

A couple in winter gear holding hands on a mountain peak at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The couple is silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset. The overall mood is romantic and hopeful.

# YAIY BEACON

JAN - MAR 2022 - SPREADING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD - YAIY.ORG

Hallowed Be Your Name  
That No Greater Joy  
Climate Change, COVID-19... and Other Perils  
End Time Witnesses  
Unequally Yoked After Marriage

## INTRODUCTION

Churchianity in general has not been faithful in following the Bible. Surprisingly, many of today's popular teachings and customs are not based in Scripture. We strive to return to the old paths of truth that have largely been ignored, and obediently follow in the footsteps of the Redeemer of Israel, Jude 3.

We observe the weekly Sabbath (on the seventh day) known as Saturday, just as did the Savior, Luke 4:16, as well as Paul and the Apostles, Acts 13:42-46; 17:2; 18:4.

We also call our Heavenly Father by His revealed, personal Name Yahweh, which He says is His memorial Name forever, Exodus 3:15. Most pastors, Bible scholars, and seminary students will acknowledge that Yahweh is the correct Name of the Heavenly Father. The short form of His Name, Yah, can be seen in many words, including the most popular hallelujah ("halleluYAH," meaning, "praise you Yah"). It is also found in the suffix of Biblical names like IsaYAH, (Isaiah), JeremYAH (Jeremiah), NehemYAH (Nehemiah), and ObadYAH (Obadiah).

Our membership comes from nearly all denominations and all walks of life. Most began searching for deeper truth when they learned that their former affiliation was teaching another Evangel from what they found in Scripture. We continue to search the Bible for deeper understanding. We believe that the Bible teaches a way of life through the commandments in the Old Testament and from the same example of obedience given us by our Savior in the New Testament.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua, the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvational truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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# HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME



Many people in today's world sing praise songs talking about the name of our Heavenly Father and its importance. They even know the Messiah's model prayer in Matthew 6. Yet despite all of this, they shockingly don't know our Heavenly Father's Name or they do know it and refuse to use it. What is Our Father's Name? What does it mean? And how does reverencing and calling upon this name affect our salvation? That's what this article is seeking to answer.

One of the most popular praise songs out there today is "10,000 Reasons" and its main focus is on praising the Name of our Heavenly Father and worshipping His Holy Name. Yet ironically, not once does the song actually use the Father's Holy Name. Many praise songs follow this trend acknowledging the importance of the name but not once using his Holy name, Yahweh. (*New American Standard Bible* used throughout, unless noted otherwise.)

## What's in a Name?

This Name Yahweh has much more importance than people give it credit. It not only defines our Father but also sanctifies us. So, what does the name Yahweh mean? Well first let's look at what Yahweh says about His own Name and its definition.

*And Elohim said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you, Exodus 3:14 KJV.*

"I Am That I Am" comes from the Hebrew *hayah asher hayah* which literally translated from Hebrew means "I Will Be What I Will Be" or "I Exist Because I Exist." The Hebrew word *hayah* is **Strong's** Hebrew number 1961:

*hâyâh*, haw-yaw; a primitive root (compare H1933); to exist, i.e. be or become, come to pass (always emphatic, and not a mere copula or auxiliary):—beacon, × altogether, be(-come), accomplished, committed, like), break, cause, come (to pass), do, faint, fall, follow, happen, × have, last, pertain, quit (one-) self, require, × use.

The Name of our Father Yahweh is **Strong's** number H3068 (**Strong's** got the Name wrong), and it carries the meaning of the self-existent or Eternal and comes from the Hebrew word *hayah*. This matches what Yahweh told Moses in Exodus 3:14 saying, "Tell the children of Israel that I AM has sent me to you." The word "I AM" being *hayah* is the very claim of existence. In all accounts Yahweh's Name tells us several things about Him:

1. He is the source of existence
2. He has always existed
3. He will always exist

Yahweh's Name literally conveys that He is the beginning of all things and the end of all things, which He has also told us often in Scripture.

*This is what Yahweh says, He Who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, Yahweh Sabaoth: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no Elohim besides Me, Isaiah 44:6.*

*I am the Aleph and the Tau, the first and the last, the beginning and the end," Revelation 22:13.*

*I Am the Aleph and Tau, the beginning and the ending, saith Yahweh, which is, and which was, and which is to come, El Shaddai, Revelation 1:8.*

Yahweh was the First and He will be the last, He has always been and will always be. He is the source of all existence and without Him nothing would exist that exists.

