

Our Hebraic Roots

Study Guide

Lesson 1 - Why Study Hebraic Roots?

This week we hope to discover, identify, enumerate and evaluate some of the reasons to study our Hebrew, Israeli, Biblical or Jewish roots, and to begin to learn how they impact our lives.



Before you begin this week's study, may I suggest that you earnestly pray for an open heart, for an open mind, for inspiration, for understanding, and that you will be able to hear what G-d¹ says to you as you seek to know Him more intimately. Ask Him to guide your spirit as you study.



As always, we recommend that you have at your fingertips the Scripture, so that you can see for yourself what it says as you follow this study guide, readings, etc. The more Scripture you read during your studies, the more Biblically well founded you will become.

Vines and (especially olive) trees, both of which have roots, are used from Genesis (40:9 and 8:10) to Revelation (14:19 and 11:4) as spiritual analogs. Let's look at what we might learn from plants as analogs.



What relationship do the roots and the branches have in plants you are familiar with? How does the (invisible - think about that) root support (mechanically, hydraulically, nutritionally, etc.) the branches, leaves, flowers and fruit?



What would happen if the vine or tree were to try to get along without support from the root? Think what a cutworm does to a tomato plant.

Our Hebraic roots support our lives in numerous ways. We cannot grow, bloom, bear fruit, and serve without support of our Creator Who is our root (Romans 11:18) and Who gave us our roots via His Word, including our Hebraic roots, beginning with the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 17:1 - 6).



What are the analogies between a plant and your life? Think about growth, blooming, bearing fruit, serving, etc.



Read the Introduction of the book “Why Should I Study My Hebraic Roots?” with a highlighter in hand. As you read, highlight or list the reasons or points of rationale to study your Hebraic roots. You won’t have to read far, because on the first page of the introduction, is given the (second) reason: “The Bible, from cover to cover, is a Hebraic book . . .” And again, in the same paragraph, “One will never fully understand the Scriptures . . . if they are interpreted apart from the culture, the people and the nation to which they were given.”



What is the first reason given? Hint: third line of the first paragraph.

1. _____



OK, now, on your own, list the reasons you find in the remainder of the introduction. Remember to keep the open, inquisitive, creative mind your Creator gave you.

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____



Now read Chapter 1, “Why Should I Study My Hebraic Roots?” also with highlighter in hand, and denote the five classical reasons to study Hebraic roots.



Then write a one-line summary statement of each and try to memorize them. You may well want to be able to enumerate them to family and friends who ask, “Why are you so interested in Israel, Hebraic Roots and Hebrew?”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Now read Chapter 2, “Why Should I Study My Hebraic Roots?” again with highlighter in hand. As you read, again highlight the reasons or points of rationale to study your Hebraic roots. You will see some duplication, but you should also discover other points.



This time, write the points you may have never thought about, as a way of reinforcing them in your mind.

1. _____

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



How do you react, mind and soul, about the statement on page 9, “The more biblical you become, the more Jewish you will appear?” Surprised?



Now, your soul and mind have probably become sensitized to thinking differently about your Hebraic roots. What other Scriptures come to mind that give reason to study your Hebraic roots? As you read various Scriptures throughout your devotions and meditations in the next few days and weeks, think about how your Hebraic roots influence your reaction to Scripture, to the words of your elder Brother, and to the words given to the Hebrews who have recorded them for us to read. Think also about how your Hebraic roots affect your daily walk, hopefully ever closer to the Master. How near like Him can we become?



Think about the following and, if they create in you a reason and desire to learn more about your Hebraic roots, write your thoughts and reactions.

1. John 15:10 (NLT) “When you obey me, you remain in my love,”

2. Romans 11:18 (TS) “You do not bear the root, but the root bears you.”

3. Genesis 12:3 (KJV) “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

4. Daniel 12:4 (TS) “. . . hide the words, and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall diligently search and knowledge shall increase.”

5. Matthew 13:52 (TS) “Therefore every scholar of Scripture taught in the reign of the heavens is like a householder who brings out of his treasure matters, renewed and old.”

6. Leviticus 23:1 (NKJV) “And the L-RD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the L-RD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.’”

7. 2 Timothy 2:15 (TS) “Do your utmost to present yourself approved to Elohim, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth.”

