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I counsel thee to
buy of me gold
tried in the fire...
Revelation 3:18



Acts 15...

Part VI

The Prophets

What's on Tap

- Intro to The Prophets - Acts 15:13b-15
- If I were tasked with this mission...
- Gather the Prophetic statements
- From the Torah, define “Called by His name”
- Report: What do the Prophets say?
- Taking into consideration what the prophets said, what is the definition of “Called by His name”?

What's on Tap

- IAMCS understanding of Acts 15
- FFOZ understanding of Acts 15
- Biblical & Pagan Time Keeping Schemes?
- What happened in the First Century?
- Second century - Polycarp and Polycrates
- Does Colossians 2:16 really support IAMCS & FFOZ?
- A look at several underlying Greek words

Acts 15:13b-15

- James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, stop speaking and listen to me:
- ¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how God concerned Himself about winning (taking) a people from among the nations.
(taking a people for His name)
- ¹⁵ And to this agree the words of the prophets...”

Winning a People

- Psalm 147:19 He issues His commands to Jacob, His statutes and judgments to Israel.
- ²⁰ He did not do so **for any other nation**; of such judgments they know nothing.
- Psalm 18:43b ...a people whom I have not known shall serve Me.
- ⁴⁴ As soon as they hear, they obey Me; Foreigners submit to Me.

Winning a People

- Isaiah 5:26 He will lift up a signal flag to the nations from afar, and will whistle to them from the end of the earth; Behold, they shall come swiftly.
- Isaiah 55:5 Behold, You shall call nations that You know not, and nations that did not know You shall run to You...

Winning a People

- Isaiah 65:1 “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”

For His Name

- Deuteronomy 14:2 For thou *art* a holy people unto Yahweh thy God, and Yahweh hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto Himself, **above all the nations** that are upon the earth.
- Isaiah 63:19 We are Yours from olam: But you have not ruled over them; **they have not been called by Your name**.

For His Name

- Daniel 9:19 ...**Thy people are called by Thy name**
- Amos 9:11 In that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and will rebuild the ruins of it, and will set up the parts thereof that have been broken down, and will build it up as in days past: (LXX)
- ¹² that the remnant of men, and **all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called**, may earnestly seek Me, saith Yahweh...

Joining To Yahweh

- Isaiah 56:3 Let not the **foreigner** that hath **joined** himself to Yahweh, speak, saying, “Yahweh hath utterly separated me from His people...”
- Zechariah 2:11 And many nations shall be **joined** to Yahweh **in that day**,

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- Zechariah 2:11 And many nations shall be joined to Yahweh in that day, **and they will also be My people.**
- I will dwell in the midst of you all...

What Will Happen?

- Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of Yahweh's Temple shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow unto it.**

What Will Happen?

- Isaiah 2:3 And many **nations** will go and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the Temple of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His way, and we will walk in them: for out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, and the word of Yahweh out of Jerusalem.
- ⁴ ... they shall beat their swords into plowshares...

What Will Happen?

- Isaiah 45:22 Turn to me, and you shall be saved, you that *come* from the ends of the earth...
- Isaiah 56:6 Also the foreigners who **join themselves to Yahweh**, to serve Him, and to love the name of Yahweh, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the **Sabbath** and don't desecrate it, and **taketh hold of My covenant**.

What Will Happen?

- Isaiah 56:7 Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and give them joy in my **Temple** of prayer: Their **burnt offerings** and their **sacrifices** shall be accepted upon My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for **all nations**.

What Will Happen?

- Micah 4:1 But in the last days Yahweh's Temple Mount will be the most important mountain of all; it will be more prominent than all the others; and the nations will stream to it.

What Will Happen?

- Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, saying, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the Temple of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the Torah shall go forth out of Zion, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.

What Will Happen?

- Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle you with pure water and you will be clean from all your impurities. I will purify you from all your idols.
- Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and **our bodies washed with pure water.**

What Will Happen?

- Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh.
- ²⁷ ... I will put my Spirit within you; and will cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe my Misphat.
- But this prophecy is for Israel (more to come)

Future

- Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 17-18 Don't go up, no rain for YOU!
- 19 This shall be the punishment of all nations...

