

## **Fathers Day**

**Father's Day is a day set apart to honor and celebrate our fathers and fatherhood in general. We recognize and honor the influence of fathers in our homes and society, and in blended family paternal bonds. It is also celebrated to honor and commemorate our fathers and forefathers. Fathers-Day is celebrated in the U.S. on the third Sunday of June. Tradition has it that Father's Day was first observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, through the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd, a Christian woman and the daughter of American Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Sonora's mother died when she was age 16, and she wanted a day that would commemorate and honor fathers like her own, who had raised her and five other children. Once she began pressing the idea of an official Father's Day, she met opposition and even derision, but she persevered. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson spoke at a Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington, wanting to make it an official holiday, but Congress still resisted. In 1924, Calvin Coolidge became involved, and in 1930 a national committee was formed by various trade groups in an effort to legitimize the holiday. The battle continued, and in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation for the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Finally, it was made an official national holiday when President Nixon signed a similar proclamation in 1972.**

## **Danger of Cultural Religion**

**The danger of worldly culture invading the body of Messiah results in "Cultural Religion" which blurs the line between authentic biblical expression of worship and mere religious tradition, rituals, or worldly identity. This leads to apostasy, apathy, complacency, and a disconnect from the act of worshipping Adonai in Spirit and Truth. Cultural Religion results in a manmade form of religion that lacks true biblical vitality, power, and is antosemitic. Individuals who adopt nonbiblical rituals and beliefs without genuinely understanding or committing to the transformative relationship with Yeshua through the word of God and obedience and submission to Adonai which is the heart our relationship with Him:**

**John 4:22-24.** You people don't know what you are worshipping; we worship what we do know, because salvation comes from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the time is coming -- indeed, it's here now -- when the true worshippers will worship the Father spiritually and truly, for these are the kind of people the Father wants worshipping him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit; and worshippers must worship him spiritually and truly."

**We, the Children of God, The Body of Messiah, The Messianic Movement are called to be a beacon of light in the darkness, not to mimic it. Throughout history, we can observe various instances where syncretism has infiltrated the greater body through Hellenism and the Sins of Jeroboam, leading to confusion and a diluted, watered down, and powerless understanding of the Adonai, His Kingdom, Yeshua, and the Ruach HaKodesh. The Greater Body of Messiah must**

**be vigilant against these same influences that seek to compromise our beliefs and maintain biblical purity while removing and destroying the practices that are not scriptural. As I've been repeatedly sharing the warning words of Yeshua:**

**Matthew 7:21-23.** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants. <sup>22</sup> On that Day, 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?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'

**This must be understood and heard around the world! This is a profound warning, many self-proclaimed "believers" will not only be barred from heaven, Yeshua will say "I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!". The terrifying reality is that they genuinely believe they're saved and going to heaven, only to hear the chilling command, "Get away from Me." There are many, many believers who proclaim to be "Christians", but they have a false sense of security such as those who attend only on Christmas and Easter and neither of these celebrations are biblical. Their trust and faith are based upon occasional unbiblical religious rituals to grant them entry into heaven. They say, "I believe," but according to James:**

**James 2:19.** You believe that "God is one"? Good for you! The demons believe it too - the thought makes them shudder with fear!

**Far too many identify as Christian because of their religious affiliation, practices, or what they were born into. Yet they aren't obedient to Adonai, they aren't true Talmidim of Yeshua.**

**I John 5:2-5.** Here is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God, we also do what he commands. <sup>3</sup> For loving God means obeying his commands. Moreover, his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> because everything which has God as its Father overcomes the world. And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust. <sup>5</sup> Who does overcome the world if not the person who believes that Yeshua is the Son of God?

