MOSES' SEAT AND MESSIANIC NAZARENE YISRAEL

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INTRODUCTION

****The complete Hebrew Matthew text appeared in the body of a 14th century Jewish polemical treatise entitled: Even Bohan. The author Shem Tov Ben Isaac Ben Shaprut completed his work in 1385 and revised it several times. He used 9 different Hebrew manuscripts of the preserved Gospel of Matthew to compile his translation. He was not a believer and includes the Hebrew Matthew in his treatises defending Judaism against Christianity in the disputations he was involved in. Shem Tov's Matthew is available from Mercer University Press in Macon Georgia ISBN 0-86554-470-0 and is also available from Century Publishers in California.

SAFE WAY TO RELATE

Turn with me please if you would to Matityahu (Matthew 23). In order for our renewed two house nation that the Father is raising up in these last days to be healthy, single minded and pressing forward to the mark of the high calling of Yahweh in Messiah Yahshua, it is absolutely necessary for us to rightly relate to and define the much discussed Seat of Moses.

The only safe way to approach this misunderstood subject is to first go to the source. Who is the source of all truth? Messiah Yahshua and the Hebrew Scriptures. I believe that much of the Brit Chadashah was written in the Hebrew. However specifically I know beyond belief, that the book of Matthew was written in Hebrew. We will be sharing today from the Hebrew version. Moses Seat can be one of the most misunderstood topics in the messianic movement. What is most misunderstood is how you and I should rightly relate to the Seat of Moses.

Our Messianic Jewish brothers in their attempts to become the fourth legitimately recognized branch of Judaism have compromised themselves, seeking the approval of those they *perceive* as sitting in the Seat of Moses. I am going to be sharing some things with you that I believe will totally clear things up regarding one confusing verse in Matthew 23. Lets start with verse one of Matthew 23. 'Then Yahshua spoke to the crowds and to His taught ones and said: "the Scribes (*sopherim*) and Pharisees (*Prushim*) sit in the Seat of Moses." That is an established fact. A case can be argued whether they are legal or illegal occupants to that seat but that is not my topic today. A very strong case can be made that the *Prushim* and the *Sopherim* were

illegal occupants of the Seat of Moses, who were not legitimate sons of Aaron [in many cases] but were rather political appointees or hacks of the Roman rulers. A strong case can be made that the Father did not seat those who seated themselves in that seat, in Messiah Yahshua's time. However that's not the issue today.

DEALING WITH REALITY!

King Yahshua said the fact remains that they sat in Moses' Seat and now that must be dealt with. We as the people of Messianic Nazarene Yisrael also have to deal with it. For if we do not deal with it and relate to that concept correctly as a movement, as the nation of Israel is being restored as Judah and Ephraim are returning, we are bound to fall into a trap, that threatens the unity of this movement. It threatens the effectiveness of this movement and it threatens the destiny of this movement. This maybe one of the most important topics you'll hear at this or any conference.

More specifically the fact that we have to deal with it is found in verse 3. The Scribes and Pharisees sat in Moses Seat in the days of Yahshua. In Matthew 23 verse 3, our traditional translations read: "therefore whatever they say to you guard, guard and do. But do not do according to their works, for they say and do not." How many of you have ever really read through the entire 23rd chapter of Matthew? Let me share something. As we read verses 1-39 everything fits into a beautiful discourse as a contextual masterpiece of King Yahshua's diatribe and exposure of the hypocritical leaven of the Pharisees. Verses 1-39 of Matthew 23 fit perfectly as they paint a mosaic. That mosaic is that the Pharisees talk Moses (Torah) but don't walk Moses (Torah). Their leaven is their hypocrisy.

So if verses 1 through 39 of Matthew 23 fit so perfectly with an exposure of that leaven, the question is how do we deal with or account for a textual abortion, so to speak, in verse 3? Why would Yahshua spend 39 verses exposing, telling, warning and declaring to us all, kinds of evil and darkness found in the teachings of the Pharisees and then slip in verse number 3 of Matthew 23? Would King Yahshua contradict Himself and tell us that despite their sin follow them any way? Do their deeds anyway! Listen to them anyway! Why would Yahshua knowing their evil lives go and command His disciples to not worry about those things and follow their ways of death anyway? It's like saying Uncle Charlie is a pedophile. Uncle Charlie molests children. Uncle Charlie cannot be trusted with your children. Nevertheless when you need a babysitter and need to go out of town, drop your children off at Uncle Charlie's house.

In our traditional translations verse 3 of Matthew 23 does not make sense in the context of the chapter. That is because we have gotten our erroneous translations of verse 3 from the Greek text. However according to Eusebius, an early father of the faith: "The Hebrew Matthew was preserved at the library at Caesarea Philippi". It has been preserved and handed down to us today and it appears in *Matthew's Shem Tov*. *Matthew's Shem Tov* is the preservation of the Hebrew Matthew originally housed in Caesarea Philippi according to Eusebius.

