EPHESIANS 2:14-15 HAT HAS BEEN ABOLISHED' in the Flesh of Yahusha?

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When reading EPHESIANS 2:14-15 what is the middle wall of partition that has been abolished?



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Addressing Yahuah's Feasts in Ephesians 2

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Today we want to consider Ephesians 2:14-16, because this is a text which is often being used by those who hold that Yahusha abolished the Torah by His death at calvary!

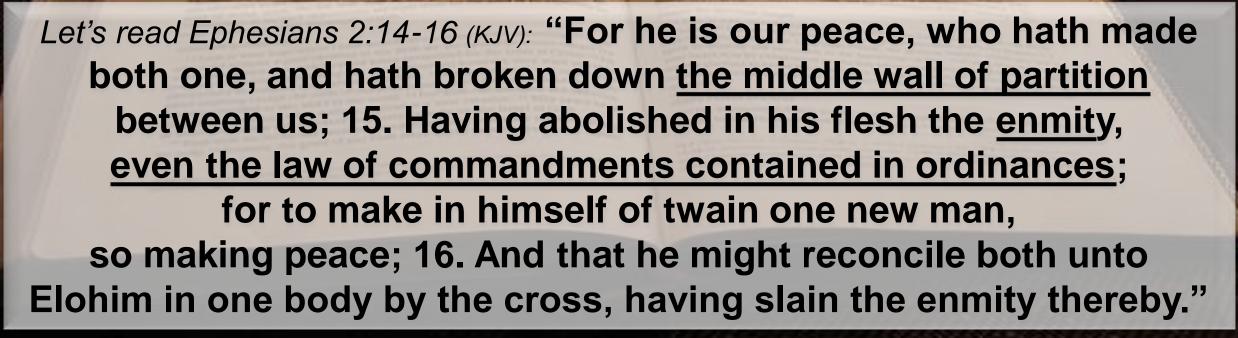


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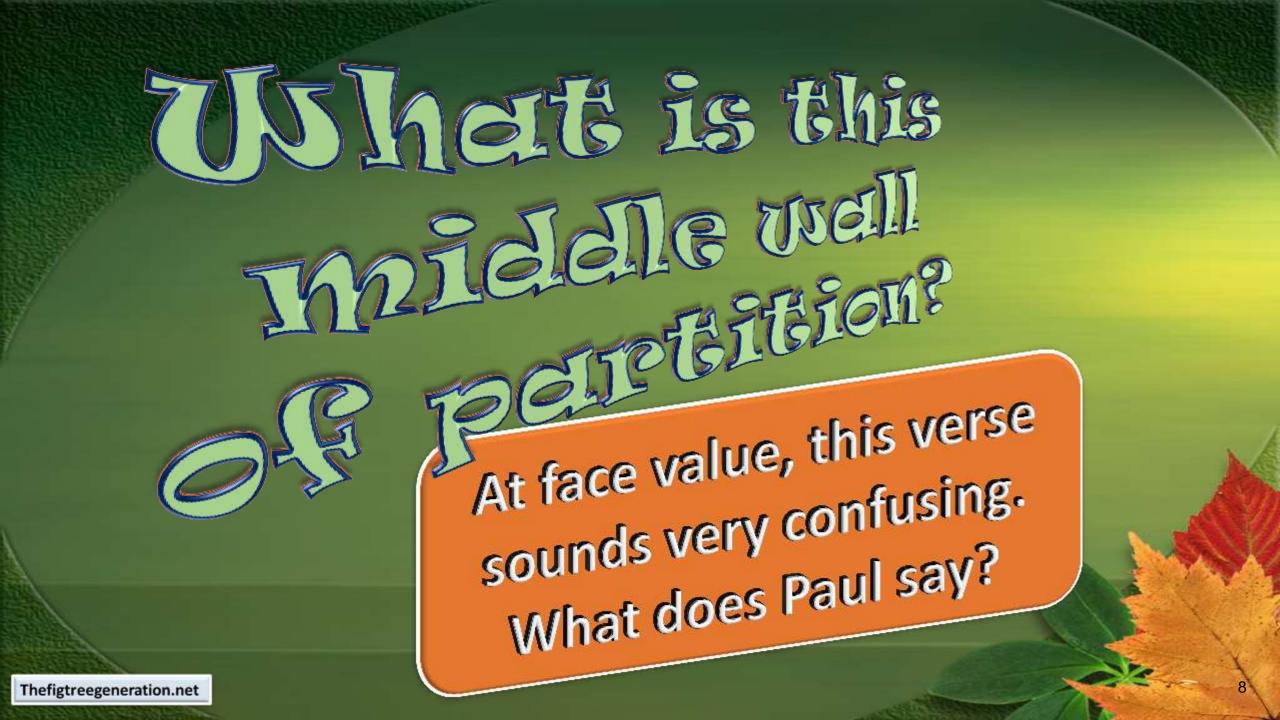
Through my studies a few years ago I learned that God and LORD are fake titles put into our Bibles to replace the **Real Names of our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son.** The True Names have been removed over 7000 times from Scripture and replaced by God, LORD and/or Jesus of which two are not names but titles like Mr. or Mrs. Isn't it amazing if you ask a Muslim whom he worships he will say "Allah" which is the name of his god and if you ask a Buddhist the name of his god he will say "Buddha" which is his name. Yet we as professed believers in our Creator do not even know the name of who we worship!

