

The fact that the Hebrew texts of the New Testament portion are available to help us understand the Bible better can no longer be denied. Scholars have authenticated these texts and are now examining and using them to help us understand the scriptures. They are all recent finds beginning with the work on the Gospel of Matthew done in the 1990s by George Howard on a Hebrew text that without question is an authentic copy of the Hebrew Matthew. We have no originals of any book of the Bible, only copies. We have God's word only if we have a good text. The text we use to make our Bibles comes from the analysis of many manuscripts.

Perhaps the manuscript of the Hebrew Matthew is 95% accurate which means that it has a lot of merit. The fact that it has an inserted word here and there and some altered words doesn't mean that it is not worthwhile. After all, the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament have the same problem with lots of deviations for each verse. What scholars do is put together a group of manuscripts for both the Old and New Testament portions and then they come up with what they think are the best words to use and they form a text from that. Some have been misinformed that we have original manuscripts and the Bible that we have now is the undisputed word of God. Having New Testament portion scriptures in the original language that was used by its writers is an important find.

There are a lot of quotes from antiquity confirming that Matthew was written originally written in Hebrew and now we have all the Gospels in Hebrew and several other books of the New Testament portion in Hebrew including James, Jude, and Revelation. Others may also show up, but it is exciting that we now have a few New Testament books in Hebrew, the language of Yeshua (Jesus), the writers of the Bible, and the language of the early believers in the Jewish Messiah Yeshua.

Why write about something that seems not important to some? That is exactly the problem. It is important because we want as accurate translation of the Bible as we possibly can; after all, the Bible says these are God's words. Having texts in the language of the people who wrote them can be a great help. Not only that, we are seeing a few differences between the Greek texts and the Hebrew texts. That can help us form a better text, so it is exciting to see how these will help us to understand the Bible better. Since this is a relatively new development, it may be awhile before we can assimilate a lot of what we've found in the Hebrew manuscripts into practical teaching, but I hope you will see that even the few things I share are relevant and useful and we can expect a lot more to come. The context of the Bible is a biblical Israelite and Jewish context, so it is important to understand the Bible in this context for a better understanding of the New Testament portion and the Hebrew scriptures will help.

I did not intend to write a lot on this, but even though it turned out to be a little longer than I wanted, I hope you will find this interesting. I explain a little about the history surrounding the Hebrew New Testament portion writings and why the writings were suppressed by some. Scholars have always tried to come up with an accurate text, so why not also use scriptures that were written in the language of those that wrote the scriptures? And of course, I make a few comments about those who refuse something that is so timely and important to our faith in the Messiah. I believe that the revealing of a number of Hebrew books of the New Testament portion is God trying to help us to be closer to Him and God protecting the accuracy of the scriptures. Some of the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament portion actually have information in them that is referred to in antiquity. This could place the Hebrew manuscripts found to be closely aligned with early documents of the New Testament.

Most scholarly work on the translation of the New Testament portion has been done with the Greek and perhaps Latin and not the copies of the original Hebrew because we didn't have Hebrew texts available until the 1990s. They were mostly ignored because it appears scholars were mostly interested in the Greek manuscripts. This mostly leaves us without the help of a Hebrew text that is without question at times more accurate. The Hebrew manuscripts should be allowed to have a voice. After all, Kefa (Peter) says that all the scriptures have been given to us by God; they are inspired by God (2 Peter 1:21). If a manuscript can get us closer to the original, they should be welcome blessing. Again, we have no originals.

For example, it has been speculated that the woman with the issue of blood in Matthew 9:20-22 touched Yeshua (Jesus' real name)¹ on His tzitzit (tassel like fringes on His garment). The Hebrew Matthew says she touched Yeshua's tzitzit. Jews are commanded in the Torah to wear tzitzit, so it should be without question that Yeshua was also wearing tzitzit and that is what the Hebrew text correctly says. The Greek text of Matthew mistakenly says the hem of His garment. It makes sense if you are Greek, but it doesn't place the Bible in the context it was written, namely in Israel. There is actually a lot that can be learned about the tzitzit including a prophecy about the Messiah's tzitzit having healing power. There is a push by some to make the Bible a Greek Bible without it having any Jewish understanding. The writers of the Bible were dedicated Israelites and Jews and their reference for life came from the Jewish Bible and not somewhere else. Are they trying to say that Yeshua is no longer the Messiah because He is Jewish?

