

Comments from Readers about The Lifting of the Veil

The first three paragraphs of the Introduction to The Veil

The Lifting of the Veil breaks fresh, new ground for Acts 15:20-21, presenting the biblical alternative to the Church's poor and convoluted interpretation of the passage. The Church, interpreting the four rules of James (Acts 15:20) as table fellowship, completely misses God's point. The four rules form a conceptual unit on sacrificial-sexual idolatry and were meant to deal with Gentile worship of their gods and goddesses. James, the half-brother of Jesus and the leader of the Council of Acts 15, was concerned that Gentile believers would just 'add' Jesus to their pantheon of gods, and consequently, they would continue to believe in, and worship, Diana and Zeus, etc., *along with Jesus*. His concern was well founded (see 1st Thess. 1:6-10; Rev. 2:14-16, 20).

The four rules of James act as a spiritual filter, revealing whether Gentile faith in Jesus was genuine or not, because Jesus doesn't countenance any rivals. These four rules were the *first* of many Mosaic rules or laws, and not 'the only rules' that the Gentiles were expected to observe, as the Church teaches. The four rules were given because of their primary importance, *specifically in relation to Gentile salvation*, which is why the Council of Acts 15 met (Acts 15:1-2f.). Acts 15:20 forms the New Testament's theological foundation, 18 years *after* the resurrection (48 AD), that reveals that Mosaic Law was still valid for every Christian because James speaks of the Gentiles, *on the Sabbath day learning Mosaic Law* (i.e. 'Moses'):

"For *Moses* has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues *every Sabbath*" (Acts 15:21).

Church theology would have us believe that at the crucifixion of Jesus, Sabbath changed to Sunday and Mosaic Law 'was done away with,' but obviously, the Book of Acts, with James speaking of the Sabbath and 'Moses,' disputes that.¹ Christians do not have biblical authority from God to keep Sunday, Easter (or the more fashionable, 'Resurrection Sunday'), nor Xmas, nor the right to eat unclean foods, such as ham, bacon, shrimp or lobster. If they did, Scripture would declare, in no uncertain terms, that Sunday replaced the 7th day Sabbath, and one could eat formerly unclean animals, but look as you may, you'll never find that. Yes, there are proof texts that Christians use to justify the eating of unclean meats, but they evaporate into thin air when the Word of God is properly understood. The Pharisees, too, had their teachings that nullified God's Word (Mt. 15:1-9), and they, too, had Scripture proof texts to support their heresies.

Reader Comments

1. 2008 July 4. Adam Vinson of Clearwater, Florida, USA wrote, It's a mighty fine work!
2. 2008 Oct 27. Yakov Snyder, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, a minister of The Seed of Abraham, rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, Outstanding! This book is by far the best on the subject of Torah and its relationship to the followers of Yeshua the Messiah, be they Jew or Gentile. The author looks deep into the meanings of key Greek and Hebrew words and phrases in both the New and Old Testaments and brings to light many things that shake the very foundations of modern Christian apologetics. Even the modern Church view on grounds for divorce is seen in an entirely different

¹ For other places where the Sabbath is seen, see Acts 13:14, 27, 42, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; cf. Col. 2:16; Heb. 4:9. For the biblical evidence that neither the Sabbath nor the Feasts of Israel nor Mosaic Law were cancelled for Christians see the one page article, [The Feasts of Israel and the Church](#) and its longer version, [The Feasts of Israel as Time Markers After the Resurrection](#).

light! If you ever wondered why the Church threw out the Law, even though Jesus said He did not come to destroy the Law (Matthew 5:17-19), and Paul is recorded as righteously keeping the Law (Acts 21:24), as well as THOUSANDS of believers (Acts 21:20), then this book is perfect for you. No questions are left unanswered. This is truly a magnificent work! This book should be required reading in every church and Bible study group.

