

CHAPTER ONE

**TRADITIONS THAT BREAK
THE COMMANDMENTS**

Many sincere people of God are facing the truth that some commonly accepted practices of the Christian church actually break or nullify the commandments of God for the sake of tradition.

“...why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?” (Matt. 15:3)

Yeshua rebuked some of the religious Jews of His day for their hypocrisy, declaring their worship in vain because they taught man-made rules:

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
(Matt. 15:9; Is. 29:13)

This rebuke, I believe, is now coming upon the Christian Church, because time is short. God is accelerating His work of cleansing and purifying His Bride, that she shall be a spotless virgin for Him at His soon coming arrival. Yeshua

left us with the promise of the Holy Spirit who would lead and guide us into all truth. We should be walking in a higher level of truth and maturity, eating the meat, not just sucking milk like babes, but some want to stay stuck in ‘the way it has always been.’ One of the factors that prevent so many Jewish people from accepting Yeshua as the Messiah is this one thing - tradition: *“This is the way we have always practiced our religion; this is the way our fathers have taught us, and our fathers, rabbis, and leaders would not lie...”*

We expect (or at least hope) that the Jewish people, for the sake of their salvation, would break out of the bondage of tradition, heed the rebuke of the Hebrew prophets, and receive the truth that would set them free. But do we not, as the Body of Messiah, often commit the same sin? Would not Yeshua’s rebuke to the Pharisees fall upon religious leaders today?

Just as many Jewish people do not welcome such a radical change in their lives as would result from receiving Yeshua as Lord and Savior, many Christians also cannot or will not accommodate such radical change. They protest, *“Why do I have to change? The way I’ve practiced my religion has always been good enough up to now, hasn’t it?”*

For everything there is a season. For a time, God tolerated and overlooked a measure of ignorance, just as we do in our young children, but is now calling His people to repent in preparation for His appointed day of return when He will judge the world in righteousness and justice.

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained...” (Acts 17:30)

The time is short! We must repent and change our ways now. How do we know that the time of the coming of Yeshua is soon? The Word tells us that heaven would receive Yeshua UNTIL a certain period of time. What is this time? It is the times of restoration that all the Hebrew holy prophets spoke of.

“And that He may send Yeshua the Messiah, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:20-21)

A Set Time

What is this time of restoration? It is the restoration of the Land of Israel and the time is now.

“You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the SET TIME, has come.” (Ps. 102:13)

After a long period of desolation, an amazing miracle has taken place - the words of the Holy prophets have been fulfilled before our very eyes. In 1948, the nation of Israel was re-born. (Is. 66:8) The land which lay as a desolate wasteland for centuries now buds and blossoms and fills the world with fruit and flowers. (Is. 35:1) In some places, what was a desert wilderness now resembles the Garden of Eden. (Is. 51:3) The ancient ruins have been rebuilt and restored; the cities are once again inhabited. (Is. 61:4; Ezek. 36:10) Old men and women sit on park benches with canes because of their great age and little children once again play in the streets of Jerusalem. (Zech. 8:4-5) My children are