Future

- Ezekiel 44:9 Thus saith Yahweh Elohim; No foreigners, **uncircumcised** in heart, nor **uncircumcised in flesh**, shall enter into my **Temple**, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites. [v 7]
- Zechariah 8:23 Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

Prophet Summary

- Once the Tabernacle of David is rebuilt, **all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, may earnestly seek Me**
- People from all nations will stream to Yahweh's Temple
- I bring them to My holy mountain, and give them joy in my **Temple** of prayer

Prophet Summary

- They will say (people called from the nations), “He will teach us His ways”. (Psalm 119:1)
- They will desire to go up to His Temple of their own free will to seek Him with their whole heart. (Psalm 119:2)
- They will say (people called from the nations), “We will walk in His paths”. (Psalm 119:3)

Prophet Summary

- Foreigners will **join** themselves to Yahweh
- To serve Him
- To love the name of Yahweh
- They keep the **Sabbath** and don't desecrate it
- They **take hold of My covenant.**
- Their **burnt offerings** are accepted on My altar
- Their **sacrifices** are accepted on My altar

Prophet Summary

- What do the Prophets say?
- They will seek Yahweh with their whole heart, wanting to hear Him teach them His ways, desiring to walk in His paths, desiring to go to the Temple to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, they will keep the Sabbath and not desecrate it,

Prophet Summary

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Called by His Name

- Deuteronomy 28:9-10
- ⁹ Yahweh shall establish you as a holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto you,
- **IF** thou shalt keep the commandments of Yahweh thy Elohim, and walk in His ways.
- ¹⁰ **THEN** all nations of the earth shall see that thou art

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- ¹⁰ Then all nations of the earth shall see that thou art **called by the name** of Yahweh...

On Deck

- We now know what the prophets have said concerning what it looks like when those from the nations are called by Yahweh to become a people called by His name.
- What do IAMCS and FFOZ understand?

IAMCS

- A position paper of the *International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues* (IAMCS) Steering Committee
1/15/2014
- *One Law, Two Sticks: A Critical Look at the Hebrew Roots Movement*

IAMCS

- Our Purpose in This Paper:
- By issuing this paper, we wish to identify and describe One Law theology and the related Hebrew Roots movement, both historically and today, and to give an informed opinion as to **the errors** as well as **the inherent dangers** of it.

IAMCS

- We in the messianic Jewish movement also wish to make clear the fact that we are opposed to **One Law** theology...
- In our view, therefore, **it is wrong to admonish Gentile believers universally to think that they need to observe the Torah.**

IAMCS

- We in the messianic Jewish movement also wish to make clear the fact that we are opposed to One Law theology...
- In our view, therefore, it is wrong to admonish Gentile believers universally to think that they need to observe the Torah. It is clear, furthermore, that the Apostles dealt with this precise question of Gentile Torah observance and answered it on point in Acts 15.

IAMCS

- The idea behind “One Law” theology, whether stated or implied, is that **he who keeps the law given to Israel, therefore IS Israel.**
- Accordingly, “One Law” theology is simply a form of **replacement theology.**
- By keeping the laws which are specific to Israel, one thereby presumes to be Israel.

IAMCS

- This **incorrect desire** to “keep Torah” in order to become Israel is a **deception** that dates back to the time of the Apostles. (I Timothy 1:4, Titus 3:9).
- I Timothy 1:4 Neither give heed to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote useless speculations rather than God’s redemptive plan which is by faith.

IAMCS

- This **incorrect desire** to “keep Torah” in order to become Israel is a **deception** that dates back to the time of the Apostles. (I Timothy 1:4, Titus 3:9).
- Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and disputes about the law; for they are unprofitable and worthless.

IAMCS

- ...by keeping the law, a person proves that they *are* Israel. This is the Hebrew Roots premise.
- But furthermore, as opposed to the gospel of scripture which proclaims the good news of forgiveness of sin, the Hebrew Roots message is a gospel of law.

IAMCS

- To wit, that man is to be reconciled unto God not by faith in God, but by keeping the Law of Moses.
- Accordingly, no person can hope to be in a healthy relationship with God unless he or she is keeping the weekly Sabbath, the appointed feasts, and the dietary laws.
- **The scriptures testify otherwise.** (Col. 2:16).

IAMCS

- In Hebrew Roots, the message is that God is supposedly angry at the Gentile church because the world is eating the wrong foods, and because humans are failing to gather on the correct appointed days.