3. 2008 Nov 7. Donna Klindt of Cody, Wyoming, USA wrote, In the past few days I have read your book, 'The Lifting of the Veil' and could not but finish it this first 'sitting.' Are you familiar with Art Katz? Art had something he often said that has stuck with me, whether as a question or a statement: 'What we hear (or read) should be an EVENT in our lives if it bears the words of life from our living God.' Your book is an event in my life. It has been consuming and confirming and challenging all at the same time. I have put it down for now, but will read it again soon. I must begin digesting the manna because it's manna. So my view of Scripture has once again been changed by seeing words correctly interpreted. Interestingly, I knew what James taught the church all had to do with idolatry, but the real understanding of what that meant was lacking. There has been a veil. I feel like it has been torn away and the light is too bright to look at all at once. Thank you, precious brother, thank you, and not just you, but our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah.
4. 2009 Jan 6. Hermann Baessman of Achim, Germany commented, For certain, YHWH has called and anointed you to lead others to our wonderful Messiah!! The Ruach HaKodesh is with you. That's pretty obvious!!!
5. 2009 Feb 7. Elizabeth Smit of Piketberg, South Africa wrote, I do want to comment on your book, 'The Lifting of the Veil.' I have read (studied) it. What an incredible piece of work you have done on this! So informative, so thorough and so eye-opening. How we Gentiles have strayed from the truth and made ourselves to believe the lie. Why? Because it was such a 'convenient' doctrine—just four easy rules! I have a lot of information now to share with friends. Thank you very much. You should see what my own copy looks like...exclamation marks, highlighted passages, underlinings, bible references, color references, side notes, etc. When I have studied something I know it inside-out and what a feast this was!
6. 2009 May 24. Bettye Horton of Batesville, Mississippi, USA said, Psssssst...My Bill loves reading ya book!!!
7. 2009 June 27. Joshua Woehrer wrote, Very impressive! *The Lifting of the Veil* is extremely thorough, providing a biblically sound explanation of why the four rules by James in Acts were placed upon the Gentiles. This book will help any believer in Yeshua to better understand the Torah in relation to his or her own life, to the glory of the Father.
8. 2009 July 20. Christopher Fox wrote, I was meditating on the book today starting with the first few chapters. It really makes you feel like we are reclaiming what was originally ours to begin with. A solid defense against what is contrary to popular belief.
9. 2010 Aug 30. Tony Kniffen of Indianapolis, Indiana USA, rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, A. Yehoshua's *The Lifting of the Veil* is extremely thorough in defining the words and issues in play in the Jerusalem Council's decision to write such a brief letter to the Gentiles in Antioch (Acts 15:22f.). By accessing so many different views on this passage from many well-known scholars, Yehoshua builds confidence that his solution is exhaustive and satisfying. He patiently explains why

various answers to key questions brought out in these different views do not solve the mystery of the meaning of the letter. Clear interpretation of every word of the Biblical text makes the Bible come alive with great clarity. It is as if a veil really has been lifted.