Therefore, I use the four Hebrew letters yod, hey, vav, hey (in English YHVH), and I pronounce it as Yahuwah instead of LORD, which is a title - not a name. I also use Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration from a Greek mistransliteration. The name Jesus has no meaning, in Hebrew nor in English!

YHVH and Yahusha are the actual original Hebrew names that speak of our Savior's true nature and character. Since the Father has a Hebrew name, the Son cannot have a Greek name, because the Son came in the name of His Father (John 5:43)!



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Millions of people have been, and are still being, deceived! Ministers and laymen alike have focused on this Scripture and have fallen into a trap, which Peter warned about. They have twisted it to say what it does NOT say and are bringing destruction upon themselves unknowingly!



Is that a serious statement "to bring yourself unknowingly to destruction?" Much of the information in this presentation is taken from a website called <torahresource.com>.

Peter spoke of our beloved brother, Paul, and says: "As in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable twist, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16 (KJV)



As mentioned, "Ephesians 2:14-15" is an often-used text by those who hold that YAHUSHA abolished the Torah by His death.

In other words: abolishing the commandments!

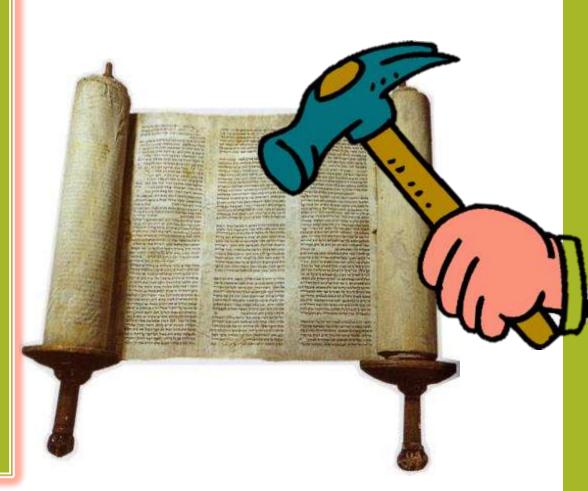
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Let's make one point very clear. The verses in Ephesians 2:14-15 as well as Colossians 2:14 cannot be referring to the sacrificial laws or any other divine laws. Not one of these laws were ever "against us" nor did they create "enmity." All laws were for the good of the people. The only one that would be talking negative about any of YHVH's laws has to be Satan.



When Yahusha spoke of "law" He meant all of Elohim's Word. He said **"Thy Word is Truth"** (John 17:17 - *KJV*). All of YHVH's Word is the truth just as His **"law – Torah"** according to Psalm 119:142. **David understood it, yet why** <u>don't people who profess to know Yahusha, understand it?</u>

We know the familiar verses in Matthew 5:17-18 where Yahusha said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the Torah, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say to you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Torah, till all be fulfilled."



When one reads the 2nd Chapter of Ephesians, it can be seen that **the central theme of Paul is the** <u>oneness of Jew and Gentile as united in Messiah</u>. That the Gentiles should be blessed within the scope of the Abrahamic promise was never questioned. What had been left a mystery was <u>the manner</u> in which the blessing would come upon the nations!



