

New to Creekside Messianic Fellowship

1. How do we know the LORD is God?

Only He can give us accurate long-term prophecies.

“Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’” Isaiah 46:9-10*.

2. Can you give me some examples of long-term prophecies that came to pass?

In 1 Kings 13:2, the Bible names Josiah about 400 years before he was born. “Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, “O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men’s bones shall be burned on you.’”” This was fulfilled in 2 Kings 23:16. “As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that *were* there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned *them* on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.”

In Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1, the Bible names Cyrus more than 100 years before he was born. “Who says of Cyrus, ‘*He is* My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,” And to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.”’” Isaiah 44:28. “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut.” In Isaiah 45:1. See Ezra chapter 1 for the fulfilment.

In Leviticus 25:10, the Bible said that Israel would return to its Land in the future. “And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.” The word return is made of the four Hebrew letters tav shin bet vav. Each of these letters has a value and they total to indicate the year 1948 – the very year Israel became a nation after almost 2,000 years of exile.

3. How does an individual get justified before God?

Justification is by faith, a gift of God. “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”” Romans 1:17.

4. Do we have to believe in Yeshua to be saved?

Yes. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:18.

* All Scripture references are to the New King James Version

5. If we believe in Yeshua, then aren't the commandments (Torah) irrelevant?

No. "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:31.

6. If we are saved by faith and not by works, then why should we repent of our sins?

In Romans 6:1-2, the Apostle Paul addresses that question directly. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

In 1 Corinthians 15:34, Paul puts it this way – "Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame."

Yeshua himself said – "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15. He also said that this word comes from God. "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." John 14:23-24.

Repentance means turning away from your sins and back to God. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." Luke 15:7. "Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47.

7. Which commandments from the Old Testament are we supposed to follow?

In Matthew 4:4, Yeshua says, "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'""

Thus, every word that came from the mouth of God is important. Paul says the same thing in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is [God breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Yeshua instructed the apostles to teach the Gentile nations to keep the commandments of God, "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20.

8. Haven't some of the commandments been done away with?

No. Psalm 89:34 says, "My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.". Once God speaks an eternal commandment, it cannot be changed.

Numbers 23:19 confirms this -- ““God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

God does not change. ““For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” Malachi 3:6.

In Matthew 5:17-20, Yeshua said, ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Greek word translated as “to fulfill” in verse 17 is *plerosai*. It means to fully preach, as Paul says in an excerpt from Romans 15:19, “so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” Yeshua came to fully preach the Law and the Prophets so we could understand them.

9. Didn't the Pharisees keep God's commandments?

No. In Matthew 15:7-9, Yeshua explains that the Pharisees taught people NOT to follow God's commandments, but to keep their rabbinic (man-made) commandments instead. “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’”

10. But, is it really sin to break a commandment given by the Lord?

Yes. John defines sin in 1 John 3:4, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” Lawlessness means to break God's commandments.

Further in the same chapter, John says this is how you can tell a child of God from a child of Satan. “In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.” 1 John 3:10. Righteousness is the opposite of lawlessness, as Paul demonstrates in 2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

11. But, if I call Yeshua Lord then I know I am saved, right?

Regrettably, no. Yeshua said in Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” So, if you live a lifestyle of unrepentant sin, Yeshua says that on Judgment Day, you will be cast out.

In the same chapter, Yeshua warns that false teachers will try to mislead you into believing you can continue in sin and still find eternal life. He says you will know the false teachers by their works. If they do not keep God's commandments, then what will they teach you?

12. Does this mean we have to earn our salvation?

No. Obedience to God's commandments is the evidence of our salvation, not the source. We cannot earn our salvation by works. But if we have truly been saved, then we will keep His commandments.

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 1 John 5:2-3.

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:3-4.

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46.

13. Didn't Acts 10 say we can eat pork, shrimp, etc.?

No. Peter explains the vision. "Then he said to them, 'You know how unlawful [rabbinic commandment, not from God] it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.'" Acts 10:28. It was the house of Cornelius (Gentiles) God showed Peter were neither common nor unclean. The Bible goes on to say, "Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'" Acts 10:34-35.

14. But what about Acts 15? Doesn't it say we don't need to keep God's commandments after we get saved?

Actually, no. The issue in Acts 15 is not whether we need to keep God's commandments after we get saved. The issue is whether we get saved by faith or works. The key to Acts 15 is in verse 1, "And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'"

Are we saved through circumcision? No. The Bible goes on to say, "So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them [the Believing Gentiles] by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as *He did* to us [the Believing Jews], and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8-9.

James announced the decision of the Jerusalem council -- "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.'" So, if those Gentiles who are *turning to* God

would avoid these four things that characterize pagan idolatry, they could come to the synagogues to learn all of God's commandments.

15. So, God's commandments are for all people, whether Jewish or not?

Yes. Paul said, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters." 1 Corinthians 7:19.

16. What about the Sabbath? Isn't Sunday the Sabbath?

No, Yeshua was resurrected on Sunday. That is true. That Sunday was a special day called the Feast of First Fruits. It is one of the seven special appointed times found in Leviticus 23.

The Gospels say that Yeshua arose on the day after the Sabbath. "Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb." Matthew 28:1. When they arrived, the tomb was empty. If Sunday is the day after the Sabbath, then Sunday cannot be the Sabbath.

17. I want God to consider me a saint. What are the characteristics of a saint?

According to Revelation 14:12, saints are "those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

18. Wasn't the Sabbath done away with when Yeshua was crucified?

No. Hebrews 4:9 says "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God." The Greek word rest in that verse is *Sabbatismos*. It refers specifically to a Sabbath rest which remains for all of God's people.

19. What practices that I learned in the traditional church do I need to repent of?

Deuteronomy 12:32 says -- "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

First, start observing the Sabbath instead of Sunday. In the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, the Catholic Church commanded people to observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

"Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ." Council of Laodicea Canon 29.

The Catholic Church does not have authority to change God's commandments.

Second, avoid unclean meats as commanded in Leviticus 11. The Catholic Church instructed its adherents to eat pork, shrimp, etc. God said no.

Third, keep the appointed times of the Lord as described in Leviticus 23. These seven appointed times teach about Messiah's first and second comings.

Yeshua died at Passover. He was buried at Unleavened Bread. He arose at First Fruits. The Holy Spirit came at the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot).

The remaining three appointed times will be fulfilled at His second coming.

Notice Paul instructed his people in the Church at Corinth to keep the Passover.

“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.

The Catholic Church at the Council of Nicaea instructed its people to stop observing Passover and keep Easter instead. Similarly, Christmas replaces God’s feasts with ceremonies from pagan sources. Halloween and Valentine’s Day have similar pagan origins.

If you want additional support for or teaching about any of these points, just email me at wdavis.jag@gmail.com or check out my website at john1415.org.