

CIRCUMCISION LIBERTY FOR NEW COVENANT ISRAEL

Part Nine In the Series On The Restoration Of Israel

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Torah teaches us that Israelites for all generations must meet three requirements to be able to eat the Passover as equal heirs in Israel. These basic requirements are found in Exodus chapter 12. First and foremost, the Israelite or stranger (Ger) must have the desire and compulsion to remain or join permanently with Israel's people. Both an Israelite [Judah and Ephraim after 921BCE] and a Ger are required to stay put in the corporate body of Israel (Exodus12: 48). Second he must also kill and eat the Paschal Lamb for himself and his house, and must apply the blood to the doorposts of his home. In the context of the Brit Chadasha, of course, Israelites professing faith in Messiah Yahshua must be apply His covering of atoning blood, to the doorposts of our hearts, which is the home where the indwelling Ruach Ha-Kodesh actually and literally is said to reside. The third and final requirement was the circumcision of all who ate the Paschal Lamb as they dwelt with the people of Yahuwah. Exodus 12:48 teaches us that prior to receiving the Paschal Lamb and the deliverance deeded to a rightful heir in Israel, all males must have undergone prior circumcision or Brit Milah.

The three Passover ordinances were binding as Torah (Exodus 12:49) for all Israel. Both biological Israelites

and Gerim. Thus all sharing this commonwealth were Israelites and had one Torah or set of instructions for set apart living. How radically different Torah really is from modern day Messianic Judaism, where "Gentiles" may be allowed to celebrate the same Torah, if they behave as good little subjected Gentiles. If any of these so called "Gentiles" should step out of line by seeking or laying claim to Israelite equality, their place as an heir to Torah and the fruits of obedience to it, they are discouraged, with the worn out reasoning that "Torah is a burden only for the Jews, that you are too weak too carry!"

Is this not a blasphemy against Yahuwah, calling His Torah a burden?? Do we not fear contradicting Scripture? [Read Psalm 19, 119 and II Timothy 3:15-17 to see that Scripture (and Torah is Scripture) is not a burden.] Indeed, obedience to Torah is nothing other than a blessing. Why would we want to bear false witness against Yahuwah and His Torah?? Why would we want to discourage Torah observance in any people? Would we fear that they would do a better job than we do, and so replace us? Is the fear that Torah observance would classify all who continue in it, as Israel? What a lack of faith in the Almighty One who loved us so much that He planned from the very beginning to redeem us by grace, in One who loved us so much that He gave us His instructions to show us the way to walk, in the Almighty who cut an eternal blood covenant with us!

Considering the eternal nature of these three requirements for divine conversion to Israel by Gerim, along with native biological Israelites, we must address the question of circumcision for those of returning

Ephraim-Israel as well as those of Judah. One thing is clear according to Exodus 12:24 & 42. The Passover celebration is to be guarded forever, and so the three requirements, including male circumcision must also be forever. Where does that leave Messianic Nazarene Yisraelites who claim that heart circumcision is a legitimate fulfilled prerequisite for Passover celebration and Israelite citizenship?

It simply does not meet the literal requirement of Torah. Rav Shaul, also known as Paul, knew that many of the nations he was taking the gospel to would have to undergo this very specified physical circumcision along with the heart renewal leading to regeneration. He was acutely aware that his mission was to rebuild the Tabernacle of David, also known as the Commonwealth of Israel. In order to do this, he had to rebuild it, according to the Master builder's grand design (First Corinthians 3:9-11). If Rav Shaul has mistakenly taught non-Jewish believers, who were being rescued from the nations, that they could eat the Passover or even the mini version known as the Master's (Lord's) Supper, then he would be found in direct contradiction and violation of Torah, and the eternal Torah requirement for partaking of the Passover or "Lord's Supper". When we properly understand that a Jewish rabbi knowing the Torah, would never force new converts to break Torah and illegally eat damnation upon themselves by not discerning the regulations governing the eating of the Passover, we then must agree that it is our thinking and previous mentoring that needs alteration. We proceed with that alteration. We will take a close up look at the Book of Galatians and the male circumcision issue and

attempt to line things up with Scripture.

We are not transformers of the Word, but are called to declare thus saith Yahuwah and that alone! Yahuwah has ordained that according to Galatians 6:16 and Ephesians 2:11-19, that all true born-again believers whether through Judah, Ephraim or grafted in non-Israelites, are members of Israel's Commonwealth and citizens of the very nation itself. The constitution and ketuvah (marriage certificate) of that nation is Torah, the written five books of Moshe! What is most interesting is that the Complete Jewish Bible by Dr. David Stern translates Ephesians 2:11 as follows: "Therefore remember your former state. You Gentiles by birth-called uncircumcised (akrobustia) by those who, merely because of an operation of the flesh, are called circumcised (peritome) 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Israel. These returning non-Jews were estranged which according to Webster's Dictionary means "a friend changed. Kept at a distance." Is not that exactly a vivid description of the House of Israel? Family friends changed and now kept at a distance! Until Messiah's coming that is!