- a. The key to understanding the Jerusalem letter is to realize how much of the Biblical text itself points to the value of keeping the Law after the Resurrection. What is the ‘burden’ Peter speaks of? Is it circumcision? How could it be, Peter was surely successfully circumcized. Was it the keeping of the Law? James asks Paul to undergo the Nazarite vow to show that he was keeping the Law, so it wasn’t that much of a burden (Acts 21:20-24). The burden is the keeping of the Law FOR SALVATION. Does this do away with the Law? How could it when James clearly states, ‘For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.’
 - b. Gentiles were keeping the Sabbath outside Israel...after the Resurrection and James assumes this will continue. The Law was seen as good in its entirety and would continue to be taught in synagogues to Jews *and* Gentiles, but declaring that one must keep it for salvation was an heretical misinterpretation of the intent of the Law. The question was, does Jesus save alone, or do we need to keep the Law, too? The Law never could save, but it never was never meant to save. By the way, James could not have said verse 21 without qualification if the Apostles were the authors of Sunday as a new Sabbath.
 - c. The four rules in the letter (Acts 15:28-29) have been interpreted many ways, but Yehoshua makes it clear that James was saying that marrying oneself to a foreign god through any of the four idolatrous practices would negate their salvation. The answers to the question raised at the Council are, ‘Jesus plus nothing’ for salvation, but ‘Jesus plus Zeus’ was not to be part of their lives. Further, Torah will be taught and the Gentiles will learn it in the Synagogues.
 - d. It’s a unique theology, but the case is so well made that if you are curious, pray about it, get the book and learn it well. If you see a conflict with other scriptures and his viewpoint I suggest you simply write him and ask him about it. He is very friendly and helpful.
10. 2010 May 25. Yosef Zechariah McCarthy, Wakefield, MA USA, a minister of The Seed of Abraham, wrote, Just finished *The Lifting of the Veil*. One of the most well written books I have ever read. I was tremendously blessed!
 11. 2010 Aug 9. David Robinson of Milton, Washington, USA said, I am about half-way through ‘The Lifting of the Veil,’ and what a life changing book this is! May the Truths spoken in it open eyes and hearts to the saving knowledge of Messiah.
 12. 2010 Aug 9. Dee Williams of Mansfield, Ohio USA said, I wanted to tell you that after finishing the book, *The Lifting of The Veil*, my understanding has been opened to many scriptures that seemed difficult. You have a unique gift for opening the scriptures to a very deep level. Thanks, also, for sharing your wisdom, knowledge and understanding with those of us who visit your website in search of truth. There is so much misinformation out there. Thank you for all you do in and for Israel. Peace be unto you and Ruti
 13. 2010 Aug 23. Timothy Beukman, pastor, Cape Town, South Africa wrote, I have read many views on Acts 15 and never have I read what you wrote in your book. I have to commend your diligent research and understanding of this particular scripture. When I was in the church I never knew anything

about the “first letter to the Gentiles.” Your understanding on this topic far supersedes many messianic teachers and pastors alike. As I read it and came to understand that the four rules are a representative whole, it blew my mind away. I have used your book as a teaching tool within our small group and it has been a success. I also had to study the book of Acts while at seminary, and funny enough, the set textbook that was used was F. F. Bruce. Your layout and interaction with the material is great. You have taught me a lot with your understanding and the help of the Ruach. What I appreciated most is your follow through all the way to the book of Revelation and the similarity of the churches in Thyatira and Pergamos.

- a. Coming out of the church and seminary and seeing how things have been twisted first hand, and having this book and the understanding you bring out of the four rules, has laid a whole new foundation for me. I am sad to say, though, that many well meaning messianics have also missed the point in their explanations. I have begun to read the book of Hosea again with a fresh and inspired understanding. I see the importance of being ‘one with Yeshua’ in a whole new light, in view of a pagan ceremony and what you said about them becoming ‘one with the idol.’ This was a great book. Thank you so much!
14. 2012 April 16. Rick Freeman, rated the book on Amazon with 5 stars out of 5 and said, I found this to be the best explanation of Acts 15: 20-21 I have ever read...I appreciated the author’s involved study on what the word fornication in the Scriptures truly means....We should be like the Bereans (Act 17:11) and study things out for ourselves to see if they are so, instead of depending on so-called experts to do our thinking for us. Read the book—it will change your view of the Scriptures.
 15. 2012 May 8. Carla, in California USA rated the book 5 stars out of 5 and wrote: Most Westerners today have little or no knowledge of the horrors of the ancient world. Things such as infant sacrifice and cult prostitution probably seem like something from a macabre fantasy novel. The Mosaic Law, when held up against today’s secular humanist standards (which never would have evolved to the extent that they have without Judaism and Christianity), can be framed to seem archaic. That is definitely not the whole picture, and when you see the Law in the midst of the chaos it was meant to heal, the love, wisdom and beauty at its foundations are sure.
 - a. I do not claim to be a Biblical scholar, but I have read the Bible most of my life; I am widely read in other subjects and I do have a sense of when things ‘line up.’ This book lines up. It brings clarity where there has long been confusion; especially those places in the New Testament that never seem to quite make sense; about which pastors and Sunday school teachers either glaze over, make awkward dogmatic statements or (preferably) admit their lack of understanding. The questions we all need to ask ourselves are: Are we willing to value truth over tradition? Do we trust God enough to pursue truth? The next question is a little more frightening: What are we going to do with truth when we find it?
 - b. This book has convinced me that more ‘ordinary people’ need to be willing to study the biblical languages. My experience with studying non-biblical languages (other than my own), tells me it actually doesn’t take a genius to do so, though it does take someone who is willing to not quickly jump to easy conclusions based on partial knowledge or personal agenda. I have been longing to read a book like this one for years, and it has encouraged me to study more. I will keep it close by as I do so.
 16. 2012 May 30. Pete Rambo, pastor, South Carolina, USA, wrote, *The Lifting of the Veil: Acts 15:20-21*

