Volume 13 Issue 3

Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9 ESV



For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. Matthew 7:13 ESV

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YAIY NEWS

Priestly (Kohen) Courses

Q: How did the Levitical priests do their work? Is it one week for every course or two?

R: The 24 courses were established by King David with collaboration from the high priest (*kohen hagadol*) Zakok for the Tabernacle/Temple service. In 1 Chronicles 24:6-19, these are the details of the institution of the 24 courses of the Levitical order. In verse 6b, it reads, "one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar." These were the sons of Aaron who succeeded their elder brothers, Nadab and Abihu, if you will recall Yahweh suffered them not to continue for reason of their offering "strange fire."

Of the twenty-four chief men of the priests, sixteen were from the house of Eleazar and eight of Ithamar; for the house of Ithamar may well have dwindled since the sentence passed on the family of Eli (1 Sam. 2:30-31), who was of that house. The method of drawing the lots involved one chief household being taken for Eleazar, and one for Ithamar. There are two propositions for the method of drawing lots, and what I have learned from my study, is that the language of the original text is obscure, making the exact procedure for drawing lots unclear. What is known, however, is that there were sixteen chief names of Eleazar put in one urn and eight for Ithamar in another. Names were drawn from each urn alternately, as long as those for Ithamar lasted and then out of those only for Eleazar, or two names were drawn for Eleazar, and one for Ithamar, until the 24 courses were filled.

The first course was initiated the first week of the Scriptural year (*Abib*), so that the priests and Levites serving the sanctuary in its various ministries (some having to journey from afar) would be in place during the first week of *Abib*. During the week of Passover (*Pesach*) and Unleavened Bread (*Chag haMatzot*) from the 14th to the 21st of *Abib*, lots from all 24 courses served in the sanctuary ministry, with the third ordinary course then, coming into place on the weekly Sabbath following the conclusion of week of Unleavened Bread.

Because there were daily sacrifices in the evening and morning, it is thought the retiring priests and company of Levites, which did the Tabernacle/Temple ministries, were relieved of their responsibilities some time following the Shabbat morning sacrifice therewith, making their ministry complete.

For example, if we have a 13th Biblical month (*Adar 2 or Ve Adar*) this year, the new moon (first of *Abib*) will most likely be on April 6th. The first priestly course would then be chosen for the following week ending on Sabbath the 13th. The second priestly course would then be chosen to serve the second week. Passover would begin after sunset *Shabbat* (Friday evening),

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and the lots for the 24 courses to serve during the week of Unleavened Bread would be chosen to begin their service on Sabbath (the 21th of April, also a High Sabbath).

The third course would begin their ministries sometime after the Shabbat morning sacrifice, and the courses would continue uninterrupted until 24 weekly courses had been completed. The 24 weekly courses started over the first week of the seventh Biblical month (*Tishri*), with the first and second courses preceding the week -long Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) during which, lots from the 24 priestly courses were placed in Tabernacle/ Temple ministries and the 3rd course scheduled to begin on the weekly Sabbath following the 8th day (a High Sabbath) completing the week long Feast of Tabernacles.

| Priestly (Kohen) Courses | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 Chronicles 24:7-18 | | | | | | | | |
| Courses Conducted from Sabbath to Sabbath | | | | | | | | |
| 1st 12 Courses | | | | | | | | |
| Hebrew Month | Calendar (2019) | Week 1 (New Moon) | Week 2 | Week 3 (Full Moon) | Week 4 | Scripture | Reference | |
| 1 st (Abib) | April | Jehoiarib | Jedaiah | Harim | Seorim | 1 Chr. 24:7-8 | Passover + U.B. | |
| 2 nd | May | Malchijah | Mijamin | Hakkoz | Abijah | 1 Chr. 24:9-10 | | |
| 3 rd | June | Jeshua | Shecaniah | Eliashib | Jakim | 1 Chr. 24:11-12 | Pentecost | |
| 4 th | July | Huppah | Jeshebeab | Bilgah | Immer | 1 Chr. 24:13-14 | | |
| 5 th | August | Hezir | Happizzez | Pethahiah | Jehezkel | 1 Chr. 24:15-16 | | |
| 6 th | September | Yachin | Gamul | Delaiah | Maaziah | 1 Chr. 24:17-18 | | |
| 2nd 12 Courses | | | | | | | | |
| Hebrew Month | Calendar (2019) | Week 1 (New Moon) | Week 2 | Week 3 (Full Moon) | Week 4 | Scripture | Reference | |
| 7 th | October | Jehoiarib | Jedaiah | Harim | Seorim | 1 Chr. 24:7-8 | Feast of Tabernacles | |
| 8 th | November | Malchijah | Miyamin | Hakkoz | Abijah | 1 Chr. 24:9-10 | | |
| 9 th | December | Jeshua | Shecaniah | Eliashib | Jakim | 1 Chr. 24:11-12 | | |
| 10 th | January | Huppah | Jeshebeab | Bilgah | Immer | 1 Chr. 24:13-14 | | |
| 11 th | February | Hezir | Happizzez | Pethahiah | Jehezkel | 1 Chr. 24:15-16 | | |
| 12 th | March | Yachin | Gamul | Delaiah | Maaziah | 1 Chr. 24:17-18 | | |