The Greek word used in Galatians 2:7 for Paul's ministry to the uncircumcised is the word akrobustia (Strong's Greek #203), which literally means tossed away foreskins (the discarded prepuce or tip). He was stating that even as James and Peter were called to the circumcised (peritome; Strong's Greek # 4061). The same word peritome is used in describing the mission of James, Peter and John to Jewish-Israel. This peritome means those living and abiding in circumcised identity or the

House of Judah! The Greek word Paul used to describe his ministry to the uncircumcised in Galatians 2:7, describes just what Paul was doing in the nations or among the Goyim. Was he primarily looking for heathens as is commonly taught? Or was he first looking for lost sheep of the House of Israel (Ephraim), as per Yahshua's instructions? The Greek word Paul used in describing his own mission to the nations is the word akrobustia, which does not mean Gentiles per se, but a subset within the Gentiles! The term akrobustia as opposed to peritome means those who were previously circumcised but through disobedience and outright rebellion, had their foreskins tossed away, thus becoming like one who is born and raised as an uncircumcised (aperitome) Gentile-pagan. The opposite of a ministry to the peritome (which Peter had) would have been one to the aperitome or never circumcised. Yet Paul did not claim a ministry to the aperitome or never circumcised, rather his ministry according to his own description was to the akrobustia or those who had undergone circumcision previously but tossed it all away!

The only people that fit the bill in this context is the House Of Israel that acted profanely wherever they went among the Gentiles. When living among the Gentiles they refused to fight for their peritome lifestyle of faith and trust as much of Judah did in Diaspora. The House of Israel merely tossed in the towel, succumbing to surrounding paganism. This turned their original peritome status into akrobustia or the circumcised ones who took their circumcision and played the harlot by considering Torah life a burden and something to be tossed away. Had Paul been primarily sent to the pagans

first and foremost, he would have used the word aperitome, the exact opposite of peritome, by adding the "a" alpha prefix that negates peritome! Instead he openly declared that he understood his mission by identifying the akrobustia as his primary focus, thus placing his call to the nations (Gentiles) in search of the ten-tribes of Israel, in line with that of the Master Himself! Remember Paul could have come out and talked about the House of Israel and Judah, but instead went with the healing flow of the Israelite moniker, for both the peritome and the akrobustia to which he was sent!

The often difficult to understand contrasts of Paul in Romans 2: 24-29 about the uncircumcised (akrobustia) practicing Torah, and thus (once again) becoming circumcised, can be easily, and at long last be understood, when and if we realize that it is the akrobustia (Ephraim-Israelites), whom Rav Shaul is appealing to. It is Ephraim-Israel who Paul is calling back to their original peritome blessed status. Paul is not telling never-circumcised (aperitome) pagans to become Israelites by simply doing Torah commands! Rather he is calling Ephraim-Israel home (teshuvah) to their original standing, as faithful Torah-keeping Israel. Romans 2:24 brings all doubt to an end, for Rav Shaul quotes Ezekiel 36: 22-23 as a clear reference to the ten-tribes (House of Israel), who were responsible for causing Yahuwah's Name to be disgraced among the all the nations (Goyim) wherever they went!

This understanding is confirmation that believers in Messiah are in fact the akrobustia and peritome of Galatians 2:7 reunited at long last. The far and the near

being bonded through Messiah's atoning blood! In James 1:2 we see the epistle being addressed to believers as a clarification of verse one, where these same believers in Messiah are called the scattered twelve tribes. It doesn't get much more exciting and it does not force the seeker to fish out some hidden meanings through secondary meanings and hyper-spiritualization and manmade metaphors, forced into plain texts such as these.

The city and Book of Galatians takes its very name, from the Hebrew word for exile, which is Galut. There are no vowels in biblical Hebrew and this G-L-T sequence is found in many other words. The Book of GaLaTians has this Hebrew root embedded within it. The House of Israel taken into exile by Assyria in 721BCE, were to become the early inhabitants of Galatia. Galut or Garut in Armenian with the 'R' pronounced like the French as some Jews do. According to historical sources the Galatians were three Celtic tribes that spoke one language and moved to Asia Minor around the 3rd century BCE from Europe. Later on they were subdued by the Romans, served them and were Hellenized. They very well could have been Israelite tribes trying to get back to the Promised Land, but the fact of the matter is they didn't make it to Israel. Moreover a few years later, The Hekel (Temple) was destroyed by the will of the Father.