Let's take a close look at verse 3 in the traditional translations, the only troubling verse in the midst of a sea of plain texts. The fact remains that the Scribes and Pharisees sat in the Seat of Moses. Deal with it! Verse 3 in the traditional translations states that: "whatever they say to you, guard and do." Is Yahshua not talking to His disciples and does it not appear that Messiah Yahshua is telling them and us through them, that whatever they tell you to do you must do? Is not that what verse 3 of Matthew 23 appears to be teaching? It appears to be saying that. Yahshua appears to be encouraging His disciples for all generations to submit to the dictates of the Seat of Moses. However in the clearly understood context of verses 1-39, that is a textual impossibility. Not only is that a textual impossibility, other scriptures such as Mark 7 forbid the submission of born again New Covenant Israelites, to a seat that is full of leaven and evil hypocrisy.

The danger faced especially in the House of Ephraim (in their desire to be more Jewish, which Ephraim has not been called to be) in their call to return to the nation of Israel and reject the pagan practices of both Judah and Ephraim, is that sometimes Ephraim acts like a silly dove, according to Hosea 7:11. When Ephraimites get around a Jewish believer, often they become overtaken with presence, envy and sometimes a reverence of Jewishness that borders on worship of that Jewishness. Then Ephraim starts fluttering in many silly ways including doctrinally. Is it not interesting that in most branches of Christianity today, you will find the symbol of the dove? Hosea states that Ephraim can get like a silly dove, when they see Judah's deep family roots. They get silly in the sense that they forget they are not to worship man or his nationality or position. They like Judah are called to keep our eyes on the author and finisher of the faith.

How can Yahshua spend 39 blessed verses of scripture telling us to avoid the hypocrisy emanating from the Seat of Moses (*keseh Moshe*) and then turn around and give us a PS: Listen to them anyway! Now if that's really what He is saying, I don't want to follow Yahshua. Why would Messiah spend all that time warning us, putting us on guard, getting our attention, protecting us from the error of the Scribes and Pharisees and then leave us with a huge contradictory PS: nevertheless you can or should still drop your kids off at Uncle Charlie's. Don't let the fact that Uncle Charlie is a pedophile bother you. Do you get my point?

So in the original preserved Hebrew in *Matthew's Shem Tov*, in verse 3 reads entirely differently brothers and sisters. In Matthew 23:3 in the original Hebrew, here is what it says. As you will see it makes a world of difference. The Hebrew reads as follows: "Lamor, al kiseh Moshe yoshveh haprushim vehachochmim. Vatah, kol asher yomer lachem shomru veassu. Ovtachnutahem umaashem al tasu. Sh hem omrim vehem anam osim. I apologize for the tongues but we are all Israelites we will one day all be speaking Hebrew. Now as I said earlier, in all the normative and accepted translations based on the Greek, it appears that Yahshua our King is saying whatever they say to do you must do and don't ask any questions since they have Moses Seat, symbolic of Moses power and authority! Even if they teach you how to hate Yahshua, or curse Yahshua in the shimoneh esreah, the liturgical prayer in the Jewish prayer book containing a curse on the *minim* or traitors (messianic believers). The way early persecutors would expose believers is by forcing them to pray the *shimoneh* esreah and thus pronounce a curse on themselves. Would Yahshua if He really is the Son of Yahweh, teach you and I to submit to an authority that will demand that you and I spit and curse our Savior and crucify afresh the Son of Yahweh by putting underfoot the blood of the everlasting covenant? No, no, no, no! Something is amiss in our understanding of these verses.

KOL ASHER YOMER!

Here is the English translation directly from the *Matthew's Hebrew* **Shem Tov.** "lamor. Al kiseh Moshe, meaning on the Seat of Moses, voshvei haprushim vehacochmin, sit the Pharisees and the Sages. Veatah, kol asher yomer lachem and now, ALL THAT IS SAID TO **YOU**. do. Guard and do. But **their** ordinances and deeds do not do. Because they say [Moses] and do not [do Moses]. So the contrast in the Hebrew is as follows: Because they sit in Moses Seat, now all which "yomer" meaning, that which has been said by an individual in the past, you must continue to do! In Torah when Yahweh would speak the Torah He often would say **ko amar Yahweh**. Or va-yomer Yahweh el Mosheh. It is what is being said by an individual to another or to others. If Yahshua the King of Israel was telling His disciples to follow the Pharisees who would in turn teach you how to curse, hate, blaspheme and deny your Messiah, Yahshua would have used the plural form of yomer, which is omrim. If Yahshua was telling us to blindly follow Moses Seat in total blind obedience then the Hebrew would then read: kol shehem omrim not kol asher yomer! The term "kol ahser yomer" speaks of an individual's commands or an individual's declarations to others!!

