The Hebrew Roots Movement:
Deeper Insights or Elitist Distraction?

by **G. Richard Fisher**

Wheels within wheels — is how the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:16; 10:10) described God and His revelation: subjects that are deep, vast, and complex. It could be used to describe the array of divisions within Christianity. There are so many wheels within wheels that it is impossible for one person to grasp them all.

One subculture could be labeled ''Lovers of Israel'': those sympathetic to the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. This group is also interested in researching everything pertaining to Israel's past. Within this subculture is the Hebrew Roots Movement.

This subculture is varied and contradictory, but can be broken down into divisions realizing that the divisions are not so tight and clear cut. They are:

1. The Messianic Movement. This group is made of large numbers of Jewish converts to Christ. Within it are organizations that are involved in
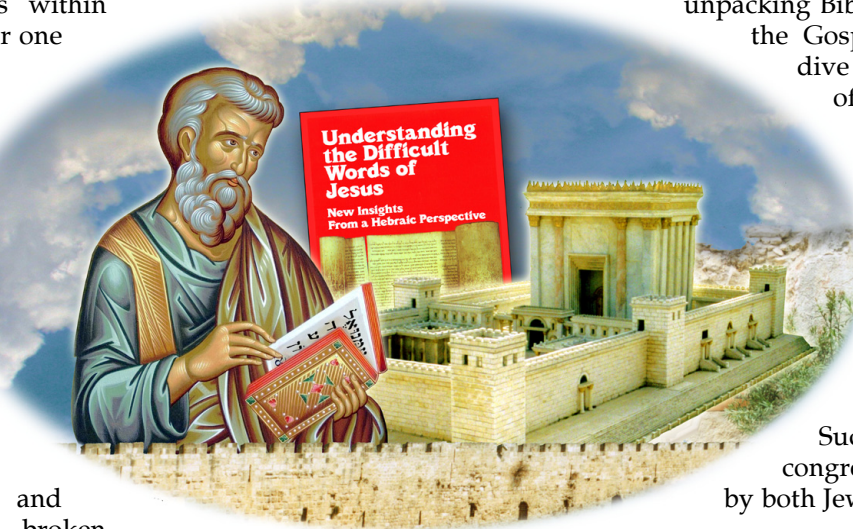
Jewish evangelism and apologetics. These organizations reach out to Jewish people and run the gamut from mainstream Evangelicals, such as Friends of Israel and Jews for Jesus, to

those who adhere to Jewish practices in varying degrees. There are probably hundreds of these kinds of groups that range from highly organized associations to individuals with a congregation. Some are strictly into unpacking Bible content and sharing the Gospel, while others may dive deeply into the study of Second Temple (or first-century) Judaism. Some veer off into serious Talmudic study and take on all the trappings of Orthodox Judaism, including calling their pastors ''Rabbi'' and their churches "synagogues." Such extreme Messianic congregations are spurned by both Jews and Christians.

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