by Avram Yehoshua is a fantastic scholarly work!! There is NO better treatment of Acts 15:20-21 on the planet than this book! If there are two verses that Christianity has misinterpreted or misrepresented more than these two, I'm not sure what they are! One of the cornerstones to 'abolishing the Law' is the wrongful use of these verses. Unfortunately, most 'scholars' are not really willing to listen to the average 'joe' who has awakened from lawless stupor, because 'joe' does not have any 'credibility' in scholastic circles. Scholars and theologians have a need for peer acceptance. Thus, peer review! As such, a conundrum is created that prevents those who understand that the Torah still applies today from being accepted by established theology that has stated for 1900 years that it no longer applies. Yehoshua, understanding this dilemma, uses their own sources and writings to expose and dismantle centuries of errant understanding of Acts 15:20-21 and the resultant wrong theology.

- a. *The Lifting of the Veil* is, by no means, light reading. Parts of the book I had to take in bite sized pieces to process the information fully. Using an extensive bibliography, including many respected Christian theologians, Yehoshua exposes, in many cases, right understanding, but the unwillingness of theologians to follow it to the right conclusion. In other cases he reveals their absurd interpretations of these verses in an effort to justify their antinomian (lawless) theological presuppositions.
 - b. The average reader will be blessed by this book, though may be particularly challenged by some of the seemingly redundant, but *necessary* focus in the first half of the book. No stone is left unturned in proving the exact meaning of Ya'acov's (James') four rules, as well as what they did and did NOT mean. Abundant material and 'leads' are given for deeper personal study and preparation to greater understand some of the more challenging passages in Scripture. Acts 15:20-21 is foundational for most all of them.
 - c. I highly recommend this book for your personal study, then recommend you hand a copy to any thinking pastor or professor who is willing to take a fresh look at the facts!!
17. 2012 Oct 16. Jeromey Okorley, Alabama USA wrote, I am reading *The Lifting of the Veil* and it's a gem to the Body of Christ! I bought it on Kindle last week and can't put it down!
 18. 2012 Oct 20. Tienkie Erasmus, Pretoria, South Africa wrote, Shalom Avram and Ruti, I really enjoy your letters of your outings and witnessing—they are so inspirational! Our group had a workshop where people (Christians) were invited. It was excellent. What I liked, and thought you might appreciate, is that one of the presenters had your book there, which I am reading, and he was telling everyone that it is a 'must read!' I just thought I'd let you know about it! May you have a blessed week. Sincerely, Tienkie
 19. 2012 Nov 9. Andre La Grange, pastor, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, wrote, Shalom Avram, I immediately began reading the book that I received from you. I'm working slowly through each page including all the footnotes. Each page is a feast of precious information. It is such a great tool to align our mindset in a way that we can be spiritually more open to the holy truth of the whole Bible. So far everybody that I could share my experience with have mentioned their desire to share in your teaching material. Shabat Shalom, Andre La Grange
 20. 2013 Aug 23. Jory Prather wrote from Israel and said,
 - a. שלום. אנחנו נהנים הספר שלך. מה מתנה יקרה שנתת לנו. מי ייתן ואלוהים יברך את המשפחה