Matthew 23:3 literally means all which **he has said to you**... Who is the he? Moses! Whatever Moses says or is saying in the present tense **yomer**, KEEP! Or the word **yomer** in the ongoing present tense can

even mean what Yahweh said and is continuing to say because HE is eternal and unchanging! Either way whether referring to Moses or Yahweh through Moses, it is an **individual's declaration** in the ongoing present, **not a group declaration**, which then would entail the usage of the collective plural present verb **omrim**.

CONTRASTS

The Hebrew **Shem Tov** in Matthew 23:3 contrasts what he (Moses) said, versus what the Pharisees and Sages say. They are NOT SAYING THE SAME THING. THIS VERSE IS A VERSE OF GREAT CONTRAST, not an admonition to follow blasphemy and evil pernicious errors. King Yahshua is making it clear that Moses and rabbinical Judaism both **claim** to be saying the same thing but in no way, shape or form, are they doing and teaching the same things.

Therefore the Hebrew rendering of Matthew 23:3: "veatah kol asher YOMER lachem shomru veasu; uvtachnotahem umaasehem al tasu shhemem omrim vhem anah osim, is a warning of the fact that their collective deeds do not match the individual sayings of Moses. When referring to the collective anti-Torah deeds of the Pharisees and Sages, Yahshua uses the plural in the words uvtachnotahem uma-asehem, (ending in the hem plural suffix) their ordinances and their deeds. Had Messiah truly wanted us to be the blind following the blind, He would have told us to follow kol shehem OMRIM using the plural form of yomer, just like He did when referring to their collective manmade ordinances and deeds, where Yahshua does use the collective present plural.

Matthew 23:3 then is a call to Torah and a call to **distance ourselves** from the corruption of Moses Seat for all of King Yahshua's disciples! Only in this Hebraic understanding can verse 3 of Matthew 23 take its rightful logical place in a chapter full of sharp contrasts between Moses' Torah and the ordinances and behaviors of the Pharisees. If Matthew 23:1-39 are verses designed to contrast right from wrong, good from evil, Torah from Oral Torah, then by definition of syntax so must verse 3! When verse 3 is understood as the table setter to the rest of the chapter, then we have perfectly fitting textual syntax. Then verses 4-39 of Matthew 23, become the details of Yahshua's initial verse 3 proclamation to avoid their sayings ("omrim") and choose Moses' sayings that were "yomer"ed. King Yahshua illuminates the reason that He has requested for His talmidim to refuse and reject the leadership of the Seat of Moses, in light of their rejection of the pure sayings of Moses the lawgiver.

The danger for the Messianic Nazarene Yisrael movement is that if we are not careful, we will fall into the same errors of our Messianic Jewish brothers. They are trying to gain, acquire and procure the acceptance of traditional rabbinic Judaism, despite denials to the contrary, to somehow get their anti-Yahshua structure to give Messianic Judaism a seal of approval. For some strange reason there remains this insatiable desire in Messianic Judaism to come to what they wrongly perceive is the righteousness of the Seat of Moses and to somehow procure their acceptance in order for traditional Judaism to finally recognize Messianic Judaism as a legitimate Jewish expression.

Why does this still occur? Because they have made the error that Messianic Nazarene Yisrael must avoid. What is that error? First that whatever Orthodox Judaism says is to be followed must be followed, even when scripturally wrong, since they are our covering and our authority. This error causes messianics to obey this **perception**, even at the expense of truth, often forcing believers to compromise scripture, to somehow show themselves humble by attempting to follow an authority that in many ways clearly contradicts both covenants! *Matthew's Shem Tov* shows that the opposite is true. Messiah Yahshua has rejected Moses Seat as the authoritative overseers of His Messianic Nazarene Yisraelite disciples. We must not follow them if we are to follow Yahshua and Torah!

We see that Yahweh has preserved for us the original meaning in the Hebrew *Shem Tov*. When following this understanding, confusion does not reign and neither does a divided loyalty. We are to follow the Holy One and Him alone who teaches and does Moses, unlike those who sat in judgment of Him the night of His betrayal. The guardians of Moses had stopped doing Moses, long before King Messiah Yahshua was born! He spent 39 verses of Matthew 23 **including verse 3** to give the talmidim detailed reasons why He Himself and all who are His followers must not blindly follow their teachings. With the Hebrew *Shem Tov* the entire chapter flows into a final declaration in the final verse (39). Matthew 23:39 replaces the hypocrisy of Moses Seat with a proclamation of the purity and right ruling of the Blessed One who has come in the name of Yahweh to rightly interpret Torah (Isaiah 11:1-5).