**It is impossible to have biblical beliefs that do not find expression in biblical conduct. Head knowledge is often confused with real trust which is obedience. If you love God, you obey do what He commands, this is the key of overcoming the world, not submitting to it! Victory and intimacy with Adonai are not found through the demonic doctrines of man-made religion. To understand the roots of today's Cultural Religion we must go all the way back to the first Temple period. There is nothing new under the sun!**

**I Kings 11:9-13.** So ADONAI grew angry with Shlomo, because his heart had turned away from ADONAI the God of Isra'el, who had appeared to him twice <sup>10</sup> and given him orders concerning this matter that he should not follow other gods. But he didn't obey ADONAI's orders. <sup>11</sup> So ADONAI said to Shlomo, "Since this is what has been in your mind, and you haven't kept my covenant and my regulations which I ordered you to obey, I will

tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup> However, for David your father's sake I won't do it while you are alive, but I will tear it away from your son. <sup>13</sup> Even then, I won't tear away all the kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Yerushalayim, which I have chosen."

**After just two generations of unity, the empire that Solomon's father King David had won and built was divided in two because of the sins of Solomon-following other god's. Solomon engaged in practices of worship that are not biblical! Solomon died in 931 B.C. after which the kingdom was divided in Two. Solomon's son Rehoboam was King over Judah and Jerusalem while Jeroboam would be made King over the other ten tribes or the Northern Kingdom by the Lord's Prophetic command:**

**I Kings 11:29-33 (TLV).** It was around that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had covered himself in a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the field. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah seized the new cloak that was on him, tore it into twelve pieces, <sup>31</sup> and said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for thus says Adonai, God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and will give ten tribes to you. <sup>32</sup> But he will have one tribe, for My servant David's sake, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. <sup>33</sup> "'For they have abandoned Me and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon. They have not walked in My ways, nor done what is right in My eyes, nor kept My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David did.

"They have not walked in My ways, nor done what is right in My eyes, nor kept My statutes and My ordinances". **This is Cultural Religion which separates people from Adonai and His Kingdom. Unity is of God, Division is of HaSatan. This division becomes the root which continues on in Israel's (Northern Kingdom's) History. Jeroboam, in order to control his people and keep them in his territory made altars in the north so his people wouldn't go to Jerusalem to worship. He did what was evil before the eyes of the Lord. There is no difference between this and Hellenism and syncretism. Syncretism is the merging or assimilation of different worldly, cultural beliefs, practices, and traditions. It occurs in religious contexts, where elements from various pagan religions are combined, leading to a new system that strays from the Kingdom of God. This is why the greater body celebrated Halloween, Easter, and Christmas all of which have not one biblical connection. I challenge you to send me a verse that supports their celebration!**

**I Kings 12:26-30 (TLV).** But Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If this people keep going up to offer sacrifices in the House of Adonai at Jerusalem, then the heart of these people will turn back to their lord—to King Rehoboam of Judah. Then they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah." <sup>28</sup> So the king sought counsel and made two golden calves. He said to them, "You have been going up to Jerusalem long enough! Here are your gods O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." <sup>29</sup> Then he set up one in Bethel and the other he put in Dan. <sup>30</sup> Now this thing became a sin for the people went to worship before the one even up in Dan.

**It doesn't say whose counsel Jeroboam sought but it wasn't Godly. He's concerned that the peoples "heart of these people will turn back to their lord". Jeroboam died in 910 B.C. His sins caused further division and infighting within Israel. Nadav, Jeroboam's son, is made King and reigns only two years when Ba'sha conspires against him, kills Nadav and becomes king. Because Ba'sha was so evil God said he would remove him. After two years Ba'sha died and Elah, Ba'sha's son took the throne and ruled for two years. After two years of rule Zimri conspired against Elah and killed him, so Zimri became King. Zimri ruled for seven days when the word spread throughout Israel that Zimri had plotted against the King.**

**I Kings 16:21-25 (TLV).** Then the people of Israel were divided into two factions: half of the people followed Tibni son of Ginath, making him king, while the other half followed Omri. <sup>22</sup> But the people following Omri prevailed against the people following Tibni son of Ginath. Tibni died, and Omri became king. <sup>23</sup> In the thirty-first year of King Asa of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and reigned 12 years, six years in Tirzah. <sup>24</sup> Then he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and built a city on the hill. He named the city that he built Samaria, based on the name Shemer, the owner of the hill. <sup>25</sup> But Omri did what was evil in Adonai's eyes, and acted more wickedly than all who were before him.