שלך. איפה הוא בפורום כדי לקבל מידע נוסף על הבישור שלך. שלום עליך

- b. (Translated: The Peace of God be with you. We enjoy your book. What a precious gift you gave us. May God bless your family. Where is the forum to get more information about your evangelization? Peace be with you)
21. 2013 Sept 4. David Sorenson, Tangier, Virginia USA said, I thank the God of Heaven for this book, Avram. For about a year now I have often thought of these things. It was my understanding recently that God's Commandments/Law are not dead or done away with, as some men say. This book has made that point, clearly written and sound, it has immensely helped with my understanding. I thank God for His wisdom and mercy. May God Bless you, Avram
22. 2013 Oct 10. Kalev Vail, Chesapeake, Virginia USA, wrote, I have been blessed, edified and educated by 'The Lifting of the Veil,' possibly the best investment (financially and spiritually) that I've made in the last two years. I'll read it a few more times, and the understanding I have gained from this will follow me for years, of that I am sure. Thank you, again, Avram for being so willing to be led by Papa God and Yeshua to help men like me learn the Word to become able to teach others, which is a great desire of mine. I love Papa God, His Torah and His Salvation—Yeshua my LORD of lords and KING of kings!
23. 2013 Dec 3. Samuel Maseru, pastor for over 30 years, Nairobi, Kenya, and who is now a minister of The Seed of Abraham because of the richness he found in *The Hebraic Perspective*, wrote, I thank God for you and what he is doing through you. This is a book I will keep close to me. It is my prayer that the Lord will use this book to establish me in his holy faith, and also, that he will use it to take the veil from many, both Jew and Gentile. The Law is for the nations as well; they need to be taught how to walk and fully participate in a lifestyle that honors God. "He wanted the Gentiles to know there were red lines that could not be crossed—even under grace," pg. 14. You have drawn the attention of the Church and some Messianic groups who are not sure, to reexamine themselves in regard to the Law of God. I was fully engaged as I read all through the pages of the book. Thank you.
24. 2014 May 4. Darryl Thomas Sr., Apostle, Founder and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Life Ministries, Int'l., Talladega, Alabama USA said, Hello Avram, I finally got my copy of 'The Lifting of the Veil' and I started in the Introduction this morning with my Bible and highlighter, and *the Introduction alone is worth the price of the book*. Our love to you and Ruti. Shalom
25. 2014 July 7. Cheryl Sickbert, Illinois, USA wrote, Your book is really helping me to understand just how depraved mankind is and how foolish he's been in the sight of Yahveh. It is the saddest of love stories.
26. 2014 Sept 10. Daniel Fuentes of Florida, USA commented, During the two weeks in which I read your book, I did not read any of the textbooks in the two courses that I am currently enrolled in. I was that enthralled by your book!
27. 2015 March 15. John Abernathy, minister, Texas, USA rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, A ground breaking, incredibly valuable work! Essential for a clear understanding of Scripture! The Apostle John uses *porneia* in Rev. 2:20; it is clear in context that the word represents cult prostitution. He uses the word again in Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 14:8, 17:2, 17:4, 18:3 and 19:2. Each place cult prostitution makes the best sense. It was an ancient problem among God's chosen people, central to the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel and the captivity of the southern kingdom of

Judah. The word is used 25 times in writings of the Apostles. In Matthew 5:32 the word is often translated sexual immorality, but that makes no sense on two levels. The first is that a married woman who crosses the line is committing adultery, per se, but the greek word for adultery is not used; *porneia* is used. Second, where is forgiveness and reconciliation? If marriage is a symbol and type of God's relationship to his *ekklesia* (His called-out ones), how can a man just divorce his wife for a sin that is common (when defined by Jesus as lust)? What infinitely better fits here is cult prostitution—a married believer that goes to a pagan temple to engage in pagan worship through cult prostitution has committed the exact same sin as Judah and Israel, and has broken faith with both spouse and with God. This definition, cult prostitution, fits very well in Mt. 5:19 and it makes perfect sense in Mt. 19:19; John 8:41; 1st Cor. 6:13, 18; 7:2; and 2nd Cor. 12:21 (where moral impurities and promiscuity already would include *porneia*), and in Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3 and Col. 3:5.

