

The Conceptual Reality of the Body of Messiah

Often we're asked to explain who we are. It can be really difficult for some of us to explain what we're really doing rather than just portraying us as a religious movement, or a branch of Christianity, or an upstart. An *upstart* is something that rises up suddenly, but soon dissipates or declines.

We have to give answer concerning who we are. It's part of the gospel in the last days. It's prophecy. We have to be prophetic to declare our Father's present purpose on the Earth, which He has spoken many thousands of years ago. There must be a fulfillment, and our Master came to make sure that all prophecy and the Law were fulfilled in a people who would have the love in them to fulfill the Law, for love fulfills the Law. The Holy Spirit is the love of our Father poured out in our hearts when we were baptized (Rom 5:5). By the Spirit we fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law (Rom 8:4).

People always ask whether the upstarts down through history were a pure expression of the truth. The Mennonites and the Anabaptists were certainly persecuted by the Protestant Reformers and the Catholic Church, who would destroy anything that rose up. Some people say the Cathars weren't right in their doctrine, but certainly neither was the Roman Catholic Church, nor was Protestantism right in their doctrine. They may have sounded like the truth, but they certainly didn't express the truth. A doctrine that doesn't express the truth is not true doctrine; it's a mere concept, not *conceptual reality*.

They had a concept that was never expressed in reality. Although it may have been a genuine desire in a person's mind or heart, they couldn't bring it about in reality. There were so many upstarts that tried to copy the original pattern of the first-century church, called *the Judean pattern*, which was the only authentic pattern and foundation. Anything else is not a conceptual reality, because it never materialized into a *corporeal reality*, something tangible and visible.

A *corporeal reality* is the mix between the physical and the spiritual. It is not just spiritual (“pie in the sky” in the mystical realm), but it is also material. If something is just spiritual it is immaterial. Corporeal is material, and it demystifies plain doctrine or concepts. The corporeal reality demystifies the Body of Messiah.

For so many, the “Body of Christ” is a mystical term, non-existent in reality. But the true, corporeal Body of Messiah is a tangible, observable reality. It is not conceived in the mind of a man and worked out in the intellect, but it is from the Spirit, who puts arms and legs on it. Then it moves and you can see it.

In the 70s there were so many upstarts, so many communities everywhere. Thousands separated from the denominations. We traveled around to find those places, but we couldn’t find anything tangible or real. We found concepts only, which had petered out. By the time we got there, it was already over with. No one would pick up trash around the community, or take the trash out. No one would do it because there was no authority, just as Robert Houriet said. They were trying to do it without authority. They hated authority. It’s the very thing they were trying to get away from. Everyone was doing their own thing. No one had to answer to anybody. But it takes the Holy Spirit to keep everyone in tune and in communion with the one Spirit, and that does not happen apart from authority being given to spiritual men.

There were so many upstarts that never really developed. Can we say they were real? Did they really have the Holy Spirit? Were they being led by the Holy Spirit? If they were led by the Holy Spirit, then they were the sons of God.

We might say it wasn’t the time in history when it could be developed into the reality of the twelve-tribed nation — twelve self-governing tribes under one spirit, with the leaders within those tribes, without a central headquarters. There is no Jerusalem, no Rome. Rome tried to copy Jerusalem. It is true that the Temple had to be somewhere, but it was not how our Father designed the Edah, for Jerusalem to be the headquarters. We don’t develop in that way. We are Jerusalem. We are the priesthood. There is not just

a certain class that is set apart as the priesthood. We are all priests, and therefore the Temple is everywhere our Father has caused His name to dwell. We are all part of it, functioning as priests.

Down through history, nothing really developed as a twelve-tribed nation, a reality that we could proclaim, as Paul could say “our twelve tribes,” or as Peter spoke of the holy nation (1 Pet 2:9). There were many upstarts rising up suddenly, having a home church, but they didn’t reproduce the pattern from nation to nation.

As much as we can in the free world, we’ll go from nation to nation. Of course, there will never be a tribe established in Iraq or China. Our Father has to deal with them in a different way. There are enough Oriental people who travel to the countries where we can live for us to reach out to them there. There are people here from the Middle East and Africa. We can reach out to all those who fled from every tyrannical nation. Our Father has allowed it to be, and also in Free Europe there is a mixture of people and cultures.

It shouldn’t be a mixture of cultures, but the people maintain their own cultures when they come into a different culture. If people maintain their stand, they should really go back to the place they fled from, because one nation should have one culture. There are not supposed to be multi-cultural nations, because it causes confusion. In our spiritual nation, which is to be the light of the world, there are no different cultures. We all are the same culture. If our culture develops, everyone develops, not one tribe doing this and another developing in another way, which would result in intertribal wars just like in the history of Israel. You can see the miraculous thing that is happening on the Earth today, if you really appreciate it. If you can see it and understand it, you can explain it to people.