The true reason that non-Jewish disciples were not required to undergo circumcision is not because they had no claims to having Israelite blood, but because of a far different and yet truly breathtaking discovery in these

texts:

"The word uncircumcision does not mean Gentiles in the ReNewed Covenant Scriptures and specifically in Galatians. We must take some time to explain this. To negate a word like circumcision in English, we simply add the prefix 'un' to it. In Greek, they did the same thing. Herein lies the problem with the translation into English coming out as uncircumcised or uncircumcision. The regular Greek word for circumcision is peritome (Strong's Greek # 4061). All that is needed to negate it in the Greek is to add a prefix 'a' before it. Simple enough! But in the twenty times the word uncircumcised appears in the English KJV, only once, in Acts 7:51, does it appear in the Greek as a negation of peritome or aperitome. Surprisingly this one exception refers not to non-Jews but to Jews. The other nineteen times it is an altogether different word, akrobustia; that literally means the outer extremity of the penis, the foreskin that was removed. Perhaps this word akrobustia was too strong for the translators, but in changing its true meaning from foreskinned ones to uncircumcised ones, the true meaning has been lost."

The Hebrew word for foreskins is arelim, which is masculine plural. In its feminine plural form it is arlot, where the English word harlot is derived from. The Jews referred to the House of Israel that was carried away into captivity in this derogatory manner. (Ephesians 2:11, in speaking to returning

Ephraim Paul states: remember that you being in time past Gentiles (Ethnos) in the flesh who are called 'uncircumcision (akrobustia or unforeskinned ones, the foreskin which is in fact cast off or thrown away), by that which is called circumcision (peritome) in the flesh made by hands (Torah keeping House of Judah.) They, the akrobustia, were the castoffs or the castaways. These meanings must be substituted back into the English verses where the word 'uncircumcision' is found, in order to see that it is the House of Israel in exile that is being addressed by Paul whenever he uses this particular word."

The reference in Galatians 2:7 is not to pagan aperitome peoples who were never circumcised, but rather to the akrobustia, or those who had tips of foreskin of the penis removed at a prior time (House of Israel), only to toss this sign of submission and obedience to the wind as mentioned earlier. This term as stated by Rabbi Klimeck was derogatory in nature, and applied to a particular castaway group known, not as uncircumcised pagans or true Gentiles, but as those who were stupid enough to toss it all away. They had been circumcised previously, and as the akrobustia of Israel, did not need further circumcision. Thus no need to perform a physical circumcision for the non-Jews accepting Messiah since they already were circumcised previously in prior generations. There would be no sense in repeating the mitzvah!

This very unique and specific term (akrobustia) would

have identified exiled Israel as the subject of all these texts. This truth cannot be avoided since 19 out of 20 times in the ReNewed Covenant, the term akrobustia (not aperitome) is used, when speaking of non-Jewish disciples!

The entire supposed prohibition against physical circumcision, which appears only in the Book of Galatians, is one of the most misunderstood areas of Holy Writ. The Messianic Jewish movement is simply satisfied repeating old, worn-out "church" pabulum arguing that Paul, a Jewish rabbi (he also calls himself an Israelite in Rom. 11:1) forbid the token seal of Abraham's Covenant to non-Jews. Physical circumcision is not a Torah ordinance alone, but in fact pre-dates the Torah by some 600 years. Thus how could Paul call believers Abraham's sperma (Greek) or seed in Galatians 3:29, identifying them with the Abrahamic Covenant, and then withhold Brit Milah or circumcision the very token and entry point into the Abrahamic Covenant to all new pagan (aperitome) converts, especially in the light of the returning akrobustia?

If Rav Shaul forbids physical circumcision to and in the assembly that he planted in Galatia and then turned right around and physically circumcised his son in the faith, Timothy, then we are faced with the unpleasant idea that Paul is a first class hypocrite, teaching one thing and doing another, especially to a man that was the son of a Greek father. This is an absolute impossibility, at all levels of understanding. Timothy was considered an aperitome or never circumcised non-Jew because of his Greek father. Paul responds by sealing him into the

Abrahamic Covenant, via circumcision.

We must understand that peritome or "the circumcised" in Rav Shaul's writings are synonymous with Jewish-Israel. It is said that Peter was sent to the circumcised. Galatians 2:8 talks about Peter's ministry to the circumcised and Paul in Titus calls Jews the nation of the circumcised-peritome. In context the entire Galatian Heresy has nothing to do with Abrahamic circumcision, but teaching a falsehood that the Jerusalem brethren were proliferating in Galatia. Namely, that a person trusting Yahshua by saving faith, could not be saved without a man-ordained conversion to become Jewish (peritome) or convert to Judaism! That is heresy, because the gospel is free to whosoever will come. Therefore the Book of Galatians forbids man-made conversions to Judaism (the peritome or the circumcised nation), as some sort of necessary prerequisite to receive the blood of Yahshua's forgiveness.