In between Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles came the second of the three sojourning feasts, Pentecost (*Shavuot*)—reckoned seven weeks plus one day from the morrow (on Sunday, the first day of the week) after the weekly Sabbath occurring during the week of Unleavened Bread—lots had been drawn again from the 24 courses for the conduct of the Tabernacle/Temple ministries. Because the Feast of Weeks was only one day, *Kohenim* (priests) and their attendant Levites chosen from the 24 courses, served just one day with those assigned for the weekly course continuing their ministries. This until they were relieved the following Sabbath.

The 3rd through the 24th courses served until the last Sabbath of *Adar* (twelfth month), when the cycle started afresh. There were two 24 priestly courses, with *Kohenim* and their attendant Levites (come from the villages) residing in apartments (in the Temple) for a week at a time. One was chosen by lot to serve in Tabernacle/Temple ministry but only one time in his life.

Of interest, is the account recorded in Luke's evangel in chapter 1, verses 5-11. Here we find Zachariah of the course of *AbiYah* (1 Chron. 24:10) chosen by lot to burn incense at the altar of incense (Luke 1:9) and receiving word from the messenger (vss. 11-25) that Elisabeth should conceive and bear a son, John the Immerser. Zachariah's week's ministry would have been during the last week of the 2nd Biblical month, and we may



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suppose then that Elisabeth should have conceived the first week of the 3rd Biblical month, which would have been coincident with Pentecost (*Shavuot*).

Assuming a nine month gestation, John should have been born during Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread the next year. We know from Luke 1:26, the messenger then announced to Miriam she would bring forth Yahshua when her cousin Elisabeth was six months pregnant with John.

There were three months from the messenger's annunciation to Miriam of Yahshua's conception by Yahweh's Holy Spirit and John's birth. Miriam was just three months pregnant with Yahshua when John was born (Luke 1:56). John born at Passover/Unleavened Bread would position Yahshua's birth six months later, during the Festival of Tabernacles and not, on December 25th, as erroneously observed by Christianity.

This is not only a good explanation for the correct season in which our Savior was born, but can be established by Scripture (1 Chron. 24:6-19; Luke 1:5-56). Also read our free in-depth booklets, *Passover: A Memorial for All Time* and *He Arose... But When*?

Newest Buying and Selling Technologies

Advances from India: *Aadhaar* ("foundation") is a biometric (fingerprint and iris scans) data system. If it goes well, it may be the precursor to a worldwide biometric system which will replace cash with credits or some other form to be able to buy and sell.

A *Bloomberg Opinion* columnist Adam Minter, in an article entitled *How India Could Transform Africa*, recently said, "By most metrics, the system has been a success. Over 1.2 billion people have enrolled

[in India], including in rural locations disconnected from the modern digital economy, making *Aadhaar* the world's largest biometric database. It's improved access and delivery of government services, and promoted digital and financial inclusion. According to one recent survey, more than threequarters of new bank accounts in three Indian states were opened using *Aadhaar* biometric data, while mobile-phone registrations have boomed."