We’re just trying to understand these things. We’re not trying to say something about the Anabaptists not having the Holy Spirit. It’s not our judgment to make. You can read history, but it’s hard to believe history because it is slanted. I do believe they were

persecuted, and I do believe they wanted to follow Jesus. I wasn't there, but today from my perception it seems they did not have the Holy Spirit. Even if they did, He obviously departed from them, as they didn't develop into a twelve-tribed nation, but instead divided. They lasted for many years, but they did not attain to the objective of the Word of God; they did not bear the fruit of the kingdom (Mt 21:43).

The Word does not just say a *people*, but it says a *nation*. A nation is the true definition of a people who are together. It is a nation that is being born. It is a nation that will produce the fruit of the kingdom that Israel never produced.

The Judean Pattern

1 Ths 2:14 — Paul says that in every place they go by the *Judean pattern*, formed by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, it is not from the Holy Spirit. If it doesn't look like the foundation of Messiah and the pattern built upon that foundation, then it's not true. It's just an upstart that won't go anywhere. People ask, "What makes you any different from these other people?" Well, they have to observe and see who we are.

According to 1 Ths 2:14, the church in Thessalonica was going by the original pattern, but there were problems developing, and the community didn't endure there. Their light grew dim over a period of time until there was no more light. Darkness took over. Nightfall came and there was no light. All the overcomers died. If they didn't compromise before they died, they are with our Master, otherwise they went into death and are waiting still.

A Twelve-Tribed Entity

The Anabaptists never developed into a twelve-tribed entity. It is a twelve-tribed nation, but we also can use the word *entity*, meaning *something that is separate*. (*Holy* means *separate*, but we don't want to use the word *holy* too much.) An entity has a distinct, separate existence. The holy nation has a separate and distinct objective. It is a conceptual reality, not just a conception.

You might just think we're just a conception. A lot of people who have left think we're just a conception. Our Father has to send a deceptive spirit to certain people in the Community to lead them out of the Community, because they couldn't even be described as foolish virgins. They were past that, no longer virgins. In the world they still hang on to that conception that they've received from the deceptive spirit, and they still say it today, no matter how miserable they are in the world. They still hang onto that justification, because they were led out of the Community by a spirit. Our Father made it so they would be deceived. There was no way He would keep them in the Community as destroyers.

They fostered that underground of complaining that goes on continually in them, and pretty soon it permeates the whole loaf. As Paul said in Corinthians, it permeates the whole loaf and corrupts. We ate the loaf last night. We must be pure. No one partook of that loaf who is corrupt or has any accusation or complaint, saying, "This is not right. That is not right." It's just as if Satan is in our midst perambulating as a roaring lion, which the destroyers have the inclination to listen to. They won't listen to the brothers who have gone to them. They have their own mind. They can't be part of that twelve-tribed entity which has a separate, self-contained existence.

We work. We don't live on the world's welfare to meet pressing needs. We are diligent and sacrifice our lives. It's a great test right there. You're sacrificing your life in order to bring about our Master's purpose — the end of this age, bringing Him back to this Earth for the kingdom. We have to give our life to accomplish this in whatever way our Father has given us gifts and grace to do that. This is the objective that others don't have.

The Community in Thessalonica didn't endure because an undercurrent formed there, just as happened in all the other communities. When they lost their first love, they started the decline, the demise. Then their "love" became merely conceptual. *Our Father's love is what makes the concept reality.*

The Body of Messiah

There was a real manifestation of the Body of Messiah in Thessalonica, but if you go there today you won't find it. It *was* a real, corporeal, tangible expression of the Body. As 1 Cor 12:27 says, "You are the Body of Messiah." But bodies can die. That's why it's called *a body*. 1 Cor 12:12 — There is a human body which is the metaphor of our Master's body. It is representative or symbolic. Bodies and churches can die. The Church is the Body. Col 1:18 says the Body is the Church. Eph 1:22-23 says the same thing — the Church is the Body. Bodies can die, obviously. We have human bodies that die.

The longer we chew our food, the longer we'll live. We have to go get the nourishment from everything we hear. That's why we bring back everything every week on Shabbat morning, and we also bring to each minchah what we heard at the last minchah, in order for it to be assimilated and go into every part. How can one part of the Body dry up and another part be flourishing? How could they flourish when they are not feeding the part that is drying up? At the sacrifice, the priests inspected the whole body. If they found one defective part, they threw the whole body away and got another body, another animal, which they inspected every part of. That's how we must be.