IAMCS

- The Hebrew Roots message to the Gentiles is that the reason Messiah died on the tree was not to deliver the Gentile from sin, but to deliver the Gentile from being a Gentile.
- As if being a Gentile would somehow be unacceptable to God.

IAMCS

- The gospel message therefore, for the Hebrew Roots enthusiast, is that God has sent His son into the world in order to conform people to the image of a Jew.
- After all, Yeshua is Jewish, so all people must be like Him...
- People they list: Eddie Chumney, Bill Cloud, Brad Scott, Rico Cortes, HRN, etc..

FFOZ

- Torah for Gentiles
- At First Fruits of Zion, we believe that the Torah is a source of spiritual blessing for Jewish and Gentile believers. We encourage Gentile believers to take hold of the uniquely Jewish aspects of Torah observance such as **Sabbath**, the **festivals**, and the **biblical dietary laws** as part of their walk of discipleship.

FFOZ

- However, we also acknowledge that the apostles did not require the Gentile believers to do so. They wrote to the Gentiles as follows: Acts 15:28-29 (the 4)

FFOZ

- They kept as much as they could, but were not legally liable for certain Jewish distinctive: the commandments of circumcision, Sabbath, festivals, and Levitical dietary laws.
- Side note: Isn't "Don't eat anything that hasn't had the blood removed" a Levitical dietary law?

FFOZ

- That means that the God-fearing Gentiles could not be punished by the leadership of the Jewish community for failure to keep those particular commandments because they were not legally “under the law” in the same way that Jewish people were.

FFOZ

- They'll Learn the Rest Later
- The apostles were simply offering the Gentiles four minimum standards for the sake of establishing fellowship within the Jewish community. After accepting those four standards, the Gentiles would learn about the rest of the Torah in the synagogue every Sabbath and start observing more of it. (Acts 15:21)

FFOZ

- David Stern - Jewish NT Commentary, (Jewish NT Publications, Inc., 1999), 279.
- “Let the Gentiles enter the Messianic Community without becoming Jews, and don’t be troubled over it, because, no matter where these Gentile believers live, they will continue visiting the local synagogue and hearing what Judaism teaches about living a godly life.”

FFOZ

- ...The Gentiles under discussion in Acts 15 were already on the trajectory of Torah.
- Their presence in the synagogue on Sabbaths indicates that they were already worshipping on the Sabbath.

FFOZ

- Their participation in the Jewish community indicates that they were already engaged in Torah life on some level and could be expected to continue to mature in it as they learned.

FFOZ

- As for their own halachic authority over the Gentile believers, the apostles refused to lay anything on them beyond the four “essentials” of Acts 15.
- Anything beyond those four essentials

FFOZ

- As for their own halachic authority over the Gentile believers, the apostles refused to lay anything on them beyond the four “essentials” of Acts 15.
- Anything beyond those four essentials **they left up to the leadership of the synagogues where the Gentile believers attended.**

FFOZ

- If the apostles intended for the Gentiles to eventually learn the Jewish particulars of Torah (such as circumcision, Sabbath, festivals, and **Levitical dietary laws**) and practice them, they never stated that expectation [**here**].
- Once again, “Don’t eat anything that hasn’t had the blood removed” is a Levitical dietary law.

FFOZ

- Nor did they offer a timeframe for a Gentile in a believing synagogue to make the transition from non-observant to fully Torah-observant (i.e. **Jewish**).

FFOZ

- They were silent regarding any specific plan for Gentile believers to eventually become obligated to the circumcision, the Sabbath, the festivals, and the dietary laws. They neither forbade the Gentiles from practicing the Jewish aspects of Torah; nor did they require them to do so.

FFOZ

- Back to the Jewish question (2 slides ago)
- The Proof is in the Prophets
- “With this the words of the prophets agree...”
- In what way does this passage justify a Gentile exemption from circumcision, **conversion to Judaism**, and full liability to the laws of the Torah?

FFOZ

- According to the Amos passage, the restored Davidic kingdom will include Gentiles who bear God's Name.
- Paul's Gentile believers fit the prophet's description well. They were Gentiles from the nations who identified themselves with God's Name and sought after God because of the kingship of Yeshua.

FFOZ

- However, if the Gentiles who seek Yahweh through Yeshua must be circumcised **to become legally Jewish**, they cease to be Gentiles. (I agree for the most part)
- By virtue of the fact that Amos calls them “Gentiles” who bear God’s Name, they cannot be Jews, nor can they be proselytes to Judaism.