### **His Name, It Saves**

Yahweh's Name is more important than most people realize as it is the Name of our Father in heaven that seals us and is spoken of as the identifier of His people in the last days. Saying, "Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our Elohim on their foreheads" (Rev. 7:3).

*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His Name and the Name of His Father written on their foreheads, Revelation 14:1.*

Scripture says Yahweh's servants/elect will be sealed in their forehead and it's clear according to Scripture, that The Seal is The Name of our Father Yahweh. So, we are quite literally sealed by the Name of our Heavenly Father.

This shows that the name of our Heavenly Father is very important. Yahweh's name is so important in fact that it is the very name by which we are called.

*If My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from*

*heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV.*

*Everyone who is called by My Name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made, Isaiah 43:7.*

The Scriptures even say that his people will know His Name.

*Therefore, My people shall know My Name; therefore on that day I am the One Who is speaking, "Here I am," Isaiah 52:6.*

It's clear Scripturally that Yahweh's Name sets us apart as His people. Much like the Sabbath day sets us apart as His people. Those who use the Name Yahweh and exalt It are not very common in this world, which follows the Biblical trend that few, rather than many, are on the right path. During the days of Noah, only eight survived the flood. When Lot fled Sodom only he and his two daughters were spared. All this parallels with what the Messiah said in Luke 12:32.

*Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom, Luke 12:32 NKJV.*

Yahshua called the believers a little flock confirming the fact that few people follow the narrow path.

*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it, Matthew 7:13-14 KJV.*

So, we see that few will follow truth. The fact the few people know Yahweh's Name, let alone use It, sets us apart from the many people who don't, and is testimony to the world that we are walking in the Light.

The number of good things pertaining to Yahweh's Name in Scripture attests to its importance.

We are to;

- Praise His Name, *From the rising of the sun to its setting, the Name of Yahweh is to be praised.* Psalm 113:3
- Lift up His Name, *Exalt Yahweh with me, and let's exalt His Name together.* Psalm 34:3

Moreover, Yahweh's Name is so important that It is even salvational. For *Everyone who calls on the Name of Yahweh will be saved,* Romans 10:13. Paul (*Sha'ul*) here is quoting from Joel 2:32 and makes it clear Yahweh is salvation.

Our Savior's Name, Yahshua, literally means, "Yahweh is Salvation." The saving Name of Yahweh is also in His Son as well. In fact, it emphasizes the saving power of His Father's Name. The Messiah came not only with authority given from His Father but also bore His Father's Name. This is attested to by the Messiah Himself in the book of John.

*I have come in My Father's Name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own Name, you will receive him, John 5:43.*

The saying is a parallel from Exodus.

*Behold, I am going to send an Angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Be attentive to Him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward Him, for He will not pardon your rebellion, since My Name is in Him, Exodus 23:20-21.*

Yahshua's saying of Himself matches the claim of Yahweh from Exodus that His Name is in the Angel sent before Israel. This we know to be the Rock that followed them that Rock being Messiah. *And all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual Rock which followed them; and the Rock was Messiah, 1 Corinthians 10:4.*

The writer of Hebrews also further confirms that Yahshua was given the Name of the Father speaking of Messiah's inheritance of a more excellent Name. *Having become so much better than the angels, to the extent that He has inherited a more excellent Name than they, Hebrews 1:4.*

The writer of Hebrews tells us that the Messiah inherited an excellent Name. This parallels what the Apostle Sha'ul said in Philippians about The Messiah's Name being lifted above all names.

*For this reason, also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, so that at the Name of Yahshua every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Yahshua Messiah is Sovereign, to the glory of Yahweh the Father, Philippians 2:9-11.*

By putting his Son's Name above every name, Yahweh also put His Name above every name because his Son came in the Name of Yahweh.

*For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Yahweh!" Matthew 23:39.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of*

*Yahweh; we have blessed you from the house of Yahweh, Psalm 118:26.*

Clearly, the Messiah literally came in His Father's Name (a common practice at this time as children were named after their parents). The saving power of the Name of Yahweh being shared with His Son Yahshua is further illustrated in the book of Acts.

*Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the Name of Yahshua Messiah the Nazarene (Netzer), whom you impaled, whom Elohim raised from the dead — by this Name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other Name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved," Acts 4:10-12.*

It's clear the Name of our Messiah and his Father is salvational. Further evidence of a connection between The Father's Name and the Messiah's is brought forth in a question asked in Proverbs. *Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His Son's Name? Surely you know! Proverbs 30:4.*

### **Taking The Name in Vain**

We have seen that Yahweh's Name is Set Apart and we understand that His Name sanctifies us. However, seeing that His Name is Holy and so important and that it sanctifies us, what does it mean for those who disrespect His Name? Also what does it mean to disrespect His Name and how is it done? Surprisingly many people take the Name of Yahweh in vain very often without even knowing it.