We as Messianic Nazarene Yisraelites must not blindly obey the past rulings of the Seat of Moses. Here are a few of the reasons that what Moses said and what those in Moses Seat said are two separate doctrines. Lets look at the following verses designed to portray contrast, not blind obedience. Let's start in verse 4. "For **they** bind heavy burdens hard to bear and lay them on men's shoulders." 5. "They do their works to be seen by men." Did Moses do that? No he escaped men and went on the mountain for 40 days and nights to get away and not be seen by the ekklesia of Israel. **They** on the other hand do their works to be seen. To truly practice Torah means for one to enter his or her closet and

perform and supplicate in secret, as Abba Yahweh rewards you openly. Verse 6: "They (the Pharisees) love the best place in the feasts and in the synagogues." Moses did not go to synagogue. They did. There is that contrast again. Do Moshe but do not do what they do. Verse 7; "they love the greetings to be called rabbi, rabbi." Moshe did not want the greetings. He did not seek to be called rabbi. He was the Torah giver. See the contrast. Moses was a rabbi even though did not seek to be one but those in the Seat of Moses were seeking the titles of rabbi from each other without divine sanction.

Achieving this correct understanding is serious business. If we fall into the same misunderstanding as Messianic Judaism based on the readily available Greek texts, we will be needing and seeking the approval of traditional Judaism. Please, please chirps Messianic Judaism, tell us we are really Jewish-Israelites please tell us that, even though we believe in the J-MAN from Nazareth! Please accept us as legitimate Jewish-Israelites! I don't believe this is Yahshua's desire for us. If He tells us to follow and obey those who teach us to hate Him and deny Yahshua, those whom He Himself calls blind guides, when He is the light of the world, then something is being greatly distorted. Why would the Light of the world that has come to light every man's path, call His chosen people of Renewed Covenant Israel to leave the Light and follow the blind guides? Yahshua said that he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life (John 8:12). Messianic Judaism says yea but... PS: just go there (Moses Seat) for a little darkness. We must give the Seat of Moses respect say others. No you don't. You as a disciple of Yahshua have to respect what the seat **ONCE STOOD FOR**, but not necessarily the representatives or the teachings and behaviors of that seat, when their blind teachings clearly contradict the teachings about the Light brought forth by both Moses and Yahshua Himself!

That Seat of Moses brought forth and added things that Moses and Yahshua never said and so we must not hear and obey them. The Hebrew makes it abundantly clear. We are to receive our directions from Yahshua and Torah only and not from any subjection or approval seeking from traditional Judaism. To run to the throne of traditional rabbinic Judaism that does not have the same King as we do (scripture tells us that to deny the Son is to deny the Father, even if one claims belief in the Father alone) and does not love King Yahshua the way you and I do, is an act of sellout and treason. We do not need their approval. The scriptures tell us in Ephesians 1:4 that you and I are "holy and blameless in His love." Further scripture tells us in Colossians 2:10 that ("we are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.") We are accepted in the beloved. Our names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. So why do you and I need the approval of those who talk Moses but don't walk Moses? If they had walked and not just talked Moses, they would not have condemned the Son of Yahweh. Does traditional Judaism talk Moses

and talk Torah? Sure they do! Yahshua said they talk but do not walk Moses. Messianic Judaism sad to say may be headed for a day of destruction, unless they soon realize that their approval comes from the King of Israel and not from 777 Eastern Parkway!

A CHAPTER OF CONTRASTS

So we see that the contrast and warnings of the Messiah are not given in anger or bitterness but are warnings of concern for His talmidim, to beware and stay clear of the things that they claim Moses did and taught but in reality never did. Moses did not travel land and sea trying to make one proselyte and then go ahead and turn him into a two fold child of Gehenna as they originally were. Moses did not do that. They did! We find King Yahshua's midrash in verses 3-39, with clear cogent reasoning as to just why the disciples (talmidim) were not to blindly obey the Seat of Moses. The perceived occupants of Moses Seat of yesteryear, or rabbinical Jews who claim that seat today, must not be allowed to influence the two-house message. As for me and my house we will take our marching orders from Yahshua. We will receive our instructions from Yahshua. We don't need any rabbi in the natural to affirm what Yahweh is doing through us because even if the Seat of Moses then was walking in Torah, we are called to get our necessary "atta-boys" from the Ruach HaKodesh and Him alone. It is not the talkers of Moses that we are to emulate but the only One who in the face of the forces of hell itself, talked and walked perfect Torah faith and obedience. He is the Holy One and there is not any other holy second.