Out from Barcelona, Spain: *Reuters* news this month related, "A man volunteered to have a chip inserted under his skin live on stage at a trade fair in Barcelona on Monday, and another man who had already undergone the procedure showed off how he could make a payment with it using his smartphone." This new chip material is now biocompatible with our physical bodies. It is likely only a matter of time now before such technology as this will promise ease of use for people in stores, which until the implementation of credit cards in the 1950's would only accepted cash or checks. This new technology can now eliminate all of the former modes of payment.

Let's remember what Revelation 13:16–17 (TS) says: And he causes all, both small and great, and rich and poor, and free and slave, to be given a mark upon their right hand or upon their foreheads, and that no one should be able to buy or sell except he that has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.



Poetry to Prayer

Yahweh, I've fallen from our secret place, But thank You for unmerited grace.

> Yahweh, your mercy is real, Regardless how I feel.

I need your restoration power, Lest I wither, die as a flower.

May Your truth penetrate within, Let wisdom be my best friend.

You justify those who boldly come, Help me say, "Thy will be done."

You said, "Seek My face," So, I return to our secret place.

I ask, "Won't You forgive my sin?" That I may be clean within!

Master, help me, I'm feeling so low. Show me the way to go.

May I hear You rejoice, When I make the right and perfect choice.

Brother Ryan C. Irving, Sr.

Signs for the Times



YAIY NEWS

Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

2963 County Road 233 Kingdom City, MD 65262 Main Line: 1.573.642.4100 Toll Free: 1.877.642.4101 Fax Line: 1.573.642.4104



"The prudent man looketh well to his going (i.e., he considers his path)... He will guide his affairs with discretion" (Pro. 14:15; Ps. 112:5).

Many are they who are disrespectful toward Yahweh, waste the substance of life by dwelling carelessly making provision for the flesh, running to an excess of riot and revelry—but nevertheless, attempting to stay afloat in the ship of life without course or direction (Lk. 15:13; Isa. 47:8; Rom. 13:14; 1 Pet. 4:4; Gal. 5:21).

And because all their lives, they were bent living life their way, refusing reproof and correction, without plan or purpose, now, their lives run aground, shipwrecked by infirmity, necessity, distress, reproach, they acknowledge themselves tossed to and fro, having been carried about with every wind (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:14).

And though some may dispute it, "shipwrecked" is a good place to have come. For it is at that placebroken, abject, without hope-that he which has become marooned has opportunity to run aground, sure and steadfast (Heb. 6:19).

Prayer List

Dolores Parker, Terrell Frasure, David & Barbara Creel, Charlie Pelton, Robert Dorchester, R.C. Fernald Family/Friends, Karen van Schalkwyk, Elder Lionel and Sandra Gets, Diana Murphy, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reves and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Georgiana Greene and Family, Linda Franchino, Al J. Pagano, Lois Firth, Hap Tew, Richard Rodriguez and Family, Kathy English, Jeff Gilman, Arthur Jurney, Mark Strahan, Michael Davis, Shirley Morin, Mae Flowers, Alice Goodchild, Merle Tyler, Heidi Fleischmann, Chauncey Hargrove, Dirkie & Francious Swarts, Olivier B. Muzima, Esteban Garcia and Family, Winifred Marie, Charles Scott



Jr. and Sr., David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Audrey Wilkes, Adeline Black, Audrey Steadman, Adi Stahlin, Mary Giles, Kareem Greene Family/Friends, Ja'Quon & Schosche MucSarney, Rueben & Desire McIntyre, Henry Sunderman and Family, Tisha Palmory, Victor Kiiru, Kenya Evalo Washington, Roger Norman, Ngozi Anyaegbu Ikeogu, Onwuchekwa Veronica Nneamaka, Ememka John Wade, Errol Hunt, Chris and Marisca Barnard, Michael Johnson, Bob Covey, George and Kenya Washington, Terryn Willard, Melodie Illgen, Melanie Marks, Shaun Dampier, Jerry Castle, Leonard & Bertha Sefu, Marilyn Montague, Arturo Ramos, Jephthah Maika, Yvonne (in hospital, no last name given), Rebecca Bautista and Family, Rose Waddy, Jordan Vira and Family, Brent Houdeshell, Ryan C. Irving, Sr. Also include in your prayers, individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families, overseas brethren, and the peace of Jerusalem.