18. For through him <u>we both</u> have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,



But <u>fellow citizens</u> with the saints and of the household of Elohim. 20. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Y'shua Ha Mashiach himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in Yahweh. In whom ye also are <u>builded together</u> for an habitation of Elohim through the Spirit. <u>The method of blessing the Gentiles</u> is emphasized by the words like fellow-citizen, fellow-heirs, fellow-members, fellow-partakers. The Gentiles would be blessed not in a separate community, a separate entity but by being grafted into the ancient community of YHVH. Both Jews and Gentiles would <u>be wedded into one</u> and thus mutually share the blessings of Elohim. Gentile believers were to be accepted as full citizens within the believing community without undergoing the ritual of a proselyte.



This issue brought <u>division</u> within the early emerging Believers. Some felt that a non-Jew had fewer privileges within the community than a Jew; some considered full fledged salvation impossible apart from becoming a proselyte, and still others refused to fellowship in fullness with the non-Jews of The Way.

Each of these perspectives was for Paul a "different gospel," since union with Messiah was the sole basis of entrance and privilege within the family of Elohim. This union was a matter of grace, not of the works of the Torah. All members had the same position before the Father, because all members were in Messiah.

Any activity that taught something different than this was to be cursed. We could assume that each party was sincere in their stand but grossly influenced by their past upbringing and teachings.

The text in Ephesians centers upon this unification of Jew and Gentile in Messiah but does so from the perspective of the cross. It is the sacrificial death of Messiah that has established the means of unity, for it was by His death that the enmity between Jew and Gentile was destroyed. For **Paul** the sacrifice of Yahusha not only made atonement for sin, but it also established the basis for blessing the Gentiles by removing all the obstacles to unity with the chosen people. Both Jew and Gentile, apart from union with Messiah, are excluded from the blessing of YAH.



Placement in the kingdom is a matter of Yahuwah's grace and leaves no room for anyone to boast, not even the Jew.

Biblical Grace is not only unmerited favor, or mercy, or forgiveness, but a change in the human condition, because of a change in the human heart by YHVH! Many bible translations and bible scholars explain grace as simply unmerited favor. However, according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the main connotation is, "that grace is that divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in that life." In 21st century language this means, YHVH touches your heart and changes you. When that change is reflected in your life, that's Grace!!

Grace is not divine permission to sin and do as we want, thinking it's all covered by grace anyway. If you are going to sin, knowing that you shouldn't, you do not need grace, you need mercy, and forgiveness.

Grace is, in fact, a divine power that allows us to think as YHVH thinks. It changes our heart; and it heals our hate, anger, hurt, fear, and betrayal.

Grace is the power of Elohim that gives us the desire to live right, and the ability to do so. It gives us the desire and the ability to please YHVH; and point people to Him. The <u>external labels</u> given by the established, religious churches or denominations are of no real consequence, for <u>YHVH is more</u> <u>interested in the heart than in one's pedigree</u>.











YHVH accepts into His family those whose sins have been forgiven by the death of the Messiah. The Gentiles have been "brought near" because the dividing wall that prohibited them from coming near has been broken down through the cross. If Elohim the Father has accepted all who come by faith in Yahusha, then clearly the children ought also to accept each other.

Let's look at some other Bible translations of Ephesians 2:14-15: "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace." NASB



"For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace." **Ephesians 2:14-15** (NIV)



"For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace."

Ephesians 2:14-15 (NRSV)



"For he is himself our peace. Gentiles and Jews, he has made the two one, and in his own body of flesh and blood has broken down the barrier of enmity which separated them; for he annulled the law with its rules and regulations, so as to create out of the two a single new humanity in himself, thereby making peace." Ephesians 2:14-15 (RSV)



"For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom." **Ephesians 2:14-15** [Jewish New Testament]



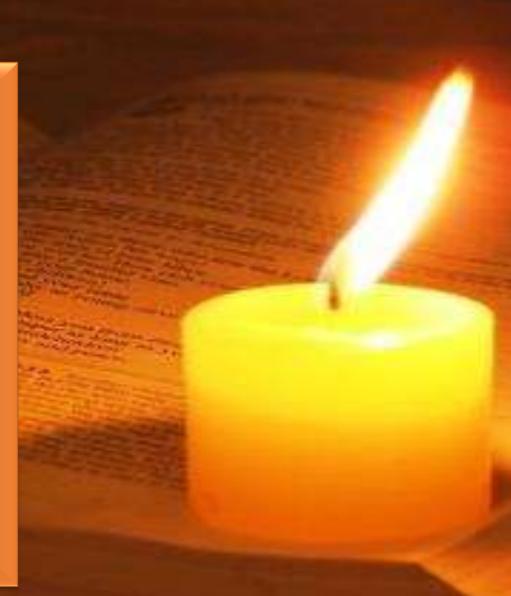
Taken at face value, some feel these translations present the text as a pointed assertion by the apostle Paul that Messiah abolished the Mosaic Torah by His sacrificial death, and that the Torah was the instrument of hostility that erected a dividing wall between Jew and Gentile.

