


REVELATION - EPHESUS
A Call to Repentance



REVELATION STUDY **SEVEN CHURCHES**




EPHESUS' CORRECTION
30-100 A.D.
The Historical Record Overlaid on the Biblical Text
Lesson 12





EPHESUS
Historical Overlay
ANTI-HEBRAISM
I. REVIEW


- II. Introduction
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REVELATION STUDY **SEVEN CHURCHES**




EPHESUS' CORRECTION
30-100 A.D.
I. REVIEW



EPHESUS
Apostolic Age


"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand, Who walks among the seven golden lampstands."
Rev 2:1




EPHESUS
Apostolic Age

"But I have this against you, you have forsaken your first Love"
(Rev 2:4).

REVELATION STUDY




“ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches....”
Rev 2:7.




II. INTRODUCTION

Rev 2:4, a **Correction to Ephesus and to us.**
Who / What was the Love they had at first but have now left / abandoned ?




The consensus of scholarship is that at Ephesus the devotion of the followers of Jesus Messiah had begun to wane.
However, the historical record does not support this as the problem.
To understand Revelation 2:4 we need to go back to the Garden of Eden.



EPHESUS' Correction
The Historical Overlay Reveals
ANTI-HEBRAISM
Correction to my earlier teaching:

After further research and **illumination by the Spirit** I believe the rebuke given to the Church at Ephesus is not the sin of **Anti-Semitism** as formerly taught, but rather **Anti-Hebraism**.




EPHESUS' CORRECTION
The Historical Overlay Reveals

Definition of ANTI-HEBRAISM

Anti-Hebraism . Rejecting the Eternal One's **Word and Ways** (is to reject Him).
Anti-Semitism . Rejecting the Eternal One's **chosen people**, descendants of **Abraham and Sarah** (is to reject Him, Mt 25:40).

THE ETERNAL ONE CHOSE ABRAHAM



Abraham's Genealogy
Adam
Noah
Shem
Heber
Abraham
Gen 10 -11;
Lk 3:23-38

THE ETERNAL ONE CHOSE ABRAHAM

Abraham's Genealogy:
From **Heber** comes the **Hebrew People** the **Hebrew Language** (The LORD's Language) **Hebrew** was the only language to the tower of Babel (Gen 11). (Zeph 3:9)

Therefore, The LORD gave Abraham and his Descendants:
~ Hebrew Language
~ Promised line of the Messiah
~ Seven Covenants
~ The Word / Scriptures (Gen 15; 17; Rom 9:4)

ANTI-HEBRAISM INTRODUCTION

All sixty-six books of the Bible were written by Jews (most in Hebrew) chosen by the Holy Spirit.



Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit+ (2 Peter 1:20-21).

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts+(Isa 55:8-9).



Moses' Prayer

If I have found favor in Your sight, please show me now

1. Your Ways,
2. that I may know You in order to
3. find favor in Your sight. Ex 33:13

THE ETERNAL ONE'S



Word to Abraham

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Gen 12:3

The Eternal One's Word
Gen 12:3; Isa 51:2; Rom 4:16



Isaiah 51:1-2

"Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you...."

EPHESUS CORRECTION
The Historical Overlay Reveals ANTI-HEBRAISM



This teaching is not intended to accuse or point our finger at any specific person or group of people, but rather to open our eyes, hearts and understanding to what the Spirit has revealed and deal with these facts according to Biblical Principles: **A Call to Repentance** (Lev 4-5).

EPHESUS' CORRECTION
The Historical Overlay Reveals ANTI-HEBRAISM
III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



The primary focus of the historical overlay is to examine the teachings of the **Early Gentile Church Fathers**; some authors address them as **Apostolic Fathers**. The title is synonymous with **Early Church Fathers** and **not to be confused with the Jewish Apostles**.




Identifying the Correction:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM




" Jesus was a Jew.
 " All His followers were Jews.
 " He chose only Jews as His disciples.
 " **Jerusalem** is central to the Father's Big Picture Plan.
 " What is now called the %Church+ was known as the "**Assembly, Congregation, ekklesia**" the called out ones and the **Leadership was Jewish.**
 " Gentile **Believers** were known as %Notzerim+the followers of the **Rebbe of Nazareth.**