We have to remember that we can confess our sins and be pure. Heb 3:6 — We have to hold onto that confidence firm until the end. If not, we'll die. Why would it say that we must hold onto that outspoken confidence? It says *outspoken* in Greek, meaning *confidence to speak what we heard*, so we can regurgitate it, chewing our food, so the whole body is nourished and we can live long, or until we accomplish our Father's purpose. We have to hold onto that confidence we had at first, firm until the end (Heb 3:14).

Overcoming

It will take overcoming on our part. In Rev 2 and 3, what did it say to the seven churches after every exhortation? "He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit

says to the churches.” Obviously, they didn’t keep on hearing. They didn’t hear it right. There was something else working, so they didn’t hear what the Holy Spirit was trying to teach them. Or people started genetically modifying the truth, which Paul said was another gospel. The true gospel imparts *the* faith so you can receive the Holy Spirit. If it’s modified, you don’t. We can modify the gospel and bring people over the wall without them receiving the Spirit. Or maybe they didn’t hear it right, because they weren’t willing to do our Father’s will. We’ve got to make sure they hear what the gospel requires of them.

Rev 3:20-21 — He was outside of their hearts, where they commune with Him. He was knocking for entry. They still had the Holy Spirit within them, but not where they could communicate — be in communion with Him. There was no way they could overcome unless they let Him back in. In all the letters to the seven churches, one of the last things said was, “He who overcomes, he who overcomes, he who overcomes, he who overcomes, he who overcomes, he who overcomes...” And the last thing said was, “And whoever has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying.”

It says “he who overcomes” seven times, so it’s going to take overcoming. The objective is to bring our Master back to earth, to reign with Him for a thousand years. We have to overcome in order to reign with Him as He overcame (Rev 3:21). We have to be like Him. We have to give every ounce of ourselves to overcome. There is no way we can overcome unless we give 100%.

Look at Eph 6:24. It is the last thing Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians. “*May God’s grace be upon all who love our Master Yahshua with an undying love. Amen.*” And then so many years later, maybe 30 years, a letter was written to the same church in Rev 2:4. “*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*” Thirty years later, their love had died! They never made it to the Jubilee.

A body can die if it is not getting proper nourishment. The Word is nourishment and love is nourishment. It does something to our homozygous genes. Every member does his part for the growth and health of the Body, or cancer can develop, or gangrene.

Now, when you're talking to people who are asking you questions about how we see the Church today, you can say, "It is a dry, lifeless husk of the original historic manifestation." There was a historic manifestation of Messiah on Earth in the first century. 1 Cor 12:12 describes the Body they were all baptized into. They were all baptized into the corporeal reality, that entity — the very Body of Messiah incarnate. They were baptized into it by the one Spirit. They received one Spirit, and then as you go over the rest of the chapter, you see how the Body works. You are the Body of Messiah, and one part cannot operate without the other parts in each locality. We are all so essential, so necessary, that when one part hurts, we all hurt.

The so-called church of today fixes its eyes on the glory of heaven, which is just a concept to them. It is a mirage, something up ahead that they see that looks like water, but it dissipates. The heat over the sand shines and looks like water, but there is no reality. There was no reality on earth after nightfall.

ha-êmeq — Tamar says that she has conceived a child. We tend to believe her, but we wait to see the signs of life. If there really is a conception, then there will be a reality, and she will start to look like Poriah who is obviously pregnant. Other than that, it is just in her mind, and it hasn't really been conceived.

All the communities of the past fell apart, because there wasn't any authority, or the authority was tyrannical with overlords. Our Master said there will be strong authority in His nation, but it is not going to be exercised the same way. But it will be even stronger authority than what those people have, because the authority comes from our Father.

We tremble at authority. We are like the centurion who said, "I know what authority is. Just speak and it will happen." Then our Master said, "I have not seen faith like this." But the man had only been talking about authority and how powerful it is when it is working right. Our

Master said, “I have not seen this in all of you Israelites.” So obviously, that authority brings about something for the idea, to make it really work.

We visited a community where they wanted to have authority, so the women wore an “E” for elder, and they were the ones to talk to us. They had a concept that there needed to be authority. They were trying to make their concept a reality, but it was more like a bad play. It wasn’t true authority. Our Master said that the authority you see in the kingdom is that leaders will be the servants, but they will have the strongest authority.

Tamar couldn’t figure out how to make a baby, but because it’s our Father, it will grow into an incredible creature. We are saying that we’ve got the signs of life here. We may not be showing anything yet, but we know we have signs of life. Just as we’re sure that what will emerge from Tamar is going to be a human being who will look like Benjamin, we say the signs of life have appeared here, and they are growing at a normal pace, and what will emerge will be just like the Judean pattern. We know that. There’s a concept and it’s a reality. That’s conceptual reality. I was thankful to understand that.