Is that true?

Just reading these verses in Eph 2:14-15, you could come to the conclusion (as most Christian Churches come to) that the Messiah abolished, and did away with the Law, (or the everlasting Torah) at His death. However, the difficulty with such an interpretation is twofold:

First, it contradicts the clear teaching of Yahusha Himself that He did not abolish the written Torah (see Matthew 5:17-18) and

Secondly, the written Torah never demanded a wall between Jew and Gentile!





The dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles was 100% man-made!

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Ephesians 2:14 is making the plain statement that Yahusha didn't create the wall but he "broke down" the dividing wall. The Greek term translated "broke down" can mean "to loose," "untie," "set free," "break up," "destroy," "bring to an end," "abolish," or "do away with."

Notice, the LAST definition is "do away with."

Contextually, the abolishing action is viewed as final = as a death. Thus, the barrier, whatever that barrier was, is done away with forever.



Then we have the word *"Katargew" (katargeo),* translated as "abolished" describing what Yahusha did to the "enmity" between Jew and Gentile. It usually means "to render void," "make ineffective," "powerless," "abolish," "wipe out," or "set aside," and is used in the context of: rendering laws or edicts of no more effect.

That is in verse 15 (Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments, contained in ordinances) for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.



The object of the verb "to destroy" is "the dividing wall of the barrier" or the "middle wall of partition!"

But what is that dividing wall?

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The Jews had actually a physical wall constructed even in the court of the temple to physically separate out the Gentiles.

Yet, spiritually, both were cut off from YHVH because both were sinners. "All have sinned..." we read in Romans 3:23.

The Soreg is the small wall right before the stairs to go up to the Temple. It was meant to keep Gentiles (non-Jews) away from this most holy place.

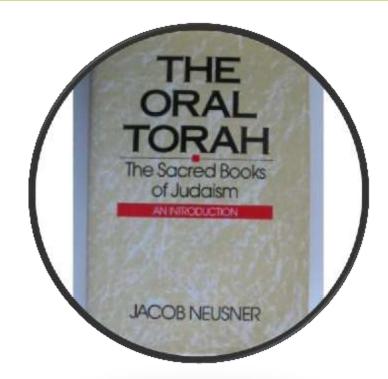
The Soreg was a five foot wall on the Temple Mount that kept the Gentiles away from approaching the Temple itself. The Temple area was considered holy and clean. Gentiles, on the other hand, were considered unrighteous and defiled. Thus, Jews could approach the Temple, Gentiles could not. In A.D. 1871, archeologists discovered the "Soreg Inscription." The inscription was written in Greek with this chilling warning: No Gentile may enter within the railing around the Sanctuary and within the enclosure. Whosoever should be caught will render himself liable to the death penalty which will inevitably flow.

Here is a stone block from the original Soreg (the Middle Wall) - The Temple Warning to Gentiles!



However, the wall spoken of by Paul in Eph. 2:14 could not be the physical dividing wall made out of stone in the 2nd Temple as some commentators have assumed. Why? Because: (a) it was still standing at the time Paul wrote Ephesians, and (b) the terminology Paul uses to describe the wall is different than the terms regularly used for that dividing wall in the Temple. <torahresource.com>

Secondly, the Greek term "fragmo" (fragmos) was used in the 1st Century to identify <u>the Oral Torah</u> as a "wall" or "fence" around the written Torah, and <u>the Pharisees as</u> "builders of the wall."