EPHESUS
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
 The simplest of research will verify that the **Early Church Fathers** rejected the **Hebrew language** and developed their own nomenclature. **Examples:**
 1.) They stripped the **Biblical text** of all **Hebrew names**; 2.) They did not transliterate Biblical words as the Hebrew word Mashiach (Moshiach) to Greek (Messias) English (Messiah) to be true to the text. They invented the name %Jesus+and %Christ+from which they brought forth %Christian.+ **Paul** never heard the word %Christian+ and **Messiah** never heard %Jesus.+ Their **anti-Hebraic** work furthered Satan's plot disguising the Savior's identity as **Jewish.**



ANTI-HEBRAISM
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Jewish Scholar,
Walter Laqueur *The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism,*
 "The question that has preoccupied historians and theologians was and is to what extent the **New Testament** was **anti-Jewish (anti-Hebraic)** from the beginning or whether it was only interpreted as such by the **church fathers** several centuries later.+ "**Without original text there is, to put it cautiously, at least a strong suspicion that those who copied them over the ages 'edited' or even rewrote them.**"



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
Joseph Klausner (1874-1958) Jewish scholar of Hebrew University wrote *Jesus of Nazareth, From Jesus to Paul and History of the Second Temple Era* (1922). Klausner was one of the most eminent of Jewish historians of the first half of the twentieth century. Klausner was the first to bring to the **Jewish world, in a scholarly manner, the place and meaning of Jesus.**



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
Klausner quotes **Julius Wellhausen**, a Christian anti-Semitic scholar, %Jesus was not a Christian; He was a Jew. He did not proclaim a new faith, but taught men to do the will of God. According to Jesus, as to the Jews generally, this will of God is to be found in the Law and other canonical Scriptures.+ **Klausner states, "Never before did such a statement escape the pen of a Christian scholar and such a scholar, and such an enemy of Jews and Judaism as was Wellhausen!"**




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
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ANTI-HEBRAISM
Episcopal Bishop John Spong writes in his book *This Hebrew Lord*, %The Bible is a **Hebrew** book telling the story of a **Hebrew** people. **Jesus was a Hebrew Lord.**+ Bishop Spong adds his voice to those who teach that the early Gentile believers enjoyed regular Torah study under Jewish leadership at the Temple in Jerusalem.



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
IV. JERUSALEM COUNCIL

"At the Jerusalem Council (A.D. 50) the leadership is still Jewish (Acts 15).

"Acts 15 Council is about two decades after Jesus Messiah's death, burial and resurrection.




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM

*"The **Assembly** (church) began with Jewish leaders.*

*"After Pentecost the move of the **Spirit** filled the **synagogues** with **Gentiles**.*

*"David Rausch writes, %Christianity was (is) the **child of Judaism**."*

*"The rapid growth of **Gentile believers** presented **new challenges, conflicts and questions**.*




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM

The Jerusalem council (Acts 15:19-20)

"Debated whether or not Gentile Believers should be under the Mosaic law.

"In other words did Gentile Believers (Notzerim) need to become Jewish to believe in Messiah?

*"After great debate, **James**, the presiding elder expressed his judgment, that they are not under the Mosaic Law but should continue to follow the laws established for Gentiles (Noahide Laws - Gen 1-9).*




Identifying Correction:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM

The Jerusalem council (Acts 15:19-20)

"The Biblical text is convincingly clear that the apostles continued their Jewish identity and practices and encouraged other Jewish believers to do so as well.

*"**Paul did not convert to Christianity, he remained an observant Jew** his whole life.*

"Jewish, along with Christian scholars, with exposure to the Jewish writings, have pointed out that salvation by grace is a very Jewish concept.




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
V. Destruction of the Temple A.D. 70

Soon Gentiles outnumbered Jewish believers.

By A.D. 70 many of the Jewish apostles had experienced martyrdom at the orders of the Roman emperors or had died.


Gentiles from Greek and pagan backgrounds now assumed leadership over the believers.

(Keep in mind there are no New Testament Churches or Bibles (New Testaments) in this period).




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
V. Destruction of the Temple A.D. 70

Rausch states, %The Gentile Christians interpreted the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem (70 A.D.) as a sign that God had abandoned Judaism, that He had provided the Gentiles freedom to develop their own Christian theology in a setting free from Jerusalem's influence. It is important to understand this change, because it influenced the Early Church Fathers to **make anti-Jewish (anti-Hebraic) statements.**"




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
VI. Early Church Fathers' Writings
A. Clement I of Rome
92 – 99 A.D.

Saint Clement I of Rome is considered to be Pope Clement I, the first Apostolic Father of the Church. He held office from 92 to his death in 99 A.D. Tertulian considered Clement to be the immediate successor of Peter. Others, Irenaeus and Jerome, place him second or fourth after the Apostle Peter.