Look at what else **they** do in verse 5. **They** make their tzitzit (fringes) long and say: "look, do you see how holy I am and look I even have a little tinge of blur cord on my big tzitzit." Moses did not do that. He said you should wear tzitzit to avoid fornication and whoring as a private personal devotion to the Father. Keep them as a private devotion to Yahweh. Moses did not make the longest tzitzit but made them as a private devotion to his Father. Looking back to verse 3 of Matthew 23, we see that it's impossible for it to mean "its ok to obey them anyway." It's not OK to obey those who are blind in their walk with the Father. That is not anti-Semitic, that is a fact that we need to consider before choosing those kinds of hypocrites as our trusted leaders. King Yahshua loves us, guards us, protects us and has our best interests at heart. If he spent 39 verses warning us, why would He negate that with one verse and thereby send us to the wolves?

We must not do mitzvoth for public consumption. We must not seek approval, love and honor from men rather we must love Yahshua with all our minds, souls, hearts and strength. If He bestows honor upon us, so be it. *L'chaim*, to life! Humble yourself under the mighty hand of Yahweh and He will exalt you in due season. They chased honor. We must not do that and should only chase His honor, which only He can bestow. There's that contrast again. We are not to lust after and seek

titles. If titles come take them. It's like a tax refund. Take it. Then make a deposit. But don't seek after it.

The Pharisees shut up the kingdom of heaven against men not allowing the am haaretz or the so-called "common uneducated people of Israel" to enter the Kingdom of Yahweh. Somehow they had to receive a Yeshiva degree or ordination to be considered a real Jew or Israelite! This Moses did not do. He did not divide Israel into a caste system. What about the repentant tax collector or whore? Don't they have a place at Messiah's table? Those are the very ones that the Seat of Moses prevented from coming in for healing, deliverance and restoration. These am haaretz had become the undesirables, with no one reaching them. That's not Moses, that's mans bigotry and prejeduce. Torah tells us to leave some food for the stranger when we glean our fields. Loving the am haaretz and those who cannot repay you, that is Torah (Moses). In Matthew 23:14 Yahshua says, "You devour widows houses and for pretence make long prayers." You invoke prayers to get money. Nothing's changed. Go to an orthodox Jewish cemetery today and the orthodox Jews will take you to the grave and davin (pray) with you if you give them \$20. The self proclaimed modern Seat of Moses and their hypocrites are doing exactly today what it did 2000 years ago. They wait for a widow to pay them to say kaddish (mourners prayers). Nothing has changed. Our Master and King is so separate from sinners by being completely undefiled as scripture reminds us that "even His eyes are purer than to behold iniquity." His eyes are so pure He cannot look at iniquity. Don't try to tell me that He is going to send us to this antiquated seat of corruption and decay because after all they possess authority over believers. I reject that! I reject that completely and so should you!

When they do and teach Torah that's one thing. When they don't we must depart and not subject ourselves to that. I am telling you brethren; that is one reason why the Messianic Jewish movement is splintering at the core. That is because the days of longing for the throne of Abba has been replaced with seeking the acceptance of mere flesh and blood, including the Babylonian church system. The Bible says, "Cursed is the man that does trust in the arm of flesh, blessed is the man who's Elohim is Yahweh." Messianic Jewish leadership has determined to be recognized as a fourth branch of Judaism. Read my lips: We don't want that recognition. We are the prophetic two houses of Israel coming together with one hope (The Hope Of Messianic Nazarene Yisrael), one faith, one mikvah, one Father of all above all and in you all.

Jump down to Matt 23:23. The Seat of Moses in King Yahshua's day did tithe. They were tithers but neglected mercy and compassion. King Yahshua said that they ought to have shown mercy and compassion **before** paying their tithes. Moses showed compassion all the while paying his tithes. In Matthew 23 verses 28-32 Yahshua called those

who occupy Moses seat murderers! (I am not anti-Semitic, so please don't come to me later with that accusation. I'm Jewish) I am only teaching you what the word says. Look at Matt. 23:32. Yahshua says, "Woe to you Scribes for you build the tombs of the prophets and you decorate the monuments of the righteous." Yahshua meant that after they killed their prophets, that they would posthumously honor them by painting and decorating their graves. In Matthew 23 verse 30 Yahshua said: "But you say ahh, if we had lived in those days of our fathers we would not have done so." The plotters and murderers and co-conspirators of Israel's prophets are Israelites specifically those who seated themselves in the Seat of Moses in Yahshua's day and among the misinformed still today.

Be honest. Lets forget theology, lets forget the workshop. Let's be honest. If Yahshua was instructing you and I to follow those He called murderers we're in trouble. We're in some serious trouble. Amein! I mean if I told you now here's what I want you to do. This is how I want you to walk with Yahshua. I want you to get in touch with Charles Manson and whatever he tells you to do, do! Does that make any sense? Then neither do the traditional interpretations derived from the Greek. In the Hebrew *Shem Tov* we don't have that problem. In the Hebrew Matt 23:3 is a warning to obey Moses and not his "corrupted" seat, since often the two do not agree.

MUST WE SUBMIT?