Even slight differences between the Greek and Hebrew text can make a big difference. For example, in Matthew 5, the Hebrew says to not swear falsely. The Greek text does not have the word false in it so it reads not to swear. No big deal right; but, without the word false, we have people although well meaning, they are acting weird and believing they should never swear to telling the truth. Yeshua (Jesus) told us to tell the truth what is wrong with that? As you can see, it is just ridiculous not to include the latest findings in our study of the scriptures. Some though are resistant and don't want any change even though it is evident that the Hebrew scriptures can help.

People can be stubborn and some of that can even come out of Jew hatred. Wasn't the Messiah Yeshua Jewish. Be careful what you hate. Also, people sometimes want to hang on to half-truths and false truths rather than know the truth. Didn't Yeshua (Jesus) say that the truth would set you free? I am not undermining the authority of the Bible. In fact, many people take license with the Bible and (wrongly) use it however they want. If our spiritual and eternal life depends on the accuracy of the Bible, why do people take the words of the Bible out of its biblical context? They could be leading people in the wrong direction and toward dire consequences. We need the truths of the Bible and the Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion.

In the **Greek** Matthew, it says in chapter 23:1-3 CJB that we should obey the Rabbis. "Then Yeshua addressed the crowds and his talmidim: 'The Torah-teachers and the P'rushim,' he said, 'sit in the seat of Moshe. So whatever they tell you, take care to do it.'" In the **Hebrew** Matthew it tells us to obey the words that God gave Moshe (Moses) and not the P'rushim (Pharisees).² The Greek text tells us to obey all the extra laws of the Rabbis - Christians don't do that anyways and some don't even do what the Bible actually says. They will say they believe in the Bible and then do things their own way. The Hebrew tells us to believe in the Bible and do what Moses told us to do. It doesn't take much thought to realize that the Hebrew Matthew makes more sense. Doesn't Kefa (Peter) say we should obey God rather than man in Acts 5:29? The scriptures are words from God given to help mankind.

To date they have found 28 manuscripts of the Hebrew Matthew that were copied from the Hebrew text of Matthew by a Rabbi (Rabbi Shem Tov) to defend himself from persecution. Many scholars continue to ignore the Hebrew Scriptures probably because they are just being stubborn. Or worse yet, because they believe in a Greek Yeshua and subscribe to a false non-biblical Gentile doctrine.³ I've got news for you. Yeshua and all the early believers in the Jewish Messiah were Jewish. Don't be surprised if these stubborn people want to impose their

¹ The Hebrew Matthew uses Yeshua's (Jesus) real name and refers to Him as Yeshua who (will) yoshia the people from their sins (see Matthew 1:21). Yoshia means will save. You can see the obvious Hebrew word play between Yeshua and yoshia.

² The Hebrew essentially says, the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, listen to him (Moses). There used to be seats where the Pharisees sat and they called them Moses' seat.

³ The Greek text is foreign to the biblical text (come on, Yeshua was Jewish and lived in Israel); biblical truths are best explained in the language of the Bible and not a Gentile language and context. For my doctorate and the Bible classes I taught, I probably studied every Greek word in ¾ of the New Testament scriptures to make sure my teachings and studies were accurate. I concluded that the translation of the Greek Bible was pretty good, but I was teaching a Greek doctrine devoid of a true contextual biblical understanding. I've since found out that I needed to learn what the Bible is saying through a biblical Jewish context. You can study the Greek Bible all you want, but never learn what the Bible is really saying until we take the Bible in its correct context.

false doctrines on us. They don't want to change or understand the scriptures the way they were intended to be understood. They simply refuse to change rather than look for the truth.

There are problems with the Greek texts. So, scholars put together a lot of manuscripts and try to come out with a consensus about what the Greek text is saying. The gospels of the Bible are translations and in the 4th Century, Jerome said they were pretty messed up when he compared them to the Hebrew scriptures. Some Greek manuscripts (some were probably originally written in Greek) are copies of translations and are not copies from the originals. Thank goodness Jerome tried to straighten out what the Greek texts were saying. He probably also initiated a scrupulous copying of the manuscripts like the Jews did with the Tanakh (the Old Testament portion).

