

119

MINISTRIES

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Answering Your Questions - (Games on the Sabbath, The Book of Mormon, Weevils in Grain, 3rd Temple, 9th of Av, and more...)

119 Ministries receives thousands of emails every year. And as you would expect, many of those emails contain questions. Quite often, we repeatedly receive various forms of the same questions. Ideally, we would like to have a teaching available for every question we receive, however, some questions can be answered rather briefly, and do not require a regular length teaching to serve as a response. That is the purpose of this teaching series, to offer an easily available vehicle to answer your common questions.

In this teaching series, we will read a collection of hand-picked questions that we have received via email. Then, for whatever it is worth, we will offer a brief response, hopefully leading those interested in the right direction to find the answers they are seeking.

So, let's get started. First question:

I live in South Africa. I have a question that needs to be answered, I have listened to a few of your teachings and don't fully agree. You say that you, 119 ministries, believe in the whole Word of the Father that has been set as Law and teachings to the His chosen folk, which is Israel (Jakob). Right, according to 2 Tim 3:16? Now my question is, are we to teach what is written in the Word to all nations or to just the chosen folk of Father? For the Word was set apart for Israel and not any other nation. So I am saying that the Word is meant for everyone that is part of the Folk of Israel, which is the 12 tribes of Israel. What is your point of view on the matter?

Good question. The law of God was not given to Israel so that only Israel could do it or that only Israel was to do it. Israel was given the Torah to be a light to the nations, to serve as an example of how to live out the faith. Israel was given the Torah to share it with the nations, not to keep it for themselves. Some teachings we might suggest would be, [“What is the Mixed Multitude,”](#) [“Grafted In,”](#) and [“The Pauline Paradox Series.”](#)

I have been wondering about my YouTube channel and how I should be handling it. Since I

believe that video games are of this world and not considered holy, I don't believe in playing them on the Sabbath.

With that said, my channel is 99% video game related. I am praying a lot and was led to reach out to you guys about this. I believe I should be setting all of my videos to private during the sabbath hours across the world. What are your thoughts on this?

This is a good question. The Sabbath has nothing to do with playing or not playing video games. It has everything to do with not working and making sure one is resting, their animals are resting, and that they are not directly causing anyone else to work. Thus, one could play video games, or not play video games. Likewise, one could play a game of Monopoly with the family, or enjoy a game of chess. One could read a book, whether it be the Bible or not the Bible. The point of the Sabbath is to rest, as it is a prophetic reminder of the rest that is still promised to come in Messiah Yeshua. For more on that, consider our teaching, "[Hebrews 4: In His Rest Now or Later?](#)"

However, many do take advantage of the break from work to also spend time in the Word, with family, and/or fellowship with others, which is certainly a great practice to consider in order to grow in the faith.

Some mistake Isaiah 58 to mean that we are to not have any pleasure on the Sabbath, meaning we cannot do anything enjoyable on the Sabbath. It is an easy mistake to make, as that is what is literally said in most English Bibles. But the Torah says no such thing, and Isaiah could not be adding to the Torah lest he be a false prophet. Isaiah is simply being misunderstood here. For more on that, we would recommend our teaching "[No Pleasure on the Sabbath?](#)"

Okay, to bring it back to the question at hand. Hopefully we have made it clear that it is okay to participate in activities that are not necessarily considered holy on the Sabbath. In this particular case that might be related to playing video games or watching videos about playing video games. In relation to actually having a channel about playing video games, there does not appear to be any reason to make the channel private on the Sabbath because anyone watching the videos is not really causing anyone else to work.

In summary, generally speaking there is liberty in what we can do on the Sabbath as long as it does not cross over into the scope of work. We should rest, we should not work. We should not cause others to work and we should not cause our animals to work. This is how we set the day apart as YHWH exemplified for us. However, as we see patterned in Scripture, there is also clear value in studying the Word, fellowship, prayer, etc. on the Sabbath as day YHWH set apart for us.

Moving on...

What about the book of Mormon? Is it possible that it could be from YHWH? Does it contradict anything in the OT Bible or NT?

The Book of Mormon contradicts the Torah and itself in several places. While we could list hundreds of conflicts, we will provide some quick highlights.

The "Old Testament" portion of the Book of Mormon teaches that the Torah was only temporary and should only be observed until the coming of the Messiah:

"...that our children may know the deadness of the law; and they by knowing the deadness of the

law, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ, and know for what end the law was given. And after the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against him when the law ought to be done away.”

“...you must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given to Moses.”

2 Nephi 25:27, 30 (supposedly between 559 & 545 BC)

“...but I say to you, that the time shall come when it shall no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses.”

