

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

A MIGHTY FOUNDATION STONE IN THE MIDST OF ISRAEL

Those that would have us to turn our faces from the true circumcision and return to the old, have come among us and now stand in the camp of Israel proclaiming a deceitful message. Many of our brothers from the House of Judah have decided that the Book of Hebrews in scripture is not nearly “Torah friendly” enough. Monte Judah, of the Lion and Lamb Ministries, takes the book of Hebrews to task in his November 2005 newsletter. He begins by stating that he not saying that the book should not have been canonized, but the ensuing pages makes it abundantly clear that this is precisely what he is saying, or at least implying.

On one hand, I am surprised and shocked by this attack, on the other hand, I am not surprised at all. Scripture has warned us that these things would happen. Since I began my walk with the LORD, I have heard many traditional Christian teachers and preachers warn people about the Book of Hebrews as being too deep for laymen to understand, and that they should stay away. Now we have high profile Messianic teachers trashing the book. Why Hebrews? Because, I believe, more than any other book in scripture, Hebrews provides an opportunity for followers of Messiah to individually and personally go beyond the norm and into a journey deeper into YHWH GOD. The enemy has also recognized this Book as a portal into YHWH, and is doing everything he can to keep it closed. I believe that this journey is a supernatural one, sanctioned and instigated by YHWH himself to those that would stand at the door and yearn for a deeper relationship with HIM. Hebrews chapter 6 even contains an invitation by YHWH to make this journey. I believe that YHWH has permitted me to start that journey and for that I am tremendously grateful. In recent years, innumerable blessings have flowed from the Book of Hebrews and into my life and the lives of many brothers. Revelations regarding the Sabbath, the priesthood, the heavenly dimensions, the Israel of God and many others have burst from the pages of the Book of Hebrews as YHWH released them and opened our eyes to see. It is for this reason that the attack on the Book has taken on a personal meaning for me. There is absolutely no question in my mind or more importantly, in my personal experience with YHWH, that would suggest that the Book of Hebrews as found in our Bibles is not GOD breathed.

Monte Judah’s November newsletter is entitled “ The Paradigm of Hebrews” and in the beginning of the article, he make a point that most of the New Testament is “Hebrew” in thought and style while the Book of Hebrews is different in that it is predominately “Greek” in thought and style. Admittedly, I am not a Hebrew or Greek scholar. But, in all of my years of studying scripture, both the old and new covenant writings, it has never occurred to me that there existed an obvious difference through scripture in authorship. To me, it all appears to have been written by YHWH, and I have seen HIS hand involved throughout. I can discern nothing in the Book of Hebrews either in thought or style to convince me that this book is somehow “different” from the rest of scripture. I reject Monte’s contention that the paradigm that has arisen through the centuries that says that the Book is God breathed and that it must be right because it is scripture, is false. He goes

on to ask the question.... “ But is the paradigm the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”. To this question, I would have to answer..... most definitely yes!

Monte then goes on to pose a question “Is the author of Hebrews pro-torah?” He quotes what he says is prevalent Christian thinking “ It is a masterful defense for the superiority of Jesus Christ over Judaism”. Thus he says, the answer to the question is no. He also says that maybe prevalent Christian thinking is wrong. What? Is he saying that the Book of Hebrews is not a masterful defense for the superiority of Yahshua over Judaism, or is he saying that the statement is true, but that somehow the Book should have been written so that it was not true. It appears he is saying that if the Book was GOD inspired the answer to the question should have been yes. He then utilizes several examples to prove that the Book is not pro-torah. One is in Hebrews 5:12-15, where Monte says that the verses urges the readers to leave “that elementary teaching and press on to maturity”. Monte says that the elementary teaching referenced here is the torah. The only problem here is that this is not what is said. The verses following in Chapter 6 very clearly states what the elementary teaching spoken of consists of, and it is not the torah. In any event, I looked at these verses in several translations and none of them leaves the impression of a command to leave anything, but rather to move on from, taking the elementary things with us. As is said in these verses, this is an invitation by YHWH God to move on to maturity. The other examples cited by Monte are equally as thin as this one. I must admit that I am somewhat confused by the point raised by Monte in all of this.

The truth in the above question is that the Book of Hebrews is neither pro or con in regard to the torah. It is simply stating a fact. The bloody sacrificial death of the true Lamb of GOD has forged a new Priesthood forever and where there has come a new Priesthood, it necessarily follows that there is a change in the law. Presently, the torah as it comes to us, is filtered through the person of our High Priest, Messiah Yahshua, who now ministers on our behalf in the tabernacle not made with human hands. As Messiah said elsewhere in scripture, he did not come to replace the law, but to fulfill (or to fill to the fullest) the law. Praise YHWH GOD HE has done so.

On page 10 of the newsletter, Monte makes a huge point of the use of the word reformation in Hebrews 9:6-10. He goes on to say that in all of his years of studying the Torah, he had yet to find any prophecy regarding the Messiah and a time of restoration when HE comes. Excuse me, but isn't that the whole point in what Messiah came to do. The Greek word in Hebrews translated “restoration” is Strong's # 1357 diorthosis, which means “a making straight, restoring to it's natural and normal condition”. Even before Messiah's ministry began, John the Baptist was proclaiming that he was making straight the paths of the LORD, and that one that would come after him would “baptize with fire”. This sounds a lot like restoration to me. Did the LORD not run the money changers from the temple? Did HE not scold the Pharisees about the Sabbath and numerous other points in their interpretation of the law? At HIS crucifixion was not the veil in the Temple rent from top to bottom? Even after HIS ascension, HIS Servants going out into the world under the power of the Spirit were described as those that “were turning the whole world upside down”. The Torah and the law was never intended by the LORD to bring people to righteousness through legalistic means. It was intended as a tutor until Messiah

brought a time of restoration and provided a means by which mankind could be “restored” back to YHWH. Making such a huge point of the use of this word is the shallowest attempt one could imagine in attacking God’s word.

In reading Monte’s newsletter attacking Hebrews, it is clear that he has made the reading of scripture into an intellectual pursuit. Although even in the natural, he has not made his case, in the Spiritual, he has not even entered the contest. Scripture can only be fathomed through Spiritual eyes. It became a joke many years ago among our fellowship, as time after time YHWH would reveal great truths hidden there in plain sight in scripture. The passage would be read time after time and year after year, but until YHWH opens our eyes, it would remain hidden. One case in point is Monte’s contrasting the scriptures in Exodus 24: 3-8 with those in Hebrews 9:18-22. The writer in Hebrews describes Moses as using the blood of calves and goats mixed with water to sprinkle the people and utensils, while Exodus says that Moses uses the blood of bulls only to sprinkle the people. According to Monte, this difference in scriptures renders Hebrews as damaged goods. When I first encountered these scriptures in Hebrews and saw them with the eyes of the Spirit, the only conclusion that became obvious to me was that Hebrews was expanding and clarifying what had actually happened at the mountain of YHWH. From this came wonderful truths and revelation regarding the blood and water of the covenant. The blood and water Moses used to sprinkle the people was a type of what was to follow with Messiah.

Monte’s newsletter contains many more inconsistencies which I will not attempt to address at this time. The book of Hebrews, from beginning to end, is a celebration of Messiah Yahshua and just as HE, it is mighty foundation stone lying in the midst of HIS people Israel. This mighty foundation stone is apparently a stone of offence to many. I would echo a stern warning given somewhere in scripture..... fall on this stone and be broken, or it will fall on you.