Jerome went to Israel to learn Hebrew and no doubt became familiar with how the scribes copied the texts so that every single word was copied as it was supposed to be. Sometimes we can find a better understanding from the Hebrew New Testament writings because of this. Maybe there is not a lot because of the great job scholars have done with the Greek manuscripts, but definitely some. I don't think you need to throw out your Bible. They did a pretty good job translating the Greek. Think about Matthew 23:1-3 again though. Has Christianity ever listened to the Rabbis? No, they haven't, but that is what the Greek text reads. So, what's the problem with doing what Moses told us to do as the Hebrew text reads? Evidently, many don't want to do what that says either.

These so-called Bible teachers can be selective and often teach their own theology or philosophy instead of what the Bible really says. Often it is because they are biblically illiterate and don't understand how to use the scriptures appropriately. For one thing, they take the Bible out of its Jewish biblical context. I've had one friend tell me, "Context, context, context." Context is important!⁴ It's not that these so-called Bible teachers are mentally challenged. When I first believed in the Jewish Messiah Yeshua, I was taught a biblical philosophy. I too had to come to grips with my false understanding of the scriptures.

In order to understand the text of the New Testament portion right, we have to understand what was going on in the Jewish culture and apply that understanding. For example, Shaul (Paul's real name) said in Colossians 2:22-23 CBJ, "Such prohibitions are concerned with things meant to perish by being used ... and they are based on **man-made rules** and teachings. They do indeed have the outward appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed religious observances, false humility and asceticism; but they have no value at all in restraining people from indulging their old nature." We have people taking Shaul's comments about Shabbat and food laws in this chapter out of context and saying they are not applicable now. **He was talking about the man-made rules that were attached to them.** Shaul said the Torah is not done away with (Romans 3:31)!

Where did these Hebrew texts come from and how were they able to survive? They were copied down through the years just like the Greek texts were. We've had copies of the New Testament Hebrew books of the Bible copied by believers in the Messiah Yeshua since the earliest times following the death and resurrection of Yeshua. Some New Testament portion books were probably written in Greek and passed down in Greek. Some were written in both Hebrew and Greek. For example, the book of Hebrews was written in Hebrew and then translated into Greek by Luke.

Instead of embracing the Hebrew texts in the early church, early believers who used these texts were persecuted. The Roman Empire wanted a Roman Church. It was a political move and not a search for truth. And of course, if they could eliminate the Hebrew writings, that would cause a vacuum of Hebrew texts and add legitimacy to the

⁴ Context can take many forms in the Bible. There is the context of the scripture itself, how the people lived out God's commandments in Israel, there are Jewish discussions (consider the fact that the Bible was written by Israelites and Jews in a society that wanted to follow God's commandments), there are figures of speech that have specific meanings, there are words used that have a specific biblical meanings (for example, the word apostle means messenger), etcetera....

cause to make their church Roman and not Jewish. When they couldn't get rid of the Hebrew scrolls of the New Testament, they began killing believers to stop the true message of the gospel.⁵

We have to understand that preserving the Hebrew Messianic writings is preserving the truths of the gospel just as much as preserving the Greek scriptures is important. The Greek text has been extensively worked on and they did a great job, but it still has problems. There are about 8 verses per page of the Greek New Testament text (the Greek text of the New Testament) seen in the Novum Testamentum Graece (I own a copy) with about 10 references to textual **deviations per verse** at times! The Hebrews scriptures of the New Testament can help us if we keep an open mind.

The history of the underground believers throughout the ages has largely been ignored. I've written some about it in the past, but it is not a good history. After all, why would anyone admit that they killed and persecuted the true believers.⁶ Many of the true believers saw through the Roman Empire's political church. The reason we had underground believers is because Rome took over the beliefs of those who believed in the Messiah, formed their own doctrine from it, and also mixed it with their pagan beliefs. Remember, the Old Testament says to not have any idols. Their mixed doctrine with paganism sent up a "red flag" to those who wanted to live right.

Constantine believed in the sun-god.⁷ "Constantine was a sun-worshiper. In one decree he declared, 'On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed' (March 7, 321). He made this decree in honor of the sun after his supposed conversion to Christianity."⁸ That's why Rome changed the Sabbath to the day of the sun-god, Sunday. This is why Shabbat got changed to Sunday. All the theological explanations and excuses are false.

