Rom 11:24) – into the Olive Tree planted IN or BY Abraham – some 4000 years ago.

When we ask ourselves the question concerning the Creed of Yeshua – or Jesus – we only need to open the Gospel of Mark @ 12:29 to discover that his orthodoxy was tested – at least once - by the spiritual leaders of Judah:

Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: *‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our Elohim, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’* (c/f. De. 6:4-9

³² So the scribe said to Him, “Well *said*, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one Elohim, and there is no other but He.

Scripture clearly teaches, that **He is NOT the benign grand/godfather type** of Sunday-school, or the undefined object of modern-day ‘worship songs’, rather the awesome Elohim of Mount Sinai. c/f Ezek. 1: 4 ff. - esp. v.22 & 26.

The **Elohim of Yeshua is a paradox**, for He is to be loved and feared at once. He is at once the One Who should inspire fear and dread in every unbeliever’s heart: “...*do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” I am more than convinced that there is a serious lack of understanding in the minds of Christians concerning the nature of God. Because He has been localized on a throne in an ethereal heaven, i.e. like ‘*One Who can’t get out of his chair lest He might trip over His beard*’ – rather than the all-enfolding Spirit Who is present in every minute part of the Universe, without Whom nothing can exist – such a living, healthy, reverential fear is also absent. This is why we can sing about falling on our knees without actually doing it; because we have sung our words we deem ourselves actually doing it – by faith. c/f James 2:26 – but faith without works (actually doing it) IS DEAD!

And, He is also the One ‘...*Who so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son...*! The Elohim of Yeshua is also the redeemer of Israel and of the World. Of Israel first, because Yeshua confirmed with his own lips that he was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6). There is nothing to suggest that Yeshua’s focus was anywhere, except upon his own people and to deliver them from the damaging delusions their leaders had slipped into. Incredibly so, we find almost exact parallels in Israel today, viz. utterly corrupt secular, political leaders and a thin layer of ultra religious people who tend to treat the common people in the street with disdain. The Biblical Judaism, as taught by the

Jewish Sages of yesteryear is almost invisible in public life! Only recently, a survey done in Israel revealed that many (secular) people would be interested in studying Torah albeit without Judaism!!! Do we not find a very similar situation in the Gentile world? People want (a) god, but without religion – especially Christianity!?

Israel and her people need to be of special, prayerful concern to us, because Israel is the heart of the world and Jerusalem is the heart of Israel. You don't need any graphic demonstrations when I say that, **'If the heart is sick – so is the rest of the body!'** Our world is terminally ill because corporately we have lost our living connection with our Creator.

Although I used the title Elohim here, I am not advocating that the masses ought to adopt it in place of the accepted form of G.O.D. Nevertheless, I am calling for a restoration of our Hebraic Roots and we CAN challenge Christians to become more conscious of the fact that when people speak about g-o-d, **they may not** be talking about the Elohim of Jesus, but a deity of their own understanding.

When I search the Scriptures to discover the identity of the Creator-Elohim, I find myself confronted with a being that cannot be defined with mere words. For this reason we come across anthropomorphisms almost without number describing Him that cannot be described, yet is willing to be called father (source, sustainer) by us feeble humans. When I then look into the stars at night, contemplate the wilderness of Judea, or ponder the amazing garments He gave to all creatures from the tiniest insect to the largest mammal, I tremble in awe of His Majesty. When I then consider that He reached into my world to provide a way for us into His world I cannot help, but stand in awe. I believe that this is what Abraham experienced and Moses, as well as David and all the prophets and eventually Yeshua.

Jesus/Yeshua never broke with the Creed, of his people. If this statement is true, then how can we declare that he started a new religion among his own people, or among the Gentiles. We must answer any such claim with a resounding NO! Indeed it is Peter, in his speech on that first and eventful day of the celebration of Pentecost (Shavuoth in Hebrew), who removes all doubt in this regard when he says in Acts 3:19, “...*change your mind and turn back to HaShem...*”. Furthermore, when Jesus gave the *'Lord's Prayer'* to his disciples, he set in concrete that

- a) His father was/is the invisible Elohim of the heavens to Whom all were accountable...
- b) His father had a name, which needed to be sanctified (set apart) – viz. Matth. 6:9 “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name....*”! In this prayer, which is today virtually unknown to most Christians, Jesus endorsed the sanctity of his Father's name that is proclaimed by Jewish people all over when they refuse to pronounce the ineffable name, by simple calling on HaShem – the Name!
- c) In all things that Jesus taught, when seen from a Jewish/Hebrew perspective, he never departed from the Creed that was handed down by his people. And there really is no other way to understand the doctrine he taught - apart from **Torah, the Prophets and the Writings**, i.e. T^cNakh or O.T. (c/f Lk.24:44 ff.)

The earliest Biblical records show that the ancients took great care in identifying a supernatural being who sought to communicate with them. (See Exod 3:14). Moses implied, by his response to the Almighty, that the identity of his sender would have meaning to his fellow Israelites. It was not enough

for Moses to declare to them that (a) god had given him a message, he needed to be able to identify, **“Who that God was!”** A similar attitude is also found in the NT— great care was taken in passing on an intimate and accurate knowledge of the deity to the generations following. Please note how Paul, the Apostle, admonishes Timothy to pass his teachings on to faithful, or trustworthy, men! (2 Tim. 2:2). Jewish history equally testifies to the painstaking care by which the scribes copied – and still do until this day – the Torah Scrolls used in Synagogues all over the world. Each scribe is admonished with these words: **“If only one letter of the Torah is lost or altered it is as good as destroying all of mankind!”** It is therefore not difficult to imagine that these copyists live with a terrible burden.

Is it any wonder to hear very similar words from the lips of Yeshua, viz.

“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Torah until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

In summary, therefore, the Christian world MUST return to the Creed of Yeshua if it is to regain any relevance and effectiveness in this world. We cannot continue to promote a religious system so totally separated from its source and aligned with paganism to its very core.

May HaShem be with you today and always!

Shalom.