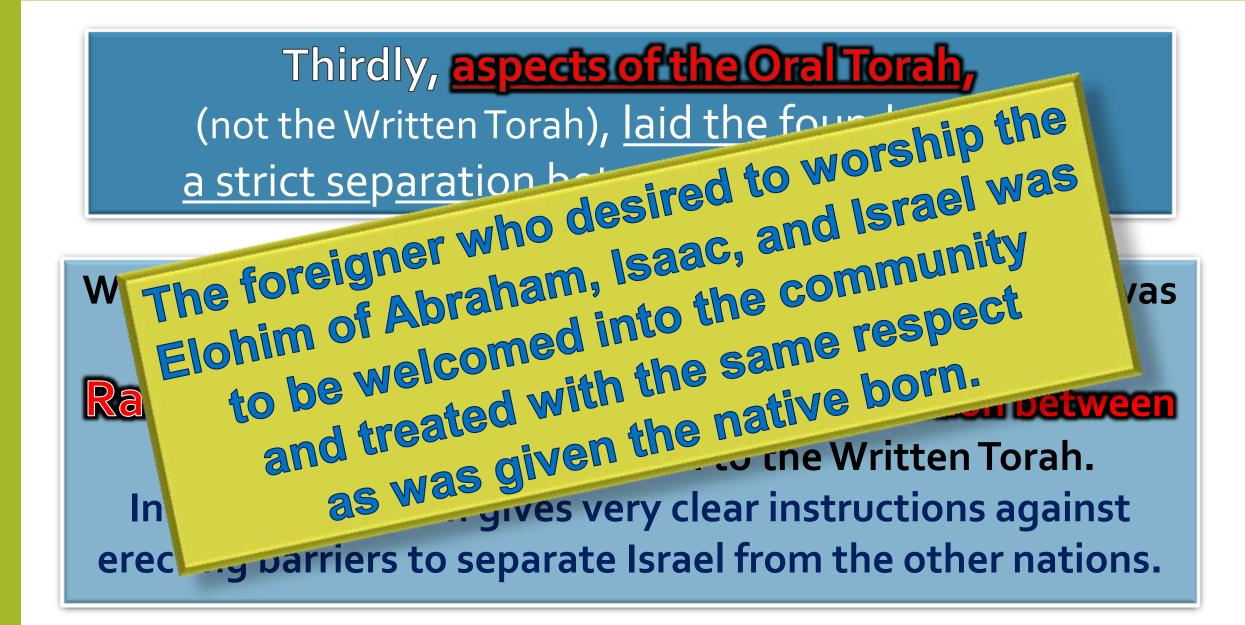


So who was the builder of the dividing wall?

It was the Pharisees!

Thirdly, <u>aspects of the Oral Torah</u>, (not the Written Torah), <u>laid the foundation for</u> <u>a strict separation between Jew and non-Jew</u>.

What we are simply saying is that the dividing wall that was abolished by Messiah was none other than those Rabbinic laws which had enforced a separation between Jew and Gentile in opposition to the Written Torah. In fact, the Tanakh gives very clear instructions against erecting barriers to separate Israel from the other nations.



Here are a few texts that support this:

"Thou shalt neither vex a <u>stranger</u>, oppress him; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Exo 22:21 (KJV)

"Thou shalt not oppress <u>a stranger</u>: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt!" Exo 23:9 (KJV)

"The stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt <u>love</u> <u>him as thyself</u>; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your Elohim." Lev 19:34 (KJV) "And if <u>thy brother</u> be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, <u>though he be a stranger</u>, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee." **Lev 25:35** (KJV)

"When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, **the stranger**, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled." **Deut 26:12** (KJV) The strangers were to be given full participation in matters of Torah and Torah-life. Like Sabbath keeping in Exodus 33:12:

"Six days shalt thou do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed." KJV

Then we have Leviticus 19:10 when gleaning the land: "And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor <u>and stranger</u>: I am the YHVH your Elohim." клу The same applied to justice in **Exodus 12:49**: "<u>One law</u> shall be to him that is home born, and unto <u>the stranger</u> that sojourneth among you." клу

The same principle applied to the festivals, worship and prayer times in the temple.

"Thus saith YHVH: Execute ye judgment and righteousness and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and <u>do no wrong</u>, <u>do no violence to</u> <u>the stranger</u>, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place." Jer 22:3 KJV The prophets pronounced judgment upon any who would neglect the divinely-given responsibilities to the "stranger," on the same grounds as neglect of orphans and widows.

This is what the Written Torah – or – the law of Moses – has to say! The promise that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was spoken of in the Old Testament. YHVH speaking through the prophet Hosea said, "I will call those who were not my people, 'my people,' and her who was not beloved, 'beloved.' And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'you are not my people,' there they shall be called sons of the living Elohim." Rom 9:25-26 (New American Standard Bible) The claim that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was fulfilled through Yahusha!