That's why this is so important. If we do not deal with the fact that the Seat of Moses is still occupied by those who **claim** to represent Moses and yet deny the Son of Yahweh and if we don't decide right here and now how we are to rightly relate to it and if we fall into the errors of the previous messianic movements, then I give the Union of Two House Messianic Congregations less than five years of survival. That's how serious this topic is! If we relate wrongly to it we will wind up chasing the seat and the mind of man emanating from that seat rather than the mind of Messiah (First Cor. 2:16). Where would we go next? Do we seek the Vatican's approval? Do we go to Islamabad? Where would we go next to chase man's approval? King Yahshua goes out of His way in 39 verses to plead and admonish us to guard ourselves against those who talk Moses but don't do Moses. You have 39 verses of these warnings thus allowing no way for verse 3 alone to possibly mean that we should follow them in their errors "anyway!"

You may counter by saying but don't we (according to scripture) have to obey human rulers over our lives? Yes. You may counter by saying does not scripture teach us to obey every human ruler power and principality over our lives since they are put their by Yahweh Himself? Yes. BUT NOT WHEN THEY TEACH US TO KILL THE UNBORN! NOT WHEN THEY TEACH US TO KILL OUR ELDERLY PARENTS WHO TOOK CARE OF US IN OUR YOUTH. WE DO NOT HAVE TO OBEY

THE GOVERNMENT! WHEN AND IF THE US GOVERNMENT WERE TO TEACH US HOW TO MAKE OUR NATION "JUDENREIN" OR CLEANSED OF JEWS BY ENCOURAGING ANOTHER HOLOCAUST, I AM NOT GOING TO OBEY THAT! Don't you come to me and tell me about those scriptures where it demands that we as believers submit to human government as unto Yahweh Himself! When they tell me terrible orders, like how to kill Jewish people, I don't have to submit to that!

Brothers and sisters I will be frank with you. For years I have been reading Matthew 23 trying to gain understanding as to how verse 3 fits in with the other 39 verses. Amid all those warnings and admonitions unto watchfulness, I would often wonder as to just how did verse 3 find its way into the text. It always bothered me. If we take things as they appear to be at face value from the Greek translation in verse 3, it sounds like King Yahshua in using the term whatever, allows for His talmidim to obey anything emanating from the Seat of Moses whether it be truth or error. That term "whatsoever" is an all-encompassing inclusive term. Those of you coming out of Messianic Jewish circles; how many times have you been told that? You've been told that whatsoever they tell you, whether you agree with it or not, or whether Yahweh agrees with it is irrelevant! You must obey! When you and I heard this kind of wrong reasoning we immediately started questioning if in fact we should practice some of the unbiblical and extra biblical things they told us, even though there was no biblical justification. But Baruch Hashem Yahweh in the Hebrew Matthew all this confusion about the alleged "whatsoever they tell you to do" mistranslation is finally straightened out. That is why Hebrew was, is and always will be the lashon kodesh. The Set-Apart pure tongue that will be used in the millennium when Yahshua reigns is Hebrew (Zeph. 3:9).

A DESOLATE HOUSE AND SEAT

Look carefully at verses 38-39 of Matthew 23. In verse 38 King Yahshua prophetically tells us that the House of prayer for all Israel, specifically the Temple where the Sanhedrin or Seat of Moses sat, will be left desolate or laid waste as of 70CE. Now how can we follow the judgments of the house where the Seat of Moses sat in judgment over Israel, when that very structure and that very seat are desolate? The house, which they preside over, will be no more as of 70CE. That's what the text teaches. [In order for Moses Seat to function biblically, the Temple on Mt. Moriah must stand, since that is where they historically met. Even the historical move of the Seat of Moses to Galilee after 70CE described by Josephus Flavious, was considered non-kosher by the Talmud and the Seat of Moses themselves. They realized that even though man had moved it, Yahweh had not sanctioned the move!]

Since King Yahshua was addressing the Pharisees in context, He is prophesying judgment against THEIR HOUSE AND THEIR SEAT WHICH THE HOUSE CONTAINED!! If their house is desolate then their

seat of power in that house must also be desolate and you and I cannot follow an invisible Sanhedrin, meeting in an invisible temple, since the only one you and I are called to follow since 70CE is the seat of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. That is the only invisible seat or throne we are to follow.

