

PART ONE

## THE ENDTIME IDENTITY CRISIS



**THE ENDTIME IDENTITY CRISIS.** Today, the Body of Messiah is facing an identity crisis—one that hinders many from truly entering the Kingdom. Many Christians, and even some Messianic believers, claim: *"We are not Jews, so we are not obligated to keep the Torah or follow Jewish customs and traditions (Halakhah)."* Others say: *"We don't need to learn Hebrew (Ivrit); we don't live in the Land. We're Gentiles (Goyim), saved by grace."* In short, they claim to have their own religion or expression of faith, which they believe the Messiah established apart from Yisra'el. Let me ask you a pertinent question: **Who really was Avraham (Abraham)? LET US BEGIN WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HIM:**

1. His original name was Avram (Abram), meaning *"exalted father."* YHWH later changed his name to Avraham (Abraham), meaning *"father of many nations"* (Beresheeth (Genesis) 17:5).
2. He was a Hebrew patriarch, son of Terah, descended from Shem, the son of Noah.
3. In Genesis 12, YHWH called Avram to leave his homeland in Ur of the Chaldeans (Mesopotamia) and go to the land He would show him—Canaan. Eloah promised to bless him, make his name great, and through him bless all nations (Beresheeth (Genesis) 12:1-3; Galutiah (Galatians 3:7-9).
4. YHWH entered into covenant with Avraham (Beresheeth (Genesis) 15, 17), promising descendants as numerous as the stars, the land of Canaan, and that through his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed.
5. Avraham's faith was tested when Eloah asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah (Beresheeth (Genesis) 22). He obeyed, and Eloah provided a ram in Isaac's place—foreshadowing the principle of substitutionary sacrifice.
6. He married Sarah (originally Sarai). Though childless for many years, Eloah gave them a son, Isaac, in their old age. Avraham also fathered Ishmael through Hagar, Sarah's servant.
7. Titles often associated with Avraham: *Friend of Eloah* (Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 41:8; Yaakov (James) 2:23), *Father of the Faithful* (Romiyah (Romans) 4:11-12), and *Patriarch of Israel*.

But there is more—**TRUTHS ABOUT THIS MAN THAT MANY OF YOU MAY NOT YET KNOW.**

### **1. Avraham was disciplined in the Torah by Shem and Noah.**

In Semitic culture, callings are often passed down within families, and fathers disciple their children to continue in their spiritual office or vocation. Abraham lived with Noah and Shem for 39 years: *"And when Abraham came out from the cave, he went to Noah and his son Shem, and he remained with them to learn the instruction of YHWH and His ways, and no man knew where Abraham was. And Abraham served Noah and Shem, his son, for a long time. And Abraham was in Noah's house 39 years, and Abraham knew YHWH from 3 years old, and he went in the ways of YHWH until the days of his death, as Noah and his son Shem had taught him"* Yahshar (Jasher) 9:5. Shem and Noah also disciplined Isaac and Jacob. The book of Yasher (also known as *Midrash Sefer HaYashar*) is mentioned three times in the TaNaK, though it was omitted from the Jewish Canon. In Beresheeth (Genesis) 9:28-29, we read that Noah lived 950 years, and verse 28 states he lived 350 years after the flood. This means Noah was alive during the days of Abram and Sarai. Abram came from the line of Shem (Beresheeth (Genesis) 11). Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Yahpheth (Beresheeth (Genesis) 10:1. Nimrod, who came from the line of Ham, was the son of Cush, Ham's eldest son.

### **2. Avraham was tested with fire and became the father of a monotheistic faith.**

The belief in many gods is called polytheism, and its roots stretch back before the Tower of Babel. Historical sources outside of Genesis — such as the *Book of Adam and Eve*, the *Book of Enoch*, and the *Book of Yasher* — confirm that polytheism, often expressed through idol worship, was widespread among the earliest civilizations. King Nimrod, an idolater, was the first to merge polytheism with war, the occult, and sexual corruption as a means to conquer the peoples of the earth. This was in a period when polytheism dominated belief systems (Beresheeth (Genesis) 10). Avraham became the first

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prophet to openly challenge the existence of other elohim. The Book of Yasher, Chapters 11–12, records how Avram tested this belief. He asked his father, Terah, to prove that idols had life, then staged a demonstration: Avram destroyed all of his father's idols except one, placing the blame on the remaining statue. Terah, humiliated and unable to disprove him, delivered Avram to King Nimrod. In anger, Nimrod cast Avram and his brother Haran into a fiery furnace — but YHWH delivered Avram, vindicating his claim. This trial established Avram as the father of a people devoted to monotheism.

