

The Keys of Heaven

Despite the fact that Yeshua's teachings largely agreed with that of the Pharisaic School of Hillel, there were occasions where Yeshua's teachings agreed with the School of Shammai against the School of Hillel. An important example of this is the issue of divorce where Yeshua agreed with Shammai against Hillel. Hillel took a more liberal view, permitting divorce in a variety of circumstances (even if the wife spoiled a meal!); Shammai, only in the case of adultery...From the Mishna Gittin 9:10...



*9:10 The House of Shammai say, "A man should divorce his wife only because he has found grounds for it in unchastity, "since it is said, Because he has found in her indecency in anything **Deut. 24:**"` And the House of Hillel say, "Even if she spoiled his dish, "since it is said, Because he has found in her indecency in anything. `R. Aqiba says, "Even if he found someone else prettier than she, "since it is said, And it shall be if she find no favor in his eyes **Duet 24:1.**"*

Mat 5:31-32 *"It was said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a get.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and that anyone who marries a divorcee commits adultery*
Yeshua was clearly agreeing with Shammai, and disagreeing with Hillel on the issue of divorce!

Modern Day Judaism is a combination of Shammai and Hillel example... Traditional hand washing that Yeshua came against in **Mat 15:2-6** & **Mark 7:3-13** was a man made tradition invented by the house of Shammai, also the philosophy of not allowing Gentiles into the fold without a rigorous rabbinic conversion came from Shammai, both are now found in today's mainstream Judaism. Hillel's influence is also evident in many areas, one example Judaism's adoption of the "Oral Law/Talmud"

Another claim is that Paul/Shaul even after becoming a believer in Messiah was still a Pharisee, look at the verse in context...

Act 23:6-10 *But knowing that one part of the Sanhedrin consisted of Tz'dukim and the other of P'rushim, Sha'ul shouted, "Brothers, I myself am a Parush and the son of P'rushim; and it is concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead that I am being tried!" When he said this, an argument arose between the P'rushim and the Tz'dukim, and the crowd was divided. For the Tz'dukim deny the resurrection and the existence of angels and spirits; whereas the P'rushim acknowledge both. So there was a great uproar, with some of the Torah-teachers who were on the side of the P'rushim standing up and joining in — "We don't find anything wrong with this man; and if a spirit or an angel spoke to him, what of it?" The dispute became so violent that the commander, fearing that Sha'ul would be torn apart by them, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force and bring him back into the barracks.*

Paul said this on purpose to divide the Sanhedrin and cause a great stir! And later Paul said he is a "a follower of the way" and is later referred to as the leader of the Nazarenes...

Act 24:5 *"We have found this man a pest. He is an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world and a ringleader of the sect of the Natzratim.*

Yeshua takes the Key, and the Authority!

Recurring in scripture is a "Key" which references the authority of Halacha...

Isa 22:20-22 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

Then later in **Mat 23** Yeshua speaks of the Pharisees who at that time put themselves in the position of the Keys of the House of David. **Mat 23:13** is important to understanding Yeshua's attitude to the Halachic authority of the Pharisees. Here Yeshua says...

Mat 23:13 *"But woe to you hypocritical Torah-teachers and P'rushim! For you are shutting the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces, neither entering yourselves nor allowing those who wish to enter to do so.*

A parallel passage appears in **Luke 11:52**...

Luke 11:52-54 *"Woe to you Torah experts! For you have taken away the key of knowledge! Not only did you yourselves not go in, you also have stopped those who were trying to enter!" As Yeshua left that place, the Torah-teachers and the P'rushim began to oppose him bitterly and to provoke him to express his views on all sorts of subjects, laying traps to catch him in something he might say.*

Now when we look at these two passages together it becomes clear that the "key" in **Luke 11:52** had the potential to open up or shut up the Kingdom of Heaven. This "key" is clearly then "the key of the house of David" in **Isa 22:22**...

"And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

The Pharisees usurped the key (authority) thus shutting up the Kingdom. They lost the authority; it was taken from them by Yeshua himself and given to His own Talmidim/Disciples:

Mat 16:18-19 *I also tell you this: you are Kefa, [which means 'Rock,'] and on this rock I will build my Assembly, and the gates of Sh'ol will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

This key is the Halachic authority. Yeshua recognized that the Pharisees held that halachic authority but he also tells us that they had squandered it by rejecting the Kingdom and refusing to use the key to help Messiah open up the Messianic Kingdom.

This is also clear because this "assembly" has the power to "bind" and "loose." These are two Semitic idioms used in rabbinic literature as technical terms referring to Halachic authority. To "bind" means to "forbid" an activity or to "close" it and to "loose" or "open" means to allow or permit an activity. Thus in **Mat 16:18-19 & 18:18** Yeshua gave his students the Halachic authority which we see them using in **Acts 15**. If we were to follow the rulings of the Pharisees, why didn't the apostles submit themselves to the Pharisees?

This lines up with prophecy...

Gen 49:9-10 *Y'hudah is a lion's cub; my son, you stand over the prey. He crouches down and stretches like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to provoke him? The scepter will not pass from Y'hudah, nor the ruler's staff from between his legs, until he comes to whom [obedience] belongs; [or: until Shiloh comes] and it is he whom the peoples will obey.*

Because ultimately Yeshua holds the keys, they are His to give...

Rev 3:6-7 *Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Assemblies." ' "To the angel of the Assembly in Philadelphia, write: 'Here is the message of HaKadosh, the True One, the one who has the key of David, who, if he opens something, no one else can shut it, and if he closes something, no one else can open it.*

This is what Paul was talking about in Colossians, Yeshua taking away the Pharisee's keys and their power to condemn...

Col 2:14-15 *He wiped away the bill of charges against us (pharisaic halacha). Because of the regulations, it stood as a testimony against us; but he removed it by nailing it to the execution-stake. Stripping the rulers and authorities of their power, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by means of the stake.*

This also makes a lot of sense in the large scope of things, Judaism claims that the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were all a part of the "Pharisaic Sanhedrin" and this seems to be true! Also Judaism believes the last prophet was Malachi and that the Ruach (Spirit) now only speaks in "Bat Kol" (Small Whisperings). This period of "Bat Kol" or little or no Ruach (Spirit) is because of rejection of the Messianic Kingdom, consider this...

Rev 19:10 *I fell at his feet to worship him; but he said, "Don't do that! I'm only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers who have the testimony of Yeshua. Worship Elohim! For the testimony of Yeshua is the Spirit of prophecy."*

The Pharisees as a whole rejected Messiah Yeshua (some accepted him in secret **John 3:1-9 & 19:38**), thus Yeshua took away their Keys/Halachic Authority, this is why they think the last prophet was Malachi, because Yeshua's spirit and authority now rests with His followers and no longer with the Pharisees! That's why they are in a "dry spell" or "Bat Kol"

Amen! We are NOT Pharisees or Sadducees, rather **we are followers of Messiah Yeshua!** Why would we want to inject ourselves with something (Pharisee-ism) that Yeshua himself took authority away authority from!? But rather he will draw them, our unbelieving brothers, to Yeshua! (**Zech 12 & Rom 11:25**)