The Roman priests then became informants for the Roman Empire and anyone who didn't conform to their Romanized idolatrous doctrine was persecuted or even killed. The believers in the Jewish Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), were made to conform to a false doctrine, told to believe in the Roman Church, and stop practicing the Bible - for example, Rome made it illegal for believers to observe the feasts of God that we are commanded to keep in the Bible. Instead of their year being formed around God's feasts, it then became formed around pagan like celebrations. Modern churches still have not reversed this false non-biblical teaching. Yeshua said, "Many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:22-23 CJB. Wouldn't it seem fitting to make every effort to do what the Bible says?

So, we have evidence of underground believers who did not accept the false doctrine of Rome. That's why we have some Hebrew manuscripts that were written by Messianic scribes. Obviously, the unbelieving Jews wouldn't be interested in keeping the Hebrew books of the New Testament from disappearing. So, it had to be Messianic scribes who copied the scriptures. As soon as I looked at the Hebrew Scriptures of the New Testament I could tell they were written by trained Messianic scribes⁹.

Many different Hebrew books of the New Testament have now been found. Dr. Miles Jones¹⁰ says that Jerome said that he used the Hebrew Scriptures (Jerome made notes of his translating) in the 4th century AD to correct a lot of the errors in the Greek text and to translate the Bible into Latin. For example, Dr. Jones says that Jerome's

⁵ The word gospel means messianic message. See my article entitled, Gospel – a Messianic Message at www.teshuvahsa.org under Studies on the Book of Romans.

⁶ Some say a million true believers were killed by the false church of the Roman Empire.

⁷ http://www.the-ten-commandments.org/origin_of_babylon_sun_worship.html.

⁸ <http://www.marytruth.com/home/constantine-cover-up-and-sun-worship>

⁹ A trained scribe in modern times often trains for 2 years.

¹⁰ Dr. Jones is a linguist, scholar, and a translator of early Hebrew was interviewed by Michael Rood on Shabbat Night Live, a TV show. Rood is the author of The Chronological Gospels and has been a teacher and seeker of truth for over 50 years.

notes talk about the Temple being destroyed when the earth quaked at the time of Yeshua's crucifixion. He put the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in his notes, but never added it to the Greek text. When we read the Hebrew gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (back-translated from Catalan)¹¹ the information about the Temple being destroyed is in the Hebrew manuscripts of these gospels. This of course means that the copies of the Catalan Hebrew gospels are probably closer to the originals. They correlate with Jerome's notes from the 300s AD! We could also speculate that they had old scrolls that were copies from the originals. We know that scrolls deteriorate over time so it is possible they needed to use the Catalan texts to rewrite the Hebrew gospels. Jewish Dead Sea scholar Nehemia Gordon stated that the Hebrew texts from Catalan read well (He is fluent in Hebrew, of course). That adds even more credence to their reliability. It is really exciting to know that the Hebrew documents have been verified as authentic and that we have Hebrew manuscripts to help us understand the Bible better. God is still in the business of protecting His scriptures and helping us to know the truth.

It has been speculated that the reason the part about the Temple being destroyed was left out of the Greek was in order to make the point that the Roman Church was now the way to God – the Greek text says that the veil was torn. They could now say that we no longer needed a Jewish priest and the Gentiles were the way to God. A proper Jewish context sees the Temple being desecrated and points to the prophecy that the Messiah would come before the Temple is destroyed as it says in Daniel 9:26. The Temple was then completely destroyed in 70 AD and every stone was removed as Yeshua had prophesied. That was something a lot of people considered impossible. The Romans did it to recover any gold that may have seeped between the rocks because the Temple inadvertently got set on fire.

The Roman Empire made up their own doctrine at the council of Nicaea to make Christianity a Roman religion and also to control the population. They no doubt made their translation and doctrine support their Roman religion. They made Peter the founder of their religion instead of Yeshua (Ephesians 1:20-23). James was actually the first leader after Yeshua and he lived in Jerusalem, not Rome (see Acts 15). When the Roman church split into a Greek church, the Greek church simply copied the methods of the Roman empire and did the same thing as the Romans did and formed a political church.

Also, biblical History has been tainted to reflect a non-Jewish History. For example, Dr. Jones says the alphabet given by God at Mt. Sinai became a catalyst for the recording of information.¹² The alphabet was then passed on to the Phoenicians and the Greeks and other people groups (and took other forms). Dr. Miles Jones has traced the development of the ancient alphabet to Israel when the Israelites were at Mt. Sinai in 1447 BC. Before modern archeological evidence proved Israel to leave Egypt in 1447 BC,¹³ most thought that they left in 1305 BC or 1279 BC. That is what I learned when taking classes for my doctorate.

