

Fellow Mennonite Brethren: We Stumble Too!

It will no doubt surprise you to learn that that both Christians and Jews have stumbled over the Stumbling Stone. It is taken for granted that the Jewish people, who have not believed in the Messiah, have stumbled over Him. But Christians? How can that be, you might ask. Yet that is exactly what the Scriptures say in Yeshayahu (Isaiah) chapter eight:

"And He shall be for a Place of Refuge; but for a Stone of stumbling and for a Rock of offence **to both the houses of Yisrael.....And many among both houses shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.** " (14-15)

The truth is that (in general) neither Christians or Jews have accepted Yeshua as the "Living Torah." The Jewish people do believe in the Torah or the laws of Moshe to a degree, but they do not believe that the Messiah was raised from the dead. Christians, however, while they do believe that the Messiah was raised from the dead, do not believe the Torah or the laws of Moshe. Effectively, neither house has accepted Yeshua as the Living Torah.

As Moshe Koniuchowsky has written, "Both houses have stumbled over the coming of the Moshiach Yahshua, as prophesied here. Judah rejected the living Torah, YHWH's Son, and is blind. Ephraim or non-Jewish Yisrael has rejected their identity as the other house of Yisrael, along with their responsibilities to live in the eternal ways of the written Torah, and are therefore blind as well. In order for Ephraim or non-Jewish Yisrael to stumble at Moshiach Yahshua's arrival, by definition they had to be in existence to the supernatural eye of YHWH, even though the natural eye had lost track of them some 721 years before the Stumbling Stone arrived" (Restoration Scriptures, page 424).

It is astonishing that more Jewish people have come to believe in Yeshua Messiah in the last twenty years than in all of the nearly 2000 years previous. New Messianic Jewish congregations are now a regular occurrence. Yet there is not a single instance of a new congregation leaving the law of Moshe or turning from the ways of YHWH. Upon experiencing the miracle of faith in Yeshua, Jews do not heave a sigh of relief that they no longer need to live by the Torah or feel that they have been burdened by the law throughout their long history. (Why even Jews who have not believed in Yeshua, but have read the Messianic Scriptures, know that Yeshua did not come to destroy the law and the prophets.) More often than not, the Messianic Jews have been an inspiration to the Ephraimites who are just beginning to follow the Torah. A minority of both houses have believed in the Living Torah.

Yeshua Messiah was the Stumbling Stone according to Acts 4:11, Ephesians 2:20m and 1 Peter 2:4-8. Part of that last reference is:

"Behold, I lay in Tzion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believes on Him shall not be put to shame. To you therefore who believe He is precious:

but to those **who are disobedient**, the Stone that the builders disallowed, the same is made the Cornerstone, and a Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offence, even to them who stumble at the word, **being disobedient**: to which they also were appointed."

Brethren, Yeshua Messiah was and is the Living Torah. It was Yeshua who delivered the Torah to Yisrael at Sinai. It was Yeshua that embodied the Torah 2000 years ago when "[the Word became flesh](#)." It is Yeshua who is now turning back the hearts of many Yisraelites to the Torah in these very days. I trust that you will not take offence or think that my words are harsh or be ashamed. But, if we have not accepted Yeshua Messiah as the Living Torah, then we are still stumbling over Him just as Yeshayahu said in chapter 20, verse 20:

"[To the Torah](#) (the Law) [and to the testimony](#) (the resurrection): [if they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no Light in them.](#) "

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Shalom