

A Perspective from a Jewish Believer on the Kabala

I have been a Jewish believer for more than 30 years. I would like to comment on accusations that Glory of Zion promotes the practice of kabala.

Kabala is a discipline of mystical Judaism. In order convincingly to understand it, practice or promote it, one would be expected to study its writings for years. It is a complex system purporting to be a mystical hidden knowledge of God and creation (the name has to do with that which has been ‘received’), through use of the intrinsic power of numbers and Hebrew letters, and a system of months which is closely related to the zodiac, a belief in reincarnation, and a study of numerous rabbinical writings.

God loves order. He has a calendar which one can read about throughout the Bible. There are many references to a particular month or a particular day in the month. “Observe the month of *Aviv*, and keep the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of *Aviv* the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night.” (Deut. 16:1) “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain” (Deut. 16:9) “Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets”(Numbers 10:10) There are many, many more examples of specific dates and times and seasons in the Biblical calendar that God emphasizes to His people. God is very intentional in His mention of times and seasons. His calendar of feasts and celebrations is important to Him. When Chuck Pierce and Robert Heidler speak of the importance of the Hebrew calendar they are emphasizing what God emphasizes.

Kabalistic thinking on the other hand goes way beyond that. It is closely linked with astrology. To quote a kabalistic rabbi: ‘The kabalists look to astrology to get a general feeling for what a month can offer’ (Rabbi Max Weiman). “The main text of Kabalistic Astrology is “The Book of Creation”. This book outlines the influences not only of stars but also the constellations....”

A number of years ago we had a young believer living with us. Her father was a kabalistic rabbi who taught kabala. Some of the things she shared with us were very interesting:

* Kabala is only properly studied from midnight to 4 a.m.

*It often involves veneration of dead rabbis, which is strongly akin to a form of worship. Often her family on the anniversary of the death of a particular rabbi would go lie on top of the rabbi’s grave in order to receive power.

*In kabala, there is a clear belief in re-incarnation...certain of the dead rabbis are believed to have been reincarnation of the Fathers (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob).

*There are many superstitions promoted in kabalistic thinking,

e.g. Do NOT look at a rainbow. It is a sign of God’s anger at the world and His desire to destroy it (although He is bound by His promise not to). Therefore it is ‘bad’ to gaze at a rainbow in the sky.

The Church has a rich inheritance in the Jewish Calendar. Yeshua was very aware of the calendar of His Father and observed the Feasts Himself. I like what Don Finto says in his book: *Your People Shall be My People* (©Regal Books, 2001)—“The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) had made it plain that circumcision and the feasts, kosher living and the Shabbat were not binding on

Gentiles. Paul addresses these issues with both the Romans (see Rom 14:1-8) and the Colossians (see Col 2:16-17). Yet some of these early Gentile converts celebrated the feasts....For that matter, could it be wrong for me, a Gentile, to celebrate Passover on the Jewish calendar, remembering my own deliverance from death as well as the deliverance of the family who brought me life? Would the Lord be displeased with me, a covenant member of the family by adoption, if I choose to use this time to teach my children and grandchildren about this God who always keeps His promises and who is one day coming to deliver us in another grand exodus from this planet of slavery to bring us into our promised inheritance? Why should I not choose to build a *sukka* on my back porch during the Feast of Tabernacles? Why not seize this time with my children and grandchildren as an opportunity to teach them of the temporary nature of our existence, of Jesus who ‘tabernacled’ among us, of the provision ‘our’ people experienced during 40 years of wandering?”

I believe we are to read the Bible from front to back. We are to taste of its richness and celebrate its fullness. We are to learn from the Hebrew calendar and not be ‘bound’ by it. We are to walk in the time table of God and seek to understand His seasons in our lives. We are to love our Jewish roots and not worship them. We are to glean understanding from the original language in which the Word was written. This doesn’t mean that Hebrew has magical powers as the kabala teaches. But it is a rich language with layers of meaning; since living in Israel and learning Hebrew, the Bible has much deeper meaning to me.

As a Jewish believer, as an Israeli, as one connected with *Glory of Zion, Intl.*, I am so honored that they have chosen to stand with Israel. I appreciate Robert Heidler and Chuck Pierce’s understanding of their Jewish roots. I also appreciate that sometimes they write to us to make sure what they are saying is correct Hebraically, and that they are open to input. Not that we are such experts, but we live our lives as Messianic Believers in Israel and so are in contact with Hebraic thinking on a daily basis. All of us are on a journey, receiving new insights and understanding, yet still only seeing ‘in part’. Let us celebrate the gifts and roots that each of us brings!

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