Israel developed an alphabet from the tablets given them by God. They were commanded not to write with the graven images of the Egyptians, so the Israelites had to change the way they were writing. The Phoenicians then adapted the Hebrew alphabet around 1100 BC.¹⁴ So, we actually got our modern alphabet from God and the Jews. God wanted His words written down so mankind could benefit from them and follow them from then on.

The Roman Empire was trying to establish itself as the authority for the scriptures by making the Bible a Gentile Bible. They were trying to eliminate and hide the Hebrew origins of the Bible and make the religion of the

¹¹ All four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were back translated from Catalan into Hebrew; Catalan is a language in Northeast Spain. Since their text has been proved to be accurate and aligned with the original copies of the Bible through examination and ancient sources, scholars say they are an authentic Hebrew rendering of the gospels. It is interesting to note that the Catalan Matthew agrees with the 28 manuscripts of the Hebrew Matthew found to date. We have Hebrew sections of Luke and John in Hebrew as other gospel manuscript sources. The Hebrew identifies Luke as Lukah, and John as Yochanan, their real Hebrew names.

¹² Miles R. Jones, Ph.D., *The Writing of God*, Seattle, WA: Amazon Books ON-Demand Publishing LLC. 2016, 19.

¹³ Miles R. Jones, Ph.D., *The Writing of God*, Seattle, WA: Amazon Books ON-Demand Publishing LLC. 2016, 14.

¹⁴ Miles R. Jones, Ph.D., *The Writing of God*, Seattle, WA: Amazon Books ON-Demand Publishing LLC. 2016, 19.

Roman Empire into a Latin-based religion in order to legitimize their false religion. In fact, they used the dead language of Latin up into the 20th century. The Greek church of course did the same and also tried to hide the true origins of the Bible for the same reasons and they used Greek.

We now know that the gospels and many other books of the Bible were originally written in Hebrew. The underground Messianic believers were able to keep copying the Hebrew books in spite of persecution so that we still have them today. Not all the books of the New Testament portion were originally written in Greek.

The Roman Empire replaced the true church with a false church. They then claimed that the beliefs of the true believers were done away with and that the Jews and Messianic Jews no longer mattered (the heresy of replacement theology). All the early believers in the Jewish Messiah were Jewish. Gentiles were a minority and did not begin accepting the Messiah until Acts chapter 10. Acts 21:20 says there were tens of thousands of believers in the Messiah in Jerusalem. All the writers of the books of the Bible were Jewish. Even Luke (his Hebrew name was Lukah) knew way too much about being Jewish than a Gentile would know. For example, Dr. Jones says that we know that the Book of Hebrews was originally written in Hebrew and that Luke was the one that translated it into Greek (he references the “Church Fathers”).¹⁵

The false Roman Church claimed that they are the true church and they said the Messianic believers in the Messiah are no longer the true believers. The true church was replaced with a false church that said the Jews killed the Messiah. Yeshua said that he would be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles and killed by the Gentiles (Matthew 20:19). The Romans killed Him and the leadership in Jerusalem was tied to Rome. The Romans then also made up their false religion and persecuted the true believers. The Roman church made up their own stories to legitimize their false doctrine.

There is no controversy over Matthew being written in Hebrew. There are many references to the fact that Matthew was written in Hebrew in antiquity. Jerome even talks about Matthew being written in Hebrew. Dr. Miles Jones says that in the Hebrew gospel of Luke, the first four verses that we see in the Greek text are missing in the Hebrew manuscript because the Hebrew gospel of Lukah was a copy from an original.¹⁶ Scholars can compare manuscripts and ancient references and come up with quick accurate conclusions. The Greek text was not copied from an original, but is a translation. Isn't that interesting. That is just one of the many reasons why the Hebrew Lukah is important, not to mention we know that Jerome used the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament to correct mistakes in the Greek text. Also, since Luke translated the book of Hebrews into Greek, perhaps he also translated Luke into Greek.

Dr. Miles Jones says there are people out there that are purposely discrediting the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament without understanding their importance and without making any kind of educated examination.¹⁷ Then there is the problem of people without proper qualifications making snap judgments about the Hebrew scriptures and also people who rely on outdated information. Some people still believe what archeologists said in the 1800s about not finding much biblical archeological evidence. That is no longer true! We now have lots of archeological evidence substantiating the Bible and the names, places, years, and what happened in the Bible. Some people simply do not want to change or learn. Some people probably don't want to believe that the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament could actually be the hand of God bringing people closer to Him and the truth.