*You shall not take the Name of Yahweh your Elohim in vain, for Yahweh will not leave him unpunished who takes His Name in vain, Exodus 20:7.*

Here is a question. which one of the 10 Commandments is most often broken? It may be surprising, but the 3rd is the most transgressed. While the 4th Commandment is a close second, the 3rd Commandment is the most broken.

Yes, there are many who don't keep the Sabbath day Holy, yet there are even more people who take the Name of our Father Yahweh in vain. There are denominations of Christianity who keep the Sabbath like the *Seventh Day Adventists, Sabbatarian Pentecostals, Seventh Day Baptists,*

and others. Yet most, if not all these along with the majority of Christianity (without realizing it), take the Name of Yahweh in vain. The Hebrew word translated vain in the 3rd Commandment is the Hebrew word *shawv* and is **Strong's** Hebrew number 7723 and it means, *in the sense of desolating; evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjectively), uselessness (as deceptive, objectively; also adverbially in vain): - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.*

Taking Yahweh's Name in vain quite literally means to make it desolate or useless by implication bringing His Name to nothing. In other words, anyone who claims to be worshiping the Elohim of the Bible yet does not use His real Name Yahweh is taking His Name in vain and making it useless because they aren't using it.

Seeing this, we see many people violate the 3rd Commandment. Many unintentionally, others very intentionally. Matters are made worse though, when you realize that many people on this matter add sin to sin by calling on Yahweh with names of pagan Deities which is actually violating another Law that Yahweh gave.

*Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be careful; and do not mention the name of other mighty ones, nor let them be heard from your mouth, Exodus 23:13.*

Yahweh forbids using the names of other mighty ones in worship of Him. This is further expounded on by Joshua the son of Nun, which says, *So that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain with you, or mention the name of their mighty ones, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. Joshua 23:7*

### Origins of the Title Lord

Many people use Pagan deities' names to call upon Yahweh. Most who do this don't know they are doing this, but some, even if they learn that they do, will refuse to stop. Some will ask how are we calling on the names of Pagan deities in worship to Yahweh? And what are these pagan names? One of the most common terms used in the worship of Yahweh that is both pagan in origin and also brings Yahweh's Name to nothing, is the word "Lord."

There are two etymological roots for the word Lord. One biblical, the other more modern. Both don't give our Heavenly Father His due honor. The

more modern word for Lord comes from the *Olde English Hlaford* which comes from the earlier word *Hlafweard*, which literally means, one who guards the loaves. *Hlaf* meaning Bread or loaf; and, *Weard*, meaning keeper or guardian. This term does our Heavenly Father great disservice as "a lord" in the English hierarchy was subservient to a king. Whereas, the truth is, Yahweh is King of kings.

In the English hierarchy, lords were men who cared for and tended for land on behalf of the king. They oversaw the tasks of peasantry on behalf of the king. Some of this included guarding the wheat stores that the peasants or slaves gathered for the kingdom. So, as we can see, the term lord falls very short of the kingly honor our Father deserves. It also conveys an image of cruelty to His character which is not in line with reality.

The other root of the word "Lord" is actually in Hebrew and goes back to calling on the name of pagan deities. **Strong's** Hebrew 1166, 1167.

“*Do not mention the name of other mighty ones, nor let them be heard from your mouth,*  
Exodus 23:13b

*“bah’-al From H1166; a master; hence a husband, or (figuratively) owner (often used with another noun in modifications of this latter sense: - + archer, + babblers, + bird, captain, chief man, + confederate, + have to do, + dreamer, those to whom it is due, + furious, those that are given to it, great, + hairy, he that hath it, have, + horseman, husband, lord, man, + married, master, person, + sworn, they of.”*

The name Baal, translated to English is Lord:

- **Baalzebub** – Lord of the flies (reference to Satan)
- **Baal-peor** – Lord of the open holes (suggestive according to Jewish sources of the perineal orifices)

Calling on the Name of Yahweh by replacing it with "Lord" is no different from calling Him "Baal."

*They abandoned Yahweh and served Baal and the Ashtaroth, Judges 2:13. Who try to make My people forget My Name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My Name for Baal. Jeremiah 23:27*

As we can see, people often forget Yahweh's Name for Baal, with which, He clearly is not pleased. It is prophesied in the last days that people will no longer call Him Baal/Lord but rather Husband. *And it will come about on that day," declares Yahweh, "That you will call Me my husband and no longer call Me my Baal, Hosea 2:16 KJV.*

## Origins of God

*God* is another name that people call Yahweh. The word *god* in its etymological meaning traces back to paganism. Like “Lord” there are two etymological sources for *god* and both trace back to the name of a pagan deity. The first is right in front of every Bible reader’s nose. Some have noticed it, but most have missed it - Gad and the tribe named after him. Yes, Gad. His name is actually pronounced *Gawd*. **Strong’s** Hebrew 1410.