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
VI. Early Church Father's Writings
Clement I of Rome


Some scholars have considered Clement I to be the author of the *Epistle of Barnabas*. However, more recent studies indicate that it is not his work but perhaps that of Clement of Alexandria.




IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
"You have forsaken the love you had at first."
ANTI-HEBRAISM
B. Epistle of Barnabas
80 – 120 A.D.

The *Epistle of Barnabas* is dated 80-120 A.D. It is definitely written after the destruction of the Temple. In 9.9 the writer argues that the Christians are the only true covenant people, and that the Jewish people had never been in a covenant with God. The author directs his arguments against Judaizing Christians.+

Epistle of Barnabas




"In no other writing of that early time is the separation of the Gentile Christians from observant Jews so clearly insisted upon. The writer maintains that the Covenant Promises belong only to the Christians (e.g. 4.6-8) and circumcision, and the entire Jewish sacrificial and ceremonial system are, according to him, due to misunderstanding. According to the author's conception, Jewish scriptures, rightly understood, contain no such injunctions (chapters 9-10)



Epistle of Barnabas

The *Epistle* reinterprets many of the laws of the Torah. For example, the prohibition on eating pork is not to be taken literally, but rather **forbids the people to live like swine**, who supposedly grunt when hungry but are silent when full, likewise, the people are not to pray to God when they are in need but ignore him when they are satisfied. Similarly, the prohibition on eating rabbit means that the people are **not to behave in a promiscuous manner**, and the prohibition on eating weasel is actually to be interpreted as a prohibition of oral sex, based on the mistaken belief that weasels copulate via the mouth.



Epistle of Barnabas

The author seems to aim to demonstrate that Jewish understanding of the Mosaic legislation (Torah) is **completely incorrect** and can now be considered **superseded**, since in the author's view the Jewish scriptures foreshadowed Jesus and Christianity when rightly understood."

Ehrman, Bart D. (2005). *Lost Christianities: the battles for scripture and the faiths we never knew*. Oxford University Press. p. 146 John Dominic Crossan; Helmut Koester



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
 “You have forsaken the love you had at first.”
ANTI-HEBRAISM
 VI. Early Church Fathers’ Writings
 C. Ignatius of Antioch
 40-115 A.D.

Ignatius carries the title of **Bishop of Antioch** and is the earliest known Christian writer to emphasize loyalty to a single bishop. Some scholars have suggested that Ignatius may have instituted the office of the Bishop as well as being among the first to reference the Catholic Church.



IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
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ANTI-HEBRAISM
 VI. Early Church Fathers’ Writings
 C. Ignatius of Antioch
 40-115 A.D.

Ignatius in his *Epistle the Philippians* he claimed that Satan “fights along with the Jews to a denial of the cross” and “if anyone celebrates the Passover along with the Jews, or receives emblems of their feast, he is partaker with those that killed the Lord and His apostles.”



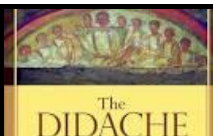
IDENTIFYING THE CORRECTION:
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ANTI-HEBRAISM
 VI. Early Church Fathers
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 40-115 A.D.

This is ironic, because Jesus and His disciples always observed the Passover. Ignatius upheld the prophets and declared, “And the ‘Prophets,’ let us love them too, because they anticipated the gospel in their preaching.+”



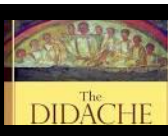
THE CORRECTION:
 “You have forsaken the love you had at first.”
ANTI-HEBRAISM
 VI. Early Church Fathers
 C. Ignatius of Antioch
 40-115 A.D.

Ignatius a few lines later wrote, “Now, if anyone preaches Judaism to you, pay no attention to him.+”
 Alexander Roberts & James Donaldson, eds., *The Ante-Nicene Fathers; Translations of the Writings of the Fathers to A.D. 325*, 10 vols
Ignatius Philippians 14, 5,6, *Epistle of Barnabas* 4



THE CORRECTION:
 “You have forsaken the love you had at first.”
ANTI-HEBRAISM
 D. DIDACHE

The *Didache*, (Greek teachings), an early Christian treatise. Bartlet agrees with Ehrhard that 80-90 is the most probable decade. “It is the oldest surviving written catechism, the three main sections: Christian ethics, baptism and Eucharist, and Church organization. It is considered part of the category of second-generation Christian writings known as the Apostolic Fathers.” (Not the Apostles of Messiah)




“We find the Christian Sunday already substituted for the Jewish Sabbath as the day of assembly based on Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor 16:2 and called the Lord’s day in Rev 1:10.