**This is how and why the northern Kingdom, Israel and the area of Samaria became known as Shomron. Omri actually built a temple of Ba'al here for sacrifices made to Ba'al. Omri's son was Ahab who married Jezebel! This is how Israel and this area of the Promise Land fell into idolatry to the point of punishment by God and exile from the land!**

**The Northern tribes quickly fell into idolatry culminating in false altars and golden calf's being worshiped as well as worshipping "'Ashtoret the goddess of the Tzidoni, K'mosh the god of Mo'av and Milkom the god of the people of 'Amon" Astarte was connected with fertility, sexuality, and war. Her symbols were the lion, the horse, the sphinx, the dove, and a star within a circle indicating the planet Venus. Pictorial representations often show her naked.**

**Astarte was accepted by the Greeks under the name of Aphrodite. The island of Cyprus, one of Astarte's greatest faith centers, supplied the name Cypris as Aphrodite's most common byname. Aphrodite became Venus and Ishtar in the Roman religion which means "love" and "sexual desire" and was very popular in roman celebrations and festivals! Moloch was intertwined with Ba'al and involved sacrificing children by fire. Plato's Republic described Moloch:**

There stands in their midst a bronze statue of Krono's, its hands extended over a bronze brazier, the flames of which engulf the child. When the flames fall upon the body, the limbs contract and the open mouth seems almost to be laughing until the contracted body slips quietly into the brazier. Thus it is that the 'grin' is known as 'sardonic laughter,' since they die laughing.

**Saturnus is the Dec 25th celebration to honor Kronos, the Greco/Roman god who overthrew his father by castrating him with a sickle and ruling the universe until he was overthrown by his sons Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon. Krono's (a Chronograph is a time keeping devise or today called a clock) is portrayed with a sickle in his hand and is known in the west as father time every western new year!**

**I want you to see how inculcated Cultural Religion this is in western society, contemporary religion, and thought. To see the spiritual root of the west's traditions! This isn't limited to just Christian issued-its Judaic as well. Remember the names of the months in the Hebrew calendar came from Babylon, the Rosh Hashanah, New Year celebrated in September came from the Babylonian Exile etc..... This is how both houses have fallen in apostasy and separated from each other!**

**Because of their sins God placed the Northern Kingdom, (Israe, Shomron, Ephraim) into captivity. They were taken into exile by King Sargon of Assyria who invaded and conquered the Ten Tribes region in 722 B.C. Followed by the destruction and exile of Judah in A.D. 70. By Rome.**

**Now we begin to see a pattern develop that continues into our day today. A sinful, deathly pattern of Cultural Religion that leads to apostasy and God's Judgment! This continued on through the time of Yeshua until today!**

**Mark 7:13.** Thus, with your tradition which you had handed down to you, you nullify the Word of God! And you do other things like this."

**This is all the result of Cultural Religion. It's assimilating away from God by following contemporary culture and philosophy. Again, it directly attacks the core of Biblical life and Kingdom culture: worship of the God of Israel! The multitude of gods and idolatry spawned in Shomron seeded a major impact upon the body of believers; The council of Nicaea which instilled all of this idol worship and Hellenism as permanent theology.**

**Nicaea was fueled by several early Church Fathers such as Clement of Alexandria a Christian theologian who united Greek philosophical traditions with Christian doctrine developed a Christian Platonism-the merger of Christian doctrine with the Greek philosophy taught by Plato. Plato and his master Socrates were homosexuals.**