At birth his mother called him gad saying how fortunate. This is a link to the Pan-Semitic Canaanite deity of fortune called Gad which in Hebrew has the same root meaning as the son of Israel and tribe of Gad. This is further confirmed by the same root word for the tribe of Gad being mentioned in reference to the pagan deity Gad in Isaiah, *But as for you who abandon Yahweh, who forget My holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune, and fill a jug of mixed wine for Destiny*, Isaiah 65:11.

This word for *fortune* is **Strong’s** Hebrew 1409 which has the same root word as Israel’s son Gad’s root word which is **Strong’s** Hebrew 1464. Both have the same names and root meanings and Leah was definitely raised by a family of pagan worshipers, conveyed by the fact that Rachel her sister stole their fathers’ mighty ones when Jacob fled.

*Laban had gone to shear his flock, and Rachel stole the household idols that were her father’s*, Genesis 31:19. Clearly Leah and Rachel’s family worshiped pagan deities. This completes the link.

The other etymological root (our modern etymological root for *god*) the word *god* comes from the Germanic/German word *Gott*. The word *Gott* can be traced to the gothic word *Gaut*. *Gaut* was the name of national and ancestral deity of the goth’s/swedes and turns is a reference and alternate name to the Norse chief deity Odin. Yes, that Odin, the Father of Thor.

What is disturbing is that many people without realizing it are calling upon either Baal or Odin; though, not intentionally, they are still indirectly using their names and sometimes both, when they say, “The Lord God.”

They are technically saying, Baal Odin or Baal Gad which ironically is a city named after the Canaanite deity Gad which was one of the Baalim. This city is actually mentioned in scripture. *From Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir, even as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings, and struck them and put them to death*, Joshua 11:17.

*Now these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the sons of Israel defeated beyond the Jordan toward the west, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon even as far as Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir; and Joshua gave it to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions*, Joshua 12:7.

*And the land of the Gebalite, and all of Lebanon, toward the east, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon as far as Lebo-hamath*, Joshua 13:5.

Prophetic or chance? There really is nothing new under the sun.

## No Excuses

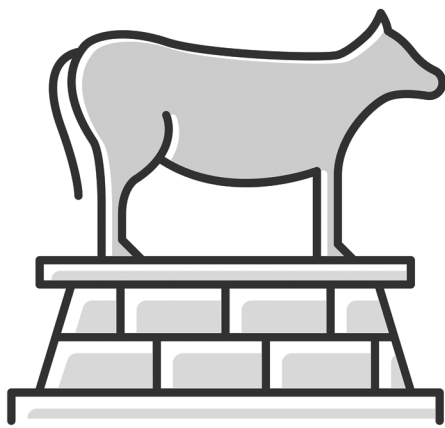
There are those who argue he knows to whom I am referring. Those that use this argument should consider the time ancient Israel sinned at Sinai in the matter of the golden calf.

*Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a *elohim* (mighty one) who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt — we do not know what happened to him.” Aaron said to them, “Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. Then he took the gold from their hands, and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a cast metal calf; and they said, “This is your *Elohim*, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to Yahweh.” So the next day they got up early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and got up to engage in lewd behavior*, Exodus 32:1-6.

The people called the calf “Yahweh.” They intended to serve Yahweh, but in their good intent, they added the image of the Egyptian deity Aphis the Bull to Yahweh’s Name. Yahweh knew they were intending to worship Him because the feast was to Yahweh, yet He took it as them worshipping a foreign deity.

Yahweh was so displeased with them He was ready to destroy them all because they were not worshipping Him according to the true worship He ordained and because they violated His Law and smeared His Name with an image of His own creation.

Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have behaved corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a cast metal calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your Elohim, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'" Then Yahweh said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. So now leave Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation," Exodus 32:7-10.



When one strays from worshipping Yahweh as He ordained, it can easily become the worship of another deity. Because of this sin, many people died.

Moses then stood at the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for Yahweh, come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. And he said to them, "This is what Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel says: 'Every man of you put his sword on his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'" So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day, Exodus 32:26-28.