We can see it turn into reality. It won’t be just a myth. 1 Cor 12:12 presents a metaphor. As the human body is one and all parts are one, so is Messiah’s body, which we were baptized into. The human body is observable, see-able, and it’s not mystical.

Chets Barur — The only way we can become a conceptual reality is to all give up our own concepts. The Scriptures lay out exactly how the Body is supposed to be. In the 60s and 70s, there were thousands of upstarts, and even within the Community I have seen people with different concepts who never really lost their flavor. Some people have a hippie concept about what it means to raise children. Other people have a military concept of raising children. Or some have different concepts of what it means to be the people of God, but all those people aren’t here anymore, those ones who never gave up their own concepts of how this life should be.

We can take on our Father’s mind — His concepts, which He needs a people to carry out. These things need to be conceived and brought into reality. One man told me that virtual reality will bring in the new age. He had electronic images of nature on his walls and peaceful music, but it was not reality. He sat on his plush couch surrounded by images so he could feel like he was in the new age. But if the electricity went off, his “reality” would go out!

Scriptures expose these false realities. Faith without works is dead. Yônêq said many have been driven away by their complaint and not supporting authority. Many who have grown up here or been here for a long time still have concepts that aren't right. Even saying, "Oh, we'll just do what's on our heart" could be a way of undermining authority. The Body is under one Head. When we are completely surrendered to His authority, we are free to do what's on our heart, because there won't be any independent action. Other than that, it's a hippie concept and a mystical form of unity. True surrender is an absolute thing, which brings about true unity.

When we were Christians, our only concept was to go to heaven. I was talking to one of my best friends, and he said, "All I want to know is that I am going to go to heaven when I die, and that's it." Eyes fixed on a concept of heaven, and it turns out to be of no earthly good. "So heavenly minded, you are no earthly good." There is no concept of the historical beginnings of the Church, but only a mystical belief — a concept of heaven without a concept of how to get there. So their religion is imaginary. Heaven is an imaginary thing, but when they die, they will come to reality. They will see that it was nothing but an illusion.

Mevaser — The DNA code in all your cells is what makes you who you are, and it tells your body how to grow. It's the pattern. If you could see it, it's a strand of 46 chromosomes. But in conception there is a division of chromosomes, 23 chromosomes come from the man and 23 come from the woman, they come together to make the new strand of 46 chromosomes. Then you have a new life, new DNA, a new person. And then the cells start to divide and multiply, and it turns into a human being because the DNA tells it what to do. It's our Father's design. He makes it grow.

There have been some people who have come and not really heard the gospel. They haven't been able to endure. It's amazing that the seed of the true gospel has come back to the earth and has met with those who are willing to do our Father's will. Then something starts to grow and develop.

We have to preach the uncompromising gospel, or people are going to be disappointed. For life to come about, it has to be a pure seed from someone not seeking his own glory speaking to one willing to do His will. Then there is fusion — something is conceived, and there is someone who is willing to bring His purpose on the earth, not his own concepts. I'm so

thankful that our Father allows those who are not willing to do His will to be removed from the Body, because it's like cancer. He makes every effort to reach people, even those who might not have been willing to start with, but our Father got through that unwillingness on the surface and down to that heart that was truly willing. He gives us every opportunity to humble ourselves and receive the pure seed.

Being 100% is being in full agreement with our Father and His purpose, our brothers, the anointing, and the direction we're going in. It means not reserving anything, not saying in your heart, "I'll see how it works out," but full participation in my heart. It can look like you're in full agreement, but if it is not so in your heart, it will come out.

The Unreasonable Gospel

If we can just tell people this: The gospel is unreasonable, but it is only unreasonable to those who are not willing to do our Father's will. Otherwise it is:

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again and for joy of it went and sold all he had and bought it.

And again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls and on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all he had and bought it.

And again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, gathering fish of every kind. When it was filled, they drew it up on the beach and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age when the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous and will throw them into the furnace of fire. And in that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood these things? (Matthew 13:44-51)

I guess it's unreasonable. It must be. If the gospel weren't unreasonable, no one would be saved! They would just accept a reasonable gospel, whether they were willing to do our Father's will or not. But you've got to see the gospel of the pearl, that it's something of great value, that there would be no cause for you not to accept it, and drink the water of life (Rev 22:17).

Poriah — Our Master took on our Father's concepts, as we see in the prayer, "May your Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven." It's not just about going to heaven, but we have to do something here on earth. You have die to yourself to take on the true concepts. That's the gospel.