### 3. Avraham was our High Priest (Kohen HaGadol) of the Order of Melek Tzadik.

Avraham was a king-priest by succession. From *Yasher*, we learned that he was discipled by Shem. But who was Shem? The book of *Yasher* connects Shem to Beresheeth (Genesis) 14:18-20, revealing that Shem himself was Melek Tzadik (Melchizedek): *"And Melek Tzadik king of Jerusalem, the same was Shem, went out with his men to meet Abraham and his people with bread and wine, and they remained together in the valley of Melek. And Melek Tzadik blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave him a tenth from all that he had brought from the spoil of his enemies, for Melek Tzadik was a priest before YHWH"* *Yasher*. Thus, Avraham tithed to Melek Tzadik (Melchizedek) because he was the priest of YHWH, as shown by his offering of bread and wine. At this time, only one universal priesthood existed: the Priesthood of YHWH, later known as the *Melek Tzadik Kohanim* (Melchizedek Priesthood). The Levitical priesthood would not be established until roughly 700 years later. Jewish traditions (e.g., *B. Talmud Nedarim 32b*; *Genesis Rabbah 46:7*; *Genesis Rabbah 56:10*; *Leviticus Rabbah 25:6*; *Numbers Rabbah 4:8*) agree that Shem was Melek Tzadik, king of Shalem, whom Avraham met after the battle of the four kings. When Shem died, Avraham inherited the title of *Melek Tzadik Kohen*.

### 4. Avraham was the first prophet to honor the divine role of a woman.

The first *Ketubah* (prearranged marriage contract) originated with Avraham. This shows that the *Ketubah* is not a modern institution, but an ancient practice going back to Avraham and Sarai. When the time came for Yitzchak to marry, Avraham sent his servant Eliezer of Damascus (Beresheeth (Genesis) 15:2) to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor, where his brother Bethuel lived, to secure a bride (Beresheeth (Genesis) 24:15). Along with him, he sent a *Ketubah*. Thus, it was Avraham who chose Yitzchak's wife — in keeping with Semitic culture, where the father (with the mother's counsel) determines the marriages of their children. The humility lies in the son's surrender to his father's will. Therefore, the deeper mystery of the *Ketubah* is submission. In traditional Judaism, women's rights were greater than in the rest of Western civilization until the 20th century. Women could buy, sell, own property, and make contracts, rights that Western women did not gain until about 100 years ago. Mishle (Proverbs) 31:10-31 — traditionally read by a man to his wife on Shabbat eve and at Jewish weddings, repeatedly highlights women's business acumen (vv. 11, 13, 16, 18). Yet, the crown of women's rights is the *Ketubah*.

### 5. Avraham was there when Yeshua was born and held Him in his hands.

Yochanan (John) 8:56 states: *"Your abba Avraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and had gilah (rejoicing)."* This would not be possible unless Avraham was present in some way. The Hebrews have always believed in reincarnation. The Church scholar Origen (184/185–253/254 C.E.) noted in his *Commentary on the Gospel of John* that Jews of Yeshua's day expected three messianic figures. When the Pharisees asked John the Baptist about his authority to baptize, they mentioned three: the Messiah, Elijah, and the Prophet (Yochanan (John) 1:19-25). John denied all three but identified himself with the prophecy of Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 40:3, which the Rabbis associated with Eliyahu. Noticeably absent from their list was the *Righteous Teacher*, because they believed he had already come and was living among the Essenes, whom the Temple priests feared. The Dead Sea Scrolls confirm this, referring to "the Teacher of Righteousness, to whom Elohim made known all the

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mysteries of the words of His servants the prophets" (1QpHab VII, 4–5). He is also called the *Messiah of Aaron, the Elect*, and the *Interpreter of the Law* (1QpHab VII, 3–5). The Essenes revered the Teacher of Righteousness, believing him to be Moses regenerated. This figure may have been Yosef (the father of Yeshua, who remains enigmatic in the *Brit Chadashah*) or Simeon the righteous (Luka (Luke) 2:25–35), who indeed rejoiced to see Yeshua's day.