Don't be surprised if you see false assessments online. They are completely unfounded and biased. John Parsons presents wonderful information on understanding the Bible from a Jewish perspective. I recommend his Hebrew

¹⁵ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

¹⁶ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

¹⁷ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

for Christians web site and encourage people to buy his books. But, he also educates people in the extra laws that come from the Pharisees which are man-made commandments.

Yeshua quoted Isaiah when He said, “Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines;” Matthew 15:9 CJB. Some of the extra laws are helpful, but we are not commanded to do them.¹⁸ I enjoy lighting candles on Friday night as a way to welcome Shabbat and the Holy Spirit, but it is not a commandment of God. Don’t get angry about people not doing rituals that are not commanded by God, respect them and their faith. Don’t get upset about people keeping rituals that they know are not commanded. They can be meaningful to them. For example, when I wear a kippah I sometimes feel the presence of God. It is meaningful to me. By wearing a kippah I am making a visual statement that God is over me; I intend to follow Him. Remember though, we don’t have to do the rituals imposed by man.¹⁹

Remember what Yeshua said in the Hebrew manuscripts in Matthew 23:1-2. He says we are to listen to Moses. We are to listen to the Messiah or we’ll have to give an account for what we say and believe. “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him. Whoever doesn't listen to my words, which he will speak in my name, will have to account for himself to me.” Deuteronomy 18:18-19 CJB. For some of you that wonder if you should follow Yeshua, this is good enough reason. Moses said in Deuteronomy that we are to listen to the Messiah. Decide today that you will believe on Him.

Again, what is the agenda of these people that need to lie about doctrine to get their way? Perhaps they no longer believe that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah to the world or they value ritual over truth. Dr. Jones says that Greek gospel writings are written within a Greek background. Yeshua was not Greek, but Jewish. We know that He spoke Hebrew because the records of Yeshua’s time were in Hebrew. They may have spoken Greek in Israel (or like in the United States we have many different languages spoken), but we now know that Hebrew was their primary language. Is Spanish the primary language of the United States because some people speak Spanish, no. It was very exciting to hear Dr. Miles Jones verify that the Hebrew Lukah came from a copy from the original Lukah (Luke) in an interview.²⁰

Dr. Miles Jones has been a New Testament scholar for many years. He knows the difference between what a Greek person would write and a Jewish person would write. For example, a Greek person might refer to Yeshua’s hem of his garment (because the Gentiles do not wear tzitzit), but a Jewish person would refer to the tzitzit. Dr. Jones says that a Jew would not say “the feast of the Jews” as the Greek text says. (If you’re Jewish are you going to say, “feast of the Jews, really?”)²¹ So, the Greek text is an altered version of the original text and not a copy of an original Hebrew document. The Hebrew would simply tell us what feast it was whether it was Passover or Rosh Hashanah etc.... Our understanding of the Bible has been disconnected from what it should be because of the loss of the Jewish roots of the gospels and Jewish roots of the New Testament writings. Is there something wrong with understanding the Bible was written by Israelites and Jews? By the way, the word Jew is a good word and means praise. Shaul said in Ephesian 1:12 NKJV, “That we who first trusted in Christ” (Messiah) “should be to the praise of His glory.”

¹⁸ The extra laws are not commandments. Don’t make an issue out of them.

¹⁹ The context of Colossians chapter 2 is about man made rules. Shaul is not saying that the commandments of the Torah are done away. Note **the context**: “They are based on man-made rules and teachings;” Colossians 2:22 CJB.

²⁰ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

²¹ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

Dr. Jones says that if we care about truth, then the Hebrew scriptures are pertinent and important.²² Stern in his introduction to the Complete Jewish Bible says:

For the central figure of the New Testament, Yeshua the Messiah, was a Jew who was born into a Jewish family in Beit Lechem, grew up among Jews in Natzeret, ministered to Jews in the Galil, and died and rose from the grave in the Jewish capital, Yerushalayim - all in Eretz Yisra'el, the land God gave the Jewish people. Moreover, Yeshua is still a Jew, since he is still alive; and nowhere does Scripture say or suggest that he has stopped being Jewish. His twelve closest followers were Jews. For years all his talmidim (disciples) were Jews, eventually numbering "tens of thousands" in Yerushalayim alone.