John 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd... I am the good Shepherd." (KJV)

"He made known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He called, not from Jews only, <u>but</u> <u>also from among Gentiles</u>." <u>Rom 9:23-24</u> (KJV) The reminder that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was also re-emphasized through the Apostles.

Or, to put it as succinctly as Paul did: "There is neither Jew nor Greek...; for you are all one in Messiah." Galatians 3:28 (KJV)



The practical outworking of the Rabbinic laws of purity, raised a strong wall of separation between the **observant Jew and the** non-Jew even if this was not the original intent. With the emphasis put upon purity by the Rabbis, separation from those things that rendered a person unclean was inevitable.



When Gentiles were added to the "list" of those things that communicate uncleanness, the wall was built between Jew and Gentile. According to **Oral Torah**, mere contact with non-Jews could render a person unclean, as well as contact with the residence of a non-Jew or even with land outside the Land of Israel.



These were man-made laws.

Contact with any object used for idolatrous worship was added to the list of what might render a person unclean. Clearly, the oral Torah of the 1st Century functioned to separate Jew and Gentile in a dramatic way.



"The law of commandments contained in ordinances." Ephesians 2:15

The text in Ephesians helps to define the dividing wall with the appositional phrase "the law of commandments contained in ordinances." The question is, "<u>did Paul use</u> this phrase to denote those Rabbinic laws which had, in fact, separated Jew and non-Jew?"

The first thing to note is that the term "dogma" is never used in the Septuagint for any of the commandments, judgments, statutes, or laws of which, according to Genesis 26:5, the total Written Torah consists. In the Septuagint (LXX) "dogma" normally designates the edicts of a king or court.

LXX = Septuagint – The oldest Greek Version of the Jewish Bible

The word "ordinance" in Ephesians 2:14-15 as well as in Colossians 2:14 is <u>also</u> translated from the Greek word "dogma" #G1378 from the base of #G1380 a law (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical - decree, ordinance) (*Strong's Concordance*). The noun 'dogma' is found five times in the Apostolic Writings.

In Luke 2:1 and Acts 17:7 it is used of Caesar's decrees. However, in Acts 16:4 it refers to the Apostolic decree formulated at the Jerusalem council. Therefore, this phrase according to the Greek (twn patriwn dogmatwn - ton patrion dogmaton) "the law of commandments contained in ordinances" is best understood not to refer to the Mosaic Torah but to the "traditions of the fathers," the Halakah of the community.

These man-made ordinances (#G1378) called '<u>dogma</u>' prevented the salvation from extending past the Jews thus creating enmity. This is what was truly "contrary" and "against" the Gentiles, preventing them from being brothers in Messiah.



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We may therefore conclude that Paul adds it to his description in order to identify the abolished law as the legal fence of the Rabbis, particularly the parts of the Oral Torah that separated Jew and Gentile. The result? They were at odds with the Written Torah that prophesied the unity of Jew and Gentile all within the promise of blessing given to Abraham.



MS 2049 Bible: Leviticus, Egypt, late 2nd c. The oldest MS of this part of the Bible

This does not mean that Yahusha abolished the entire Oral Torah in His death on the tree. In fact, there are many instances recorded in the life of Yahusha where He gives clear allegiance to Oral Torah.

We have some examples of this in Matt. 9:14-15. The argument of Yahusha, in which He defends the way His disciples fast, is based upon a recognized Halakah that it is improper to fast in the presence of a bridegroom.

This is not found in the **Written** Torah.

Matt 12:5 - Yahusha states that the priests profane the Sabbath but are innocent. This teaching is not found in the Written Torah, but in the Oral Torah. Halakah means Jewish Law: 2. Halakah originates from the Aramaic word, "hilkheta" (direction of the action) and the Hebrew word "holech" (from the verb "to walk"). 3. We combine the meanings. Hilkheta and Holech give us "Halakah" which means "This is the way to go." In Matt 15:1 the Pharisees are inquiring about the disciples of Yahusha: why do they transgress the traditions of the elders by not washing their hands according to Halakah before eating? Yahusha rebukes them, citing also their use of korban to 'hide' their wealth from aging parents who needed their support.



In both cases, it is clear that the Pharisees consider the Halakah, based on Oral Torah, as binding.