FFOZ

- The moment that such a Gentile legally converted to Judaism, they would become legally (halachically) Jewish and no longer be a Gentile who bore God's Name.
- In that case, the believing Gentiles would fail to fulfill the prophecy because the prophecy clearly speaks of these God seekers as Gentiles.

FFOZ

- For the prophecy to be literally fulfilled, both Jews and Gentiles must exist in the days of Messiah--an impossibility if all Gentiles were forced to become legally Jewish.
- Amos's Gentiles are to be vassals of the Jewish king. As such, they are to be part of the **πολιτειασ** [**commonwealth**] of Israel, with rights as **citizens** of Israel.

FFOZ

- They are to be bound to the laws of the king of Israel, but they are to be regarded as Gentiles.
- They have a legitimate place in the kingdom and **citizenship** in Israel, but they still maintain their own non-Jewish, legal identity.

FFOZ

- Part 1) The Tipping Point_ Acts 15; 21 _ FFOZ Blogs.pdf
- Part 2) Acts 15 Re-Examined _ FFOZ Blogs.pdf

FFOZ

- Preliminary Conclusion:
- Observing all of Torah does not make one (halachically) Jewish (including circumcision).
- Converting to Judaism would cause them to become legally (halachically) Jewish.
- Anything beyond those four essentials **they left up to the leadership of the synagogues where the Gentile believers attended.**

FFOZ

- Preliminary Conclusion:
- IAMCS – Colossians 2:16

IAMCS

- Accordingly, no person can hope to be in a healthy relationship with God unless he or she is keeping the weekly Sabbath, the appointed feasts, and the dietary laws.
- **The scriptures testify otherwise.** (Col. 2:16)

FFOZ

- Preliminary Conclusion:
- IAMCS – Colossians 2:16
- FFOZ Behind the curtain – Colossians 2:16
- http://ffoz.org/blogs/2009/09/sin_and_torah.html
- *Why is there no list?*
- Others: http://ffoz.org/blogs/2009/09/moral_vs_ceremonial_1.html
- http://ffoz.org/messiahonline/articles/walking_torah/restoring_that_which_was_lost.php
- What about I Corinthians 7:39

Tangent

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- The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband is alive; but if her husband has died, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will;

Tangent

- What about I Corinthians 7:39
- The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband is alive; but if her husband has died, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.**
- Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Messiah Yeshua.

Tangent

- According to Judaism 101: Who is a Jew?
 - <http://www.jewfaq.org/whoisjew.htm> (Orthodox)
 - The child that is born of a Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father is a Jew.
 - The child that is born of a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother is not a Jew.
 - Ezra 10:2-3 (but Joseph...)

Tangent

- Both agree that a Jew is fully obligated to the entire Torah and Gentiles are not.
- So if a Jewish woman marries a Gentile man (both in the lord – I Cor. 7:39) and then have children, according to orthodox Judaism, the children are Jewish and fully obligated to the entire Torah.
- Flip that, the children, as Gentiles, are not.

Tangent

- So, how can, in the situation of a mixed marriage, a Gentile father, who is only *invited*, not legally obligated to a Torah obedient lifestyle, prepare his presumably Jewish children for a lifestyle of *obligatory* obedience to the requirements of the Torah in a credible and sustainable way?
- <https://messianic613.wordpress.com/2009/09/24/ffozs-new-theology-of-divine-invitation/>
- Not permitted (Deut. 7:3-4) <http://www.jewfaq.org/gentiles.htm>

FFOZ

- Aside from circumcision, though, the apostles provide no list of commandments from which **Gentile believers are exempt**.
- Perhaps Paul comes close to doing so in **Colossians 2:16** where he lists the Sabbath, the festivals, the new moons, and the dietary laws

FFOZ

- Aside from circumcision, though, the apostles provide no list of commandments from which Gentile believers are exempt.
- Perhaps Paul comes close to doing so in **Colossians 2:16** where he lists the Sabbath, the festivals, the new moons, and the dietary laws **as matters for which the Gentile believers of Colossae should not be judged.**

FFOZ

- He only says that Gentile believers are not to be judged regarding those matters--a statement he could not have made regarding Jewish believers.