Isn't that amazing. The Bible says there were tens of thousands in Jerusalem (Acts 21:20) who believed in the Messiah. The Jews did not reject the Messiah as some teach. It was the leadership who wanted to keep their political power in tact that rejected him – those closely tied to Rome!

Dr. Jones says that when Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, Jerome said the Greek manuscripts were totally messed up and that Jerome needed the Hebrew gospels to correct the errors in the Greek texts.²³ During Yeshua's crucifixion, the Greek Bible says that the veil to the holy of Holies was torn in two. To the Gentiles this meant that they no longer had to go through a Jewish priest to get to God. I'm talking about theology here. Their theology was a philosophy to make the Christian church into a pagan church of the Roman Empire (By the way, who is our High Priest - Yeshua the Jewish Messiah. "Therefore, since we have a great cohen gadol who has passed through to the highest heaven, Yeshua, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we acknowledge as true;" Hebrews 4:14 CJB).

Jerome said that The Hebrew Bible says that the huge stone lintel was split in two. We know that the veil was under the lintel so the veil was torn too. Just this slight difference though makes a different point. To the Jews it meant something different. The Temple had been defiled. This foreshadowed the destruction of the Temple 40 years later which both Daniel and Yeshua prophesied about.²⁴ That meant the Messiah had come. The prophecy from Daniel 9:26 talks about the Messiah coming before the Temple would be destroyed. This is important.

Dr. Jones read and translated from the Hebrew Matthew about the damage from the earthquake to the Temple at the time of Yeshua's crucifixion: "The Temple was broken on both sides up and down and the earth quaked and the stone split in the middle." It is referring to the Temple being destroyed. Matthew, Mark, and Luke have similar accounts in Hebrew. Josephus in his notes says that is what happened. So, we have proof in antiquity that the Hebrew gospels that we have found came from old Hebrew documents. In the Talmud, Shabbat 15a says that the place where the Sanhedrin met was also destroyed during this earthquake. That is where they had accused Yeshua of blasphemy.²⁵ Even the Talmud attests (although indirectly) to the earthquake at the time of Yeshua's crucifixion.

The Hebrew scriptures have been validated by scholars and are helping us to understand the Bible better. For the people who want to ignore understanding the Bible better, let God be the judge. There is some push back to the acceptance of the Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament, but the evidence is too great. They are there whether you like it or not. Fortunately, we have some people who are in a search for the truth and are willing to change their false ideas for the sake of the truth. We need dedicated believers in the Messiah that want the truth and are willing to stand up for the truth.

²² Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

²³ Dr. Jones talked about this in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

²⁴ Dr. Jones talked about this in the above paragraph in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

²⁵ Dr. Jones talked about this in the above paragraph in his interview with Michael Rood and it was posted on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jZotAy4_c0

Just like the Greek texts of the Bible, we now have found Hebrew texts that have been copied and passed down over the ages. Some of the Hebrew manuscripts are beautifully done by Messianic scribes who probably trained for years to write the scriptures. This was accomplished in spite of persecution by those who would try to disassociate the Messiah Yeshua from His roots (His Jewish roots) and create a political church.

We actually have numerous references to the Hebrew texts in antiquity (I've heard some say there are about 60.) and archeology supports the wording in the Hebrew texts of the New Testament. God is perhaps revealing truths in these times and reestablishing some of the things lost due to the pagan influence being allowed in the Christian church. Perhaps it is because of the Roman Empire's disobedience to the Bible, God gave them over to their false religion, but now He is asking people to come back to Him.

Some of the Greek texts of the Bible were not copied from an original, but poorly translated according to Jerome who worked on the translation of the Latin text back in the 4th century AD. Dr. Miles Jones is one of the scholars working on the Hebrew manuscripts and has already made a number of interesting finds in the Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion.²⁶ There are many others who are standing up for the truth and I hope that in the years to come that believers will come to know their God and Messiah even more deeply because of the Hebrew scriptures of the Bible.

²⁶ Nehemiah Gordon, a Jewish Dead Sea scholar, has been a tremendous help in both finding and understanding the Hebrew New Testament scriptures. He is one of the original and one of the most influential scholars regarding the New Testament Hebrew manuscripts. Although not a believer in Yeshua, his regard for Jewish truth exposed a number of biblical New Testament truths.