Another example is in Matt 22:40 where Yahusha quotes the Shema and Lev 19:18, stating that upon these two precepts hang the Law and Prophets. The terminology of the Law and Prophets hanging from something is derived from Oral Torah. Yahusha knew both the "Written" and the "Oral" Torah.

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The matter of tithing very small amounts of produce from volunteer seedlings is not taken up in the Written Torah but is part of the Oral Torah (Matt 23:23).







The whole issue of travel on the Sabbath is defined in Oral Torah, not Written Torah. There are no specific prohibitions in the Written Torah restricting travel on the Sabbath. Man-made rules! The Written Torah does not define the dimensions of one's "place."

It was the Oral Torah that developed, for instance, a "Sabbath-day's journey." Matt 24:20



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The Written Torah declares that a person is unclean from a corpse if he touches it or is in the same room with it. (See Num 19:11-15.)



Did the Pharisees corrupt this too?

The Pharisees extended the communication of impurity to any object overshadowed by a corpse (or part of a corpse) or any object whose shadow contacts a corpse or tomb. The Oral Torah further elaborates the means by which impurity is transmitted from a corpse to an object.

It appears that Yahusha accepted at least some of this Oral Torah as grounds for His illustration of the Pharisees, as concealed tombs in Luke 11:44, that rendered those who overshadowed them as unclean.

The issue of healing on the Sabbath is part of the Oral Torah, to which Yahusha no doubt refers as He asked the question in Luke 6:9 "I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good, or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" KJV

We probably could recite many more like Matt 26:20 - reclining when eating at the Passover meal, which is not prescribed in the Written Torah. What law was violated in Acts 23:3 when Paul was struck on the mouth? The idea that a person was innocent until proven guilty is a function of Oral Torah, not Written Torah.

Pharisees = Laws of the Jews Sadducees = Against the Temple And Rome = Against Caesar

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The threefold designation in Acts 25:8, "law of the Jews, or against the Temple or against Caesar" (κιν) seems to define the three most powerful arms of law!

The only logical conclusion in regard to the Oral Torah, is that Yahusha abolished those Rabbinic laws which, when practiced, actually set aside the Written Torah of Elohim by separating the Jew and Gentile, which YHVH intended to make one in Messiah.

This was the "dividing wall, or the (Rabbinic) law contained in the ordinances (of the Oral Torah)." But, those parts of the Oral Torah that affirm the Written Torah, or are in harmony with it, remain viable for the Messianic believer as the traditions of the father.

Praise Yahusha, for breaking down the "middle wall of partition" between Jews and Gentiles, both physically and spiritually at great cost to Himself, and securing salvation for everyone that believes. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for y<u>ou are all one</u> in Yahusha Ha Mashiach."

Galatians 3:28 (KJV)



The middle wall of partition (the dividing wall)!

1) What is it? 2) Who made it? 3) How was it broken down?



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The middle wall of division was the added "man made ordinances" from part of the Oral Torah. This prevented the salvation from extending past the Jews creating enmity. This is what was "contrary" and "against" the Gentiles, preventing them from being brothers in Messiah.



Paul called these man-made laws "the law of commandments contained in ordinances!" The verses in Eph 2:14-15 cannot be referring to the sacrificial laws or any other divine laws. None of those laws were ever "against us" nor did they create "enmity" but were for the good of the people. It was these "other man-made laws" that were added and inspired by Satan.

Our Messiah broke down that middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile by spilling His blood on Calvary. He broke down the wall separating anyone from YHVH.



Jew and Gentile are both now one new creation because of what our Messiah did.



Let's remember Galatians chapter 3:26-29 "For you are all the children of Elohim by faith in Yahusha the Mashiyach. For those who have been immersed in Mashiyach have been clothed with Mashiyach."

> Aramaic English New Testament

For there is neither Jew nor Aramean, nor slave nor free, nor male nor female, but you are all one in Yahusha the Mashiyach. And if you are of the Mashiyach then you are seeds of Awraham und inheritors by the promises."

> Aramaic English New Testament

The central theme of Paul in Ephesians 2:14-16 is the oneness of Jew and Gentile as united in Messiah by tearing down the man-made wall of partition.

Paul is not saying that the Messiah was doing away with any law, ceremonial or moral. He is talking about man-made laws! That makes sense!



Thank you &

SHALOMI

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