A SEAT OF MOSES SPECIAL

In Matthew 23 verse 39 Yahshua says: "For I say to you that you shall not see me again, until you learn to say cry BARUCH HABAH BESHEM YAHWEH!" You know what King Yahshua was truly saying to the about to be desolate Seat of Moses? What grievous sin and violation of the Torah did those who sat in the Seat of Moses commit? What significant action have they taken that until this day affects both the Jewish and Christian worlds? Yahshua in His verse 39 declaration, is in essence rebuking the leaders of Jewish/Israel for calling Yahweh Hashem, Adonai and all the substitute titles coming from the Seat of Moses. Moses called him Yahweh! They (Moses Seat) called Him Hashem, God, Lord, or Adonai in various Hebrew substitutions for Yahweh! (Those titles can be used to identify that Yahweh is the Lord, when used in conjunction with the personally revealed Name but never as substitute titles for the personally revealed Name. FIRST THE JEWISH PEOPLE LEARN TO SAY AND CALL ON YAHWEH'S NAME, (come out of the ban) THEN THEY ARE **REWARDED BY SEEING YAHSHUA!)**

King Yahshua said by virtue of His declaration, that because of the violation of bringing Yahweh's Name to naught or disuse, (by putting the people of Israel under the ban of pronouncing the true Name known in rabbinics as the forbidden banned Name or the *shem hamsphorah*) Israel's leaders would not have the opportunity of seeing and receiving Him as King. Yahshua let the talmidim know that since Moses Seat put you under the ban of the true memorial redemptive Name of Yahweh, they therefore will not see me again as you see me as Messiah. My judgment against that practice from the Seat of Moses will come upon them, **until they learn** how to cry blessed is He who comes in the Name of Yahweh, thus removing the people of Israel who follow them out from under the ban!

The reason many here still do not understand the significance of the usage of the name of Yahweh, or why many here still find the common use of the name Yahweh as offensive, is because the Seat of Moses has put our people under a suffocating and intimidating ban. Therefore many of us conclude that it is blasphemous to use it or irreverent to commonly call him Yahweh. That is due to the fact that we have been sold this bill of goods "a Seat of Moses special!" What we are doing is unknowingly and often times unwittingly submitting ourselves to the now defunct and desolate Seat of Moses and their manmade ban. The ban on the true name of Yahweh did not come from Sinai but from a

desolate seat in a desolate house and only those contented to being desolate will keep themselves under a ban that Messiah Yahshua has come to remove us and set us free from (John 17:6; Exodus 3:14-16)! Yahweh gave us His Name as a memorial for ALL GENERATIONS TO PROCLAIM IN ALL THE EARTH! Are we part of the all generations of the human experience? Yes we are and thus that Name is for you, your children and as many as are far off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call. Therefore we are faced with a challenge. Do we love the Seat of Moses more than Yahweh? The Seat of Moses has put us under the ban officially known as the *shem hamsephorah*. Do we love Yahweh enough to buck that false theology and restore that Name in order to be removed from the bondage of manmade rules by the Seat of Moses? Those who stick to the substitute titles of Ha Shem and Lord and so forth, voluntarily have chosen to keep themselves and their loved ones under a ban never approved of by the Father.

King Yahshua said that His disciples not only did not belong under the ban (you and your house), but that Jewish Israel's center of judgment will be left desolate, until (a specific point in time) when you **learn** how to cry **BARUCH HABAH BESHEM YAHWEH!** Halleluyah. For those stubborn to change, you will bow your knee and learn that Name and learn to love that name sooner or later, so why not get with the program, avoid the pain and make it sooner.

NEW SEAT OF AUTHORITY

As we conclude brothers and sisters, it is so clear in the Hebrew Matthew. So now in the MIA, now in the two house restoration, now in the days of Eliyahu, now in the days when the hearts of the fathers (Judah) are being turned to the hearts of the children (Ephraim) and the hearts of the children (Ephraim) are being turned to the fathers, (Judah) we cannot any longer forget the Torah as Moshe received it by Yahweh in Horeb. Now in these days, all that has been said to us in the five Books of Moses, guard, guard, guard, guard and do! But don't do what Moses's defunct and desolate seat does. Truly when we accept that mantle and that set apart calling, then will we be the Israel of Yahweh, released from the many bans and bondages of the corrupted Seat of Moses.

What should our relationship as Messianic Nazarene Yisrael, (the new wine being put into new wineskins) be with the already judged Seat of Moses? In Matthew 16 we will find our answer. If that former house is desolate, there must be some Levites amongst us to sit on Moses Seat. If it's not the Scribes and Pharisees, who invented the ban and the *shimonei esreah* curse and other abominable things, then where can we as Messianic Nazarene Yisraelites returning to Torah find the Seat of Moses? In Matt 16:18-19 King Yahshua says: "I say unto you are Kepha (Peter) and on this Rock I will build my assembly and the gates of sheoul shall not overcome it. I shall give you the keys of the Kingdom of

heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." The keys were given to Kepha and through Kepha to you, you, you and you! Rev 1:6 states that He (Messiah) has made us a kingdom of priests and kings. We are the priests of the most high! Amongst us there are Levites as well! Whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. The Kingdom of Yahweh and the Seat of Yahweh's complete New Covenant authority, is in us and upon us and in our midst according to Luke 17:21!