8. Luke 12:48 (TS) “. . . And everyone to whom much is given, from him much shall be demanded. And to whom much has been entrusted, from him much more shall be asked.”

9. Revelation 18:2, 4 (TS) “And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, “Babel the great is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons . . . Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

10. Romans 11:25 (TS) “For I do not wish you to be ignorant of this secret, brothers, lest you should be wise in your own estimation, that hardening in part has come over Yisra’el, until the completeness of the gentiles has come in.”

11. Isaiah 55:8, 9 (TS) “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares Adonai. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

12. Isaiah 56:5, 6 (TS) “to them I shall give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters – I give them an everlasting name that is not cut off. Also the sons of the foreigner² who join themselves to Adonai, to serve Him, and to love the Name of Adonai, to be His servants, all who guard the Sabbath, and not profane it, and hold fast to My covenant – them I shall bring to My set-apart mountain, and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. . . .”

13. Proverbs 3:1, 2 (TS) “My son, do not forget my Torah, And let your heart watch over my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they add to you.

14. Romans 11:17 (TS) “. . . you, being a wild olive tree, have been grafted in among them, and came to share the root and fatness of the olive tree,”

If the grafting analogy of Romans 11:17 interests you, you may want to visit <http://muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/agguides/hort/g06971.htm> which clearly describes grafting of trees.



Why is There an Obligation to Study Torah?

Rabbi Pinchas Stolper
in “Living Beyond Time”

The trouble with most discussions concerning the human spirit and human potential is that very often you discover that you are talking to people who “live in the basement of a tall building.” When you attempt to inform them that there is more to the building than the basement, that there are also upper floors that rise a hundred stories and more, that these floors are available to be lived in, that from the top floors the beauty, sweep and expanse of a great world can be seen – they will deny that the other floors exist. They will invariably invent all kinds of excuses for not seeking out the truth. “We’ve never been there; how can we be sure?” Then they will say, “We are afraid of heights; we’re afraid to climb; it’s dangerous; we may fall.” Even when a few courageous individuals begin to talk about climbing to the upper floors, they are discouraged by their habit-frozen friends.

The inevitable result is that many of us remain in the basement of life, thinking that that's all there is to it. We continue to live on the lowest floor, unaware of the view and the sunlight that exists on the top floors. Occasionally, we may catch a glimpse of a higher floor, we may see a picture of the life "up there," or hear a description of what it's like from someone who is filled with excitement about "the upper floors." But we can't bring ourselves to break old habits, to make a special effort, to find the courage to explore the upper floors.

The Torah was written for people who want to live life to its fullest on *all* floors of their potential, people who refuse to imprison themselves in the basement of life, people who have courage and the spirit of intellectual inquiry. Judaism is a movement for the development and discovery of human potential. It doesn't say, "Don't enjoy life." On the contrary, it says G-d placed so many pleasures and challenges on earth, He wants us to enjoy them by discovering how to use them to construct the "building" of our lives. In this tall building, we will live life to its fullest – on both the spiritual and physical levels. By developing all of our talents, by experiencing life as its Creator meant it to be experienced, we will succeed in climbing out of the basement and develop our full potential.

Judaism sees no contradiction between the physical and spiritual. It demands that the spiritual be the architect of the physical and that the physical serve the spiritual. Judaism mandates that the physical and the spiritual live in harmony, so that each human personality, each a "miniature world," can reach the heights, scale the great mountains and create a kingdom on earth in which G-d is King.

Reach for the stars, even if you have to stand on a cactus.
Susan Longacre quoted in Reader's Digest March 2003

Endnotes

1 It is our hope that this study guide will serve both Messianic believers in Yeshua and Jewish readers. Both desire the Truth and His manifestation on earth and to know more about Him. To honor the commitment of Orthodox Jews to never take G-d's name in vain, when the Creator is referred to directly in this study, we will use G-d, L-rd, or another designation, e.g. Adonai.

2 Translator's note: The gentiles who are grafted in among the True Yisra'elites (the believing and obedient Yehudim). These gentiles also serve Adonai, love His Name and guard His Sabbaths, and hold fast His covenant.

Joined To Hashem
PO Box 607; St Johns AZ 85936
Tel 928 337 3131
www.joinedtohashem.org