There is no difficulty in supposing that the parallel and consequent shifting of the fasts to Wednesday and Friday may have taken place at an equally early date, at least in some places.
 Chapter 8 suggests that fasts are not to be on Monday and Thursday with the hypocrites; presumably non-Christian Jews - but on Wednesday and Friday. Nor must Christians pray with their Judaic brethren, instead they shall say the Lord’s Prayer three times a day.+”

**ROOT PROBLEM
ANTI-HEBRAISM
REVELATION 2:4**


**Taproot
Plunges deep**



**Extension of the
Tap Root System**




VII. Summary
**The Garden of Eden-Prophetic
of the Church Age (Rev 2-3)**
Eve-Type of the Church
Adam-Type of the Redeemer
 Isa 42:9 Ecc 1:9 I Cor 15:45-47




Jn 1:1 Jn 17:17 LK 3:38 Lk 3:21-22

THE FATHER / THE SON / THE WORD / TRUTH
Adam the Son of God (Given the Word)
Messiah Son of God / Last Adam (Living Word)


Isa 55:8-9 Ecc 3:15 Rom 5:14 Rev 2:4
 Ex 33:13 Gen 2:21-23 I Tim 2:13-14 Rev 3:17



Adam is the son of God.
 The LORD gave Adam His Word.
 He made Eve from Adam's side
 (requiring the shedding of Blood).
 Adam gave God's Word to Eve.
 In Adam's absence, Satan encoun-
 tered Eve, appealing to her eyes /
 pride, she fell for Satan's lie and fell into deception.
 Eve entreated Adam/Redeem-
 er and he willingly and know-
 ingly partook of Eve's sin (I Tim
 2:13-14). Sin produces shame
 and nakedness (exposure).
 The LORD requires man's Blood
 to cover man's sin (Heb 9:22).



**"For our sake He
made Him to be sin
Who knew no sin, so
that in Him we might
become the
righteousness of
God (2 Cor 5:21).**



VII. Summary
 The LORD requires Blood
 to pay for sin (Heb 9:22).
Life is in the Blood.
 Therefore a Life is requir-
 ed in payment for sin (Gen
 9:4).
 Repentance is required to
 remove guilt / shame.
Messiah's Blood is requir-
 ed to blot out man's sin, (I
 Jn 1:7) **His righteousness**
 is required to cover
nakedness.

EVE
 " Adam gave God's
 Word to Eve.
 " In Adam's absence,
 Satan tempted Eve to
 doubt God's Word,
 appealing to her eyes
 & pride.
 " Deceived Eve reject-
 ed God's Word;
 became blinded to His
 ways and naked.
 " Eve chose leaves for a
 covering in the place of
 the Father's Presence.

CHURCH FATHERS
 " The Jewish Apostles
 gave C. F. God's Word.
 " In the absence of the
 Apostles, Satan tempted
 the C.F. to doubt God's
 Word, appealing to their
 eyes & pride.
 " Deceived, the C.F. reject-
 ed God's Word and
 became blinded to His
 ways and naked (Rev 3:19).
 " C. F. chose their way
 over the LORD'S Hebraic Word
 and Way and Presence.

**REVELATION 2:4
A Call to Repentance**



REVELATION 2:4
"But I have this against you,
you have forsaken your first
Love" (Rev 2:4).




Seven Churches




Smyrna
Repentance
for
ANTI-HEBRAISM
Rejecting
Our Father's
Word and Ways
Friday, July 11

ANTI-HEBRAISM
TAP ROOT OF
REVELATION 2:4

Taproot
plunges deep



Extension of the
Tap Root System



Personal Position & Research
drawn from Christian and Jewish
Scholars (partial list).



David Rausch, *A Legacy of Hatred*
Marvin Wilson, *Our Father Abraham*
E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*
W.D. Davies, *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism*
Vindyl Jones, *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up*
David Flusser, *Jesus* (Hebrew University)
Richard Rubenstein, *My Brother Paul*
L. Swindler, Article "Salvation by Grace in Judaism"
Arthur W. Kac, *The Messianic Hope*
Geza Vermes, Professor Emeritus of Jewish
Studies, Oxford, *Jesus the Jew, The Gospels & the*
Dead Sea Scrolls, The Religion of Jesus the Jew