Brothers and sisters! The authority of the Beit Din, the authority to bind and loose is not ordering demons around like a drill sergeant. That kind of theology where we dispatch and send or retract evil spirits is an Ephraimite invention resulting from a misunderstanding of the Hebraic culture of our fathers. Binding and loosing is rather the permission from Yahweh to His kehilla to determine halacha, or the paths for New Covenant Israel to walk in. That authority entails making decisions based on Torah and of a civil nature in Messianic Nazarene Yisrael. To loose is to allow certain behaviors, to bind is to disallow certain behaviors and actions in the community of faith and the assembly of the righteous. As Yahshua's talmidim we have the same authority as Kepha to allow and disallow actions that affect the community of faith. Binding and loosing are Hebraic idioms, not a new doctrine of playing strongman with demons.

You see I rather be bold and risk offending one or two people than to have this entire movement fall at the wrong location of the perceived perpetual seat of the Pharisees. I would rather be bold than wind up where many of our Messianic Jewish brothers have wound up, begging unsaved and unregenerate rabbis to grant recognition to Philadelphia as the center of the fourth branch of Judaism. No. We are already accepted because it is we as Messianic Nazarene Yisrael who are already carrying out the Father's will of two-house restoration without the pre-approval of any man. We have been torn and tattered for far too long. So when we come back to Hebraic faith, we must come back pursuing righteousness, looking to Abraham and Sarah who bore us and not to a seat that has been left desolate.

PERFECT EXAMPLE

Mark chapter 7 is a perfect example of *yomer* (Moses said) versus *omrim* (**they** the Pharisees say). In Mark 7:7 King Yahshua said: "in vain do they worship me teaching as doctrines the commands of men." What did the Seat of Moses specialize in? The teachings of men and adding to or manipulating Yahweh's original word. In Mark 7:8 Yahshua says, "Forsaking the commands of Elohim, you hold fast to the traditions of men." Sometimes to institute traditions of men; you have to get rid of the word. That's the danger of submitting to the perceived Seat of Moses that supposedly still exists today and supposedly still rules over all of

Israel. If we submit to the defunct Seat of Moses, we are going to have to prepare ourselves to blatantly set aside the word of Yahweh in order to install and execute our own traditions, since often they oppose one another. They are usually mutually exclusive, even as is the mind of the spirit versus the mind of the flesh. This is the nefarious nature of the Seat of Moses doctrine. For if we fall into the perceived "Seat of Moses is still in existence" trap, we will have to be prepared to set aside the whole counsel of Yahweh, to enact the traditions of men. I am not willing to do that. I would rather resign from this organization before I would have to do that. Fortunately in Messianic Nazarene Yisrael we are not taught to do that.

Mark 7:10 shows us once again the contrast between Moses and the Seat of Moses. "For Moshe said ..." then in verse 11 Yahshua contrasts that with: "BUT YOU SAY...Moses said honor your father and mother. He or she who does not honor their father and mother (mot yumat) dying you must die." What did the Seat of Moses say about this command? Something else. "BUT YOU SAY, if a man says to his father or mother whatever profit you may have been profited by me is korban, or a gift or sacrifice to Yahweh, you no longer let him perform any mitzvah for his father or his mother." So the Seat of Moses had an Oral Torah that a gift intended for the parent's sustenance or provision as an act of honor, can be negated only if you give it to Yahweh. The Seat of Moses thus taught that it is more important to honor Yahweh with another blemished korban, than to provide for and honor your parents according to commandment number five of the Decalogue! Yahshua rebuked them by stating that they have completely negated the command and the mitzvah by changing the word.

Don't tell me that King Yahshua would command born-again talmidim, two house New Covenant Israelites, to forsake the teachings of Moses in favour of the teachings of the now defunct Seat of Moses that often contradicted Moses. Nowhere in scripture are we commanded to subjugate ourselves to the desolate Seat of Moses and their past additions to Yahweh's word! Mark 7 is a clear insight into this truth. The Seat of Moses according to Mark 7:13 has nullified the eternal commands by their handed down traditions.

FINAL CONCERNS

My concern is that these traditions have been handed down to the Messianic Jewish movement of which I am originally a product. These traditions of Moses Seat have been handed down to the Messianic Jewish movement so that they believe they can approach the modern rabbis (the **perceived** sanctified Seat of Moses) and attain their acceptance. I am concerned for them and for us. We as Messianic Nazarene Yisrael are not called to trust Uncle Charlie the pedophile babysitter if Uncle Charlie is not worthy of your trust.

New wine must be put into new wineskins. I submit to you that one of the keys to the survival and perpetuity and longevity and health of the Messianic Nazarene Yisrael movement is that we declare like Yahweh would want us to that "we have no king" or seat of submission but that of King Yahshua!!!