Using other names or titles in place of Yahweh's real Name is no different spiritually than the golden calf. The only difference is rather than applying Yahweh's Name to a pagan idol, we are covering Yahweh's Name up with the name of a pagan deity which could be argued as actually being worse. Clearly, "he knows who I am referring to" is no excuse in Yahweh's eyes.

### **Honor His Name**

Not using Yahweh's Name is not giving Yahweh's Name honor which Scripture says brings a curse. *If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My Name," says Yahweh of Sabaoth, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart,* Malachi 2:2.

For Yahweh, not using His Name is personal. For

us, it is a salvational risk.

What is another way people take Yahweh's Name in vain? Another way people take Yahweh's Name in vain is when they say they are Yahweh's, but live a life contrary to the character attached to His Name. Yahweh's Law (Torah, instructions) shows us Yahweh's character. It is inseparable from Yahweh and His Name. Those who claim to be of Yahweh should do His will.

*Now why do you call Me, "Master, Master," and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46.*

Yahshua our Master asked this question, yet the same question is being asked by our Father Yahweh, through Messiah, in reference to obedience to Him. Are we doing what Yahweh says? Or are we just talking the talk and not walking the walk? The Apostle Sha'ul had a stern rebuke about those who talk, but don't walk the talk.

*You, therefore, who teach someone else, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one is not to steal, do you steal? You who say that one is not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who loathe idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor Yahweh? For "the Name of Yahweh is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it is written, Romans 2:21-24.*

The Apostle Sha'ul here said that by doing the very things that violate the Law of Yahweh that you cause His Name to be Blasphemed, this parallels to the account of David being confronted by Nathan the Prophet for his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and his murdering of Uriah the Hittite.

*However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Yahweh to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die, 2 Samuel 12:14.*

When we who are to be representatives of Yahweh's light and love, commit a sin, we open up opportunity for Yahweh's Holy Name upon which we call and rely to stink... should the sin be made known openly. For this reason, we must walk in a way that is befitting of the Name by which we are called.

### **Don't Blaspheme**

Speaking of blasphemy and profaning, there is one other way in which Yahweh's Name is taken in vain and this form is almost always done on purpose.



*And you shall not profane My holy Name, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am Yahweh who sanctifies you, Leviticus 22:32.*

Blaspheming the Name of Yahweh is so serious a sin that punishment for this sin, according to Scripture, is death.

*Moreover, the one who blasphemes the Name of Yahweh must be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The stranger as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death, Leviticus 24:16.*

*And the son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name and cursed. So they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) And the son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name and cursed. So they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) Then they put him in custody, waiting for Moses to give them a clear decision in accordance with the command of Yahweh. Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and have all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then have all the congregation stone him. You shall also speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If anyone curses his Elohim, then he will bear the responsibility for his sin. Then Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and they brought the one who had cursed outside the camp, and stoned him with stones. So the sons of Israel did just as Yahweh had commanded Moses, Leviticus 24:11-15, 23.*

This man blasphemed Yahweh, knowing full well it probably would end badly. He intended to insult the Name of Yahweh. Blasphemy is technically refusing to use Yahweh's Name... reviling Yahweh's Name, His character and His word.

Blasphemy in its simplest definition means to revile something. With this in mind, blasphemy takes many forms. Blasphemy is something we see more and more of in this age. It won't stop until Yahshua reigns, as we even see people blaspheming the Name of Yahweh in the book of Revelation.

*And the people were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the Name of Yahweh who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory. Revelation 16:9.* As we can see, it's going to get so bad they will blaspheme Him to His Face, so to speak.

### **Answers for Common Objections**

As we can see, Yahweh's Name is Holy and Yahweh demands respect for His Name, though

some people will still object. Following are three of the most common objections.

**Objection 1:** He knows who I am talking to; why does it matter what I call Him?

**Response:** Assuming He knows to whom I am referring is no different from Israel worshipping the golden calf. Such ignites His anger. Unless you want to put Him to the test which is probably not a good idea. In all seriousness His Name is Yahweh, that is what He wants to be called. To call Him anything else is disobedient and rude. It would be like calling Paul, Pauline (wierdly, some people use this term when referring to his letters) or calling someone named Jim, Vincent. If one called a man named Jim, Vincent over and over again he may know one is talking to him but if he has asked to call him by his real name and the other say, "No, I'm going to call you Vincent," it would be understandably offensive. It is no different with our Father Yahweh. Any attempt to get out of using His True Name when He has asked us to use His Real Name would be offensive.

**Objection 2:** He has many names.

**Response:** Yahweh has one Name. He has many titles but he has one Name. Yahweh-Yireh, Yahweh-Rapha, Yahweh-Sabaoth, etc. These are titles