- a. The word *porneia* is used 3 times in Acts. In all 3 times cult prostitution makes infinitely better sense than sexual immorality. In fact, looking back at Acts from Revelation, we see the warnings and dire results in Revelation of failing to heed the instruction in Acts 15:20, 29 and 21:25.
 - b. The 4 instructions in Acts 15:20 are actually a single group—they represent an instruction to a people who lived in an era and place where pagan temple practices dominated Roman and Greek life and activities. The single instruction with 4 components was solely to protect the new Gentile believers from the destruction to come, as detailed in Revelation and which mirror the destruction of God's chosen people for pagan worship in Judah and Israel.
 - c. I believe Avram has done a fabulous job of research, with detailed and well documented arguments. Avram has to work hard to build his case. I think that he does so in a compelling manner. What makes his job hard is the incredible lack of insight shown by commentaries and commentators, who seem blinded by the obvious, by their own preconceptions. I have faced the same problem in commentators on Galatians who ignore Paul's own key to interpretation in Chapter 6, where he tells us the motivation of the agitators.
 - d. Greek words do have multiple meanings, but the best one is chosen by context. *Porneia* is best translated cult prostitution in almost every one of the 25 uses in the New Testament. Many thanks to Avram for his effort. This is an incredibly valuable work.
28. 2015 Sept 7. Marc Mitcham rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 stars and said, Very good treatise on some of the more difficult verses to understand. It's an important work as to why there is some confusion regarding keeping the LORD'S Torah.
 29. 2016 Jan 16. John Thomley, sailor-theologian, San Diego, California, USA, wrote, Wow! I finished reading your book yesterday. I've never read, seen or heard anything like it before. Beyond all that, you make the most reasonable and informed conclusions concerning both verses 20 and 21. The link to Baal Peor in verse 20 is obvious after you make the case and with that in mind what follows in verse 21 is to be expected, not a mystery at all. The idea that James had the first two and probably the third word in mind out of the ten (commandments) is bound to cause some rethinking. I plan to give my copy away at the first opportunity and then buy more. Thank you so much for a great read and much insight.
 30. 2016 Jan 26. Loretta Blancheyon rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, This is a must read for Every Christian! We've been reading the Bible through 21st century Western eyes and miss-

ing so much. This book helps you understand the depth of all the stories in the Bible, Old and New Testament.

31. 2016 Oct 6. Dan H rated the book 5 out of 5 stars and said, Excellent! Insightful!
32. 2016 Dec 7. G. Widener, on Dec 7, 2016, rated the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, Gives context to an unfamiliar topic. I learned so much reading this book. It opened my eyes to what paganism looked like in the first century, and explains what fornication actually is, as defined by the Bible. This will give you context when reading Galatians that I've never heard elsewhere. Highly recommended.
33. 2017 June 22. An Amazon Customer rated the book 4 out of 5 stars and said, Must read for every believer. Author thoroughly researched. A little too much detail, at times seemed repetitive. Wonderful insight to first century believers and the purpose of Jerusalem council and historical decision.
34. 2018 July 19. "X" gave the book on Amazon 5 stars out of 5 and said, The best take on Acts 15—Ever! Avram Yehoshua has done a fantastic job of examining Acts 15, scripturally and historically. This will forever change the way you view this chapter. The details can be a bit exhausting, but Avram really wants to drive home the points on cult prostitution and others. A must-have for everyone in covenant.
35. 2018 Sept 24. WHM rated the book on Amazon 5 five stars out of 5 stars and said, Searching for the truth! This book is very detailed and I'm sure required extensive research. I learned a lot and so would anyone else who was inclined to dig this deep into the bible. Most are not!

You may purchase a hard copy of the book on Amazon for about \$15, or you can read the latest version of the book for free, [*The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21*](#).

The Lord Yeshua freely gave me the insights, knowledge and understanding for The Veil, and I want to offer it for free to you.²

² Revised on 4 Dec 2018.