Mosiah 13:27 (supposedly in 148 BC)

...they were taught to keep the law of Moses until it should be fulfilled.

Alma 30:3 (supposedly 74 BC)

The Book of Mormon has Yeshua saying:

“...the law in me is fulfilled, for I have come to fulfill the law; therefore it has an end.”

3 Nephi 15:5 (supposedly quoting “Jesus”)

The Book of Mormon presents this as an elaboration to Yeshua’s statement in the Bible:

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

These would just be a few of the instances in which the Book of Mormon contradicts the fact that all in the faith are to observe the Torah and observe the whole Word of God.

Let’s continue on to the next question...

Hello 119 team greetings from Tasmania Australia... Could you please help with a question about Gods Law? In regards to unclean food, it mentions if a mole, chameleon, etc., falls into an earthen pot to break it. And if any of these fall on grain not to eat it. My trouble in understanding this part of Torah is this: does this apply to Weevils or small grubs, which are common when storing grain? There are modern ways of dealing with this, but I’m pretty sure the ancients weren’t freezing grain to kill grub eggs etc. The ancients must have had ways of getting oxygen out of grain silos to create a vacuum which no doubt they were capable of. Anyway I would like to get your perspective on this topic. The creatures mentioned in Torah are quite large compared to a weevil, but weevils are not something mentioned that we can eat? And almost certainly when we are buying any grain product whether bread, pasta, etc., almost certainly there would be weevils in there... I would really appreciate your thoughts on this.

This is a great question, and we were a little perplexed in trying to answer it.

From a rabbinic perspective, it seems that the idea is to try to do one’s best in making sure you are not eating such things. If they are found, they are to be removed. When things fall into a pot or oven, it is assumed they fell in because they died, perhaps increasing the chance of disease-causing bacteria. Hence, the command related to pots and ovens. For more on that, we might suggest our teaching title

[“Unclean Things: Pots and Ovens.”](#)

It is nearly impossible to avoid all insects or worms in food. We have countless mites and other microscopic bugs that live on our skin. So, avoiding such things entirely is not really possible, but making a reasonable effort to avoid bugs and worms makes sense. But, in light of that, quite frankly, it is not possible to completely avoid eating unclean bugs. In fact, as disgusting as it might sound, we likely all eat bugs daily.

Let's move on to the next question.

I was just wondering if you could explain the scriptures dealing with the 3 Spring Moedim that talk about the (males) appearing before Elohim 3 times a year. Are women and children not supposed to participate in these feasts, or am I missing something? Thank you for your time!

Appearing before YHWH means presenting one's self in the temple. There are three *mo'edim* that are called feasts, and we would need to present ourselves before YHWH at the temple, if there were a temple today. These are Unleavened Bread, Shavuot, and Sukkot. This was the male's responsibility for the household. The whole family would still partake in the other aspects of the *mo'edim*.

Hi, recently a friend of mine asked me if 2 Corinthians 12:9 is Yeshua telling Saul that only grace would be enough after the cross. What is your take on that? Is that biblical? Shalom.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

In the Greek, the word is *charis*, which means, “favor” and “kindness,” and answers directly to the Hebrew word *chanan*, which means to extend, as God extending His favor and kindness to us. His continuing favor and kindness is sufficient to get us through difficult times.

This verse is not in the context of salvation. Paul is not saying that we should not obey the law of God because now there is grace, though sadly, this is how some interpret it. Paul is commenting on working through challenging times:

2 Corinthians 12:10

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Stop and think about it. The context is not about salvation. The context is about finding comfort in our faith through Yeshua despite life's ongoing challenges. Our faith in the Word and the salvation we are promised should be sufficient to help us work through any trial.

There has always been grace, before and after the cross. Noah found grace in YHWH's eyes (Genesis 6:8), as did Moses (Exodus 33:17). However, grace leading to salvation was actualized through Yeshua, despite being retroactively extended to all in the faith prior to Yeshua.

Let's move on to the next question...

Should we as 'Messianic' believers be in support of the building of the 3rd Temple (prior to Messiah's establishment of the Ezekiel Temple)? TMJC.org makes a reasonable case for it, but I have heard arguments from like-minded believers against it as well. Haggai 1 seems to confirm that God did indeed command the building of a permanent version of the Mishkan. Daniel's prophecy about an anti-messiah figure (Antiochus Epiphanes) desecrating it in the future did not stop Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilding the Temple, so why should fear of a 'future repeat performance' be reason enough for us not to support the rebuilding of the Temple . . . that along with the differing motivations of Rabbinic Judaism?