### 6. Avraham's DNA would become the fullness of humanity.

YHWH chose Avram's DNA to be grafted into all humanity. This covenant is first seen in Beresheeth (Genesis) 12:3; 15:5. It was later fulfilled through the punishment of Ephraim, when Avraham and Sarai's seed was scattered among the nations. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 41:8–9 recalls this promise: "*But you, Yisrael, are My eved, Yaakov whom I have chosen, the zera (seed) of Avraham My chaver (friend). You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called you from the farthest parts of it, and said to you, You are My eved; I have chosen you, and not cast you away.*" Paul expands this in Romiyah (Romans) 11:25–29, pointing to Yaakov's prophecy over Ephraim (Beresheeth (Genesis) 48:9, 13–14), that his descendants would become *Melo Goyim* — the fullness of the nations. At Yeshua's first coming, Israel was a scattered nation of only a few hundred million spread across the Parthian, Roman, and Greco empires. Today, Avraham's promise has been fulfilled: Yisra'el has become the *Melo Goyim*. The physical descendants of Avraham are now innumerable, dispersed across every nation, creed, and continent. DNA research estimates them in the billions, and a phenomenon has begun: the sons and daughters are awakening to their identity as Yisra'el, reconnecting to their covenant heritage.

### 7. Avraham was an extraordinary man, unique in his generation and in the world today.

The *Testament of Abraham*, a pseudepigraphic Hebrew text (1st–2nd century AD), records unique insights: Abraham was not merely a friend of Eloah, but the beloved of Elohim — more cherished than any patriarch, and Elohim would do anything for him if asked. He was renowned for humility, hospitality, and generosity, even in Heaven. Angels, including Michael the Prince of Heaven, frequently visited his tent, where all were welcomed. Abraham dictated the timing of his own death. Elohim would not take His beloved friend until Abraham consented. Abraham was far from sin; he was perfect in his ways, keeping YHWH's laws and charges impeccably (Beresheeth (Genesis) 26:5). He was known as a *Tzadik of Tzadikim*. He was the first to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Book of Jubilees 16:21–31), likely because of the many angels who came to his tent. According to Jubilees 19:3, 9, Abraham displayed extraordinary patience at Sarah's death, remaining steadfast and unshaken—having already beheld Heaven and all the Earth with his own eyes, as the *Testament of Abraham* records. Finally, Jubilees 19:15–25 records that Abraham loved Jacob and Rebecca dearly, while Isaac favored Esau.

**THE RESTORATION OF THE FAITH OF AVRAHAM.** All points lead to a singular purpose, hidden beneath the shroud of the world's religions. At the end of the age, the faith of Avraham, the father of our Hebrew faith, will be fully restored. The faith he established will again be recognized as the true faith of the Kingdom. It will not be known as Christianity, Judaism, or any other artificial religion, but as the Covenant Faith of Avraham, rooted in Torah. The prophet declares that before the great and awesome Day of YHWH (Yom YHWH), Eliyahu (Elijah) must come to restore Torah and turn the hearts of Yisra'el back to their fathers—Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov: "*Remember the Torah of Moshe My servant... with its statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of YHWH. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.*" Malaki (Malachi) 4:5–6. The ministry of Eliyahu will usher in universal teshuvah (repentance), just as Yonah's message caused Nineveh to repent. A great sign of this restoration will be the resurrection of Torah among the nations, as Gentile believers are called out of paganism. Just as Yonah was raised from the depths and cast out of the fish, so too believers

