

## Comparison of comments on Ephesians 2:19-22

### **A Christian prophetic ministry recognizes only one scriptural foundation**

Ephesians 2:19-22:

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Excerpted from Vine's Expository Dictionary: "FOUNDATION (TO LAY), FOUNDED 1. *themelios*, or *themelion* is properly an adjective denoting "belonging to a foundation" (connected with *tithemi*, "to place"). It is used" ... "metaphorically, (a) of "the ministry of the gospel and the doctrines of the faith," (Rom. 15:20; 1 Cor. 3:10,11,12; Eph. 2:20), where the "of" is not subjective (i. e., consisting of the apostles and prophets), but objective, (i. e., laid by the apostles, etc.); so in (2 Tim. 2:19), where "the foundation of God" is "the foundation laid by God,"—not the Church (which is not a "foundation"), but Christ Himself, upon whom the saints are built; (Heb. 6:1); (b) "of good works, (1 Tim. 6:19)."

Paul states that Jesus Christ is the only foundation to be laid: 1 Corinthians 3:11: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

We find the same thought expressed by Paul in Romans 15:20-21: "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."

Paul's thought is consistent: where someone has laid the foundation of Christ, be it apostle or prophet or another servant of God, then that is all sufficient. No other foundation can be or should be laid.

The sense of the meaning of Ephesians 2:20 then is: 'You were once aliens from the commonwealth of Israel (in the time of her Old Testament prophets), but now you are members of the household of faith of the true Israel having been built up upon the foundation, which is Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner

stone, laid by the New Testament apostles and Old Testament prophets.'

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The reason that they are so inwardly drawn to Torah and to a Torah life-style is because they actually have the soul of an Israelite—they are the descendents of the Northern Tribes of Israel. It is therefore imperative that the truth of their identity be received, and they began to live and act as the people they actually are: the descendants of physical Israel.

*Batya:*

This may well be the reason they are being drawn, even if it cannot be proven, for Yeshua does say that His Israelite sheep “hear His voice.” Nonetheless, we suggest that even those who feel they are not biologically descended from the Patriarchs, yet follow the Messiah of Israel, would do well to begin to embrace the wisdom of Torah. Moreover, the Word declares that they have been brought nigh to the New Covenant commonwealth of Israel and share citizenship in it (Ephesians 2:11-22). Therefore, we encourage them to give due honor to the Laws that were once given to the people of that ancient commonwealth.

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