The earthly priesthood was never designed to perfect us but only to point to that which does, and it will function in that way in the millennium as well. We believe that the temple being destroyed in 70 AD and Israel being exiled again was God's judgment upon Israel, just like when He allowed it to happen the first time. But now the Jews are being brought back to Israel. What if YHWH Himself put it on the hearts of religious Jews to set up the tabernacle or rebuild the Temple just like he put it on the hearts of the remnant of faithful Jews in Ezra-Nehemiah's day? We would agree with waiting on YHWH's timing, but we would imagine that the desire to restore the priesthood and uphold the Torah is a good thing.

Continuing on...

Shalom, Do you believe it is required by Yahweh for Christians to remove leaven from our homes during the feast of Unleavened bread? It seems to me that this would be attempting to keep this feast Biblically which we cannot do, as I understand. Thank you for any help with this issue.

Good question. What we are not able to do is eat of a Passover lamb as there is no temple and no active Levitical priesthood today. We also cannot present ourselves before YHWH in Jerusalem at the temple, as there is no physical temple. We can rest, eat unleavened bread/bitter herb, remove leavened bread from our dwellings, and rest on the rest days. Our approach to the Torah has always been to do what you can do, and if you can't because of no temple or Levitical priesthood, then those things you cannot. Others may have other opinions on that approach, but for whatever it is worth, we believe it most reasonable to do Torah when we can do Torah, and we would expect that to make sense to most.

My question is regarding the calendar. I have done some research on a specific day on the 5th month (9th of Av), and it has a lot of historical events that have happened on it. I am in full agreeance with you on the start of the month at the lunar conjunction (it really only makes sense), but my question is would all of these important historical events happened on the same date following the Heaven and Earth calendar vs the Hillel calendar? And is there a way that I can look back on dates following the Heaven and Earth calendar? When I try to google the Heaven and Earth calendar I do not find the calendar you reference; does it go by a different name?

In examining the 9th of Av theory, one might find that much of it is not well supported by actual primary evidence, and could very well be speculation. There may be some truth to the pattern of the 9th of Av, not as a specific date, but as a general time period of calamity.

According to the Mishnah (Ta'anit 4:6), several events occurred on the ninth of Av.

- The twelve spies – Supposedly the event of the 12 spies set up the 9th of Av as a problematic day for Israel going forward. However, we have no Biblical account of this occurring on the ninth of Av.

- The destruction of the first temple – The Mishnah says the temple was destroyed on the 9th of Av. The Bible says the destruction occurred starting on the 7th (2 Kings 25:8) and finished on the 10th (Jeremiah 52:12).
- The second temple was supposedly destroyed on the 9th of Av, but that is difficult to confirm.
- Bar Kokhba's revolt was stopped by the Romans on August 4th, 135 CE, and was supposedly the 9th of Av.

Only the destruction of the first temple seems to have a definitive connection to the 9th of Av, but more specifically, the 7th through 10th. The other days may have occurred on or around the 9th of Av, but it is a matter of speculation.

Then, there are other days that are often cited as being important to the 9th of Av, but we will see that the actual dates vary greatly.

- The first crusade was on the 24th of Av
- The Jews were expelled from England on the 9th of Av
- The Jews were expelled from France on the 10th of Av
- The Jews were expelled from Spain on the 7th of Av
- Germany entered WW1 on the 9th or 10th of Av
- Approval for the "Final Solution" leading to the holocaust began on the 9th of Av
- Mass deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto began on the 9th of Av
- The AMIA bombing occurred on the 10th of Av
- The Israeli disengagement from Gaza occurred on the 10th of Av.

Again, we see great variance here as to the actual date, but there does appear to be a pattern of negative events that occur near the 9th of Av, but not necessarily on the 9th of Av.

As it relates to helping discern an accurate calculation of the calendar, it provides little to no value. There is no confirmed 9th of Av event that we can match to the Julian or Gregorian calendar, or any historical celestial event, that could give us a frame of reference to reverse engineer an ancient Hebraic calendric calculation. This is especially true since it is not specifically the 9th of Av that appears to constitute as the true pattern, but simply a close proximity to the 9th of Av. For proper calendric calculation, true precision would matter quite substantially. In addition, and more specific to the original question, speaking of the different Hebraic calendar theories that exist, and even 119's proposed Hebraic calendar calculation, we have not found any calendar that generates substantial results that land these historic events directly on the 9th of Av. If there is any truth to the 9th of Av as being historically problematic for Israel, it is more of a generality and not really 100% on target.

If this series and presentation format interested you, there are many more questions we will be covering in the subsequent parts of this teaching series. As always, if you have questions for 119 Ministries, please use the Contact Us page offered on our website, <http://119ministries.com/contact-us>. And if you do contact us, thank you for your patience as our team works to respond.

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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