Nowhere does he or any other apostle for that matter forbid the token of Genesis 17:23 to a new convert. We can rest assured that new converts to Messiah were being circumcised just as Timothy was, who being Greek, most likely had Ephraimite (father) and Jewish (mother) bloodlines. Therefore Titus must also have been circumcised, in order for Paul to be consistent. Neither Timothy nor Titus was biblically Jewish.

Nineteen out of twenty times the English word for uncircumcised, and by implication translated as Gentiles, actually means Ephraim (the House of Israel), the "tossed away foreskinned ones." The only time that

uncircumcised is not akrobustia in the actual Greek text, is when Stephen condemns Jewish-Israel's leadership as aperitome. In its sole usage it ironically is a clear reference to Judah, not akrobustia-Israel. The argument presented from Galatians is very strong evidence regarding the coming home of the exiled akrobustia and the fact that Paul himself was not as is commonly taught the apostle to the Gentiles but was sent to the nations to search first and foremost for the tossed away akrobustia!

Scripture underscores that Paul's mission trips, were primarily to all the nations, to find the lost sheep of the House of Israel in exile, or those that Scripture refers to as the akrobustia. The post-Nicean paganization of the Messianic community does not change the fact that those Jews and Israelites from all the pagan nations were still the biological seed of the patriarchs. The underlying truth that what one believes (even in global Diaspora) cannot change one's DNA!

There is one gospel to the peritome or Jews. The other to the akrobustia or tossed away foreskins, who had spread out and filled the nations with their waywardness. This so-called division is a clear statement, that within Israel the corporate nation, there are faithful Jews who live right, and there are others who are circumcised but whose wayward lifestyle relegated them to akrobustia, or "tossed away ones!" This Torah dishonoring lifestyle by the ten tribes, places them in the same exact behavioral category as a true pagan or an aperitome. Akrobustia is a direct reference to Israel in Assyrian exile. Thus there are not two gospels, (Jew and Gentile) but one message sent simultaneously to the somewhat faithful House of

Judah and one to the harlot House of Israel. Two-houses; One message! Even this division finds healing in Yahshua.

In light of these startling insights into the identity of the akrobustia, peritome and aperitome, how do those of Messianic Nazarene Yisrael walk out these truths? Let us address each segment of New Covenant Israel. For those of the House of Judah or the peritome, you more than likely have been circumcised and undergone either Brit Milah on the eighth day or else you were circumcised in the hospital. In either case abide as you are. For those who have never been circumcised and have not yet come into the revelation of your true identity in the nation of Israel, do not act, but abide as you are and stay in an attitude of supplication and prayer. Only when the Ruach has revealed your place in the Commonwealth of Israel should you act, as He would have you to. Remember that as a professing Israelite you are still are called into the Brit Milah in order to properly participate and discern Yahuwah's Passover.

Finally for those of Ephraim-Israel, my counsel is this: You need to be circumcised, since your ancestors at one time were, only to have tossed their foreskin away as an act of defiance and rebellion. You have the opportunity now, to reverse that rebellious spirit! According to Romans chapter 2: 24-29, if you are from the returning *akrobustia* of the exiled House of Israel (Ephraim), you need to perform the righteous requirements of Torah, (which would include *Brit Milah*) as well as exercise saving Messianic faith in Messiah Yahshua, to have your *peritome* or circumcised state returned and restored to

you spiritually as well as physically. The returning House of Israel should look upon *Brit Milah* (circumcision) much as it views *mikvah* (baptism). They are both exciting opportunities to perform obedient acts of Torah, even as Messiah Yahshua Himself underwent both *mitvzot*!

Having said that, there are two other most valid points. If you are either Judah or Ephraim peritome or akrobustia, and you have undergone hospital circumcision or wish to renew your place in Messianic Nazarene Yisrael as an Israelite you may undergo HaTafat Dam. This procedure is just a pricking of the male organ and the drawing of just a tiny drop of blood. Many from both houses are renewing their faith in Israel's Messiah, Torah and people, by participating in this simple procedure. The Hatafat Dam can be likened to a renewal of marriage vows or of a mikvah (baptism) done with bible faith, as opposed to an infant baptism where no biblical expression of faith was required. One way or another ultimately all will hopefully manifest the token of the Abrahamic Covenant of which Scripture says believers are a part of! In much the same way, as baptism does not save us from sins, but is an outward manifestation of an inward reality. If we take that approach, eventually through the leading of His Ruach, all in Messianic Nazarene Yisrael will be both spiritually and physically circumcised.