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will be raised up in Torah and delivered from idolatry— the deeper meaning behind the ancient fish symbol. **THE RELIGION OF ABRAHAM.** We have misunderstood the calling of Avraham and misrepresented his faith. YHWH did not betroth merely an individual in Avraham, but a nation, a people beyond number, through covenant. Yisra'el was redeemed even before Sinai, for Avraham trusted and obeyed the voice of YHWH, and it was counted to him as righteousness (Beresheeth (Genesis) 15:6; Ivrim (Hebrews) 11:8). Through this covenant, a way was made for all nations to enter the Kingdom. As it is written: *"And the Scripture, foreseeing that YHWH would justify the nations through emunah (faith), proclaimed beforehand the Besorah (Good News) to Avraham, saying, In you shall all nations be blessed. So then those who are of Emunah are blessed with faithful Avraham"* Galutiyah (Galatians) 3:8-9. Yeshua Himself confirmed that the faith of the Patriarchs is the key to the Kingdom: *"And I say to you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* Mattityahu (Matthew) 8:11-12. When we reject Torah, we reject the faith of Avraham. **THE PURPOSE OF THE TORAH.** The Torah has dominion over all mankind: *"Do you not know, brothers, for I speak to those who know Torah, that the Torah has dominion over a man as long as he lives?"* Romiyah (Romans) 7:1. No one escapes the authority of Torah—not even through Yeshua, who affirmed: *"For truly I say to you, Until the present shamayim and earth pass away, not one yud or one nekudah shall by any means pass from the Torah, until all be fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks, or weakens one of the least commandments, and teaches others to do so, he shall be called least in the malchut ha-shamayim. But whoever does and teaches them shall be called great in the malchut ha-shamayim"* Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:18-19. The Torah was given to expose sin and transgression—idolatry, pagan practices, robbing YHWH of tithes and offerings, profaning the Shabbat, neglecting the Moedim and Rosh Chodesh, oppression, violence, and murder (Yochanan Alef (First John) 3:4; Romiyah (Romans) 4:7-8; 5:13). Because sin multiplied, Torah became necessary to preserve mankind (Romiyah (Romans) 7:12-14). The Torah is not merely "the Law of Moshe" but the Law of Humanity: *"...the righteousness of Eloah through faith in Yeshua for all who believe. For there is **no distinction**: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Eloah"* Romiyah 3:22-23. Thus, the Torah and the Covenants apply to all peoples, not just Yisra'el. Rewards come from perfecting Torah in our lives, just as our father Avraham did. To study Torah is a divine duty. **THE TRUTH ABOUT ABRAHAM.** Avraham was a Hebrew, not a Jew, as were the Patriarchs, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov. They were Hebrews, not Jews. *"And there came one that had escaped, and told Avram the Ivri (Hebrew)"* Beresheeth (Genesis) 14:13. The term "Hebrew" traces to Eber (Heber), whose name means "the region beyond" or "the other side." As Yahoshua testified: *"Thus says YHWH Elohim of Yisra'el: Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the River—Terach, the father of Avraham and the father of Nachor—and they served other gods"* Yahoshua (Joshua) 24:2. Therefore, all descendants of Eber are Hebrews: Avraham, Lot, the Ammonites, Moabites, Ishmael and his descendants, Midian and the Midianites, Esau and the Edomites, and of course Yaakov and the twelve tribes of Yisra'el, including Judah. **WHO THEN ARE THE JEWS?** The Jews are descendants of Yahudah. The Hebrew term "Yahudim" (from Yahudah) means "of Judah." The word "Jew" first appears in Melechim Bet (First Kings) 16:6 after the division of the kingdom—when the ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom (Yisra'el), and Judah with Benjamin formed the Southern Kingdom (Yahudah). Thus, Scripture distinguishes between the house of Yisra'el and the house of Yahudah (Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 31:31-34). **To conclude** today, many Christians reject replacement theology, yet still view themselves as Gentile believers. But in truth, the faith of Avraham reveals that the Kingdom, the Torah, and the Promises belong to all the seed of Avraham, that is mixed into the nations. **We are all Ivrim!**