**Plato wrote: "Homosexuality is regarded as shameful by barbarians and by those who live under despotic governments just as philosophy is regarded as shameful by them, because it is apparently not in the interest of such rulers to have great ideas engendered in their subjects, or powerful friendships or passionate love-all of which homosexuality is particularly apt to produce."**

**Caesarea Philippi is located right in the heart of Shomron and if you remember is where Yeshua asked the Talmidim "Who do you say I am"! He was directly coming against Cultural Religion because the temple to Pan was there at Caesarea Philippi. When you think about the time He spent here, and John 4- Yeshua understood. He would be aghast of the greater body today! He wouldn't recognize it because of the Cultural Religion.**

**We begin to understand why we are experiencing apostasy in the greater body and the great influx of homosexual clergy and same sex marriages being performed.**

**In Cultural Religion this is its natural progression while in Torah and the words of God it's an abomination. We battle this same spirit in the Messianic movement. Christ nailing the Old Testament to the cross and your released from being obedient to God is Cultural Religion. We're experiencing prodigious sin in the greater body because Cultural Religion is suffocating trust, truth, and obedience. Yeshua gives us a clear warning! Another side effect of Cultural Religion is the watering down of the truth. Yeshua's words are strong.**

**Revelation 22:14-15.** How blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city! <sup>15</sup> Outside are the homosexuals, those involved with the occult and with drugs, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol-worshippers, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

**To the woke Churches, those practicing Cultural religion how do you reconcile this to your doctrines! You can't! Every morning we wake up and lie to ourselves. We tell ourselves that everything will be OK as we take our children to school, go to work, go about our business. We lie to ourselves to comfort us that we'll make it and everything will be alright. That is in fact a lie. Everything is not okay. Listen, the people of Shomron keep their false altars and idol right up to the day they were conquered by Assyria and taken into captivity. They remained stiff-necked and refused to change right the very end.**

**James 4:17.** So then, anyone who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it is committing a sin.

**I know I sound like a broken record but things continue to deteriorate and get worse within the body. God's speaking to us, He's given us warnings, and the body of Messiah in America defiantly continues its Cultural Religious worship without repenting and turning back to God. Idolatry continues on because it's big business and people refuse to give up their idols.**

**Bless the children and begin there to break off this Culture Religion. They may be our only hope for this generation, these children's parents and grandparents may be like the generation that left Egypt, unable to give it up. Will we die wandering in the desert because they won't release or give up the traditions and religion!**

Perhaps the greatest culprit in creating a society of cultural Christians is nostalgia. Americans may be fond of going to church on Sundays, saying a "blessing" before a meal, and putting up a Nativity scene during the Christmas season. Those things are so deeply integrated into our culture that they've lost their meaning. They've become traditions that Americans do from time to time instead of sacred acts of devotion toward God.

**Cultural Religion promotes a superficial, socially-driven version of faith that lacks the depth and transformative power of a genuine relationship with Adonai. By encouraging complacency, distorting the "Good News", and failing to produce true Talmidim, Cultural Religion ultimately results in apostasy from the authentic trust in Yeshua as described in Scripture. True trust and relationship as emphasized throughout scripture, requires a personal commitment to follow Yeshua, embrace His teachings, and pursue a transformed life through Obedience and Submission to Adonai! Loving God means obedience to Him:**

**I John 2:3-4 (TLV).** Now we know that we have come to know Him by this—if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

**This love and obedience is rooted in Messiah Yeshua! It is what distinguishes genuine trust, worshipping Him in Spirit and Truth from of Cultural Religion. Now more than ever we need the body of Messiah to be in alignment with us! It is critical that we move forward with a Messianic Jewish Community Center to stand against antisemitism and Cultural religion!**

**Numbers 23:24.** "Here is a people rising up like a lioness; like a lion he rears himself up -he will not lie down till he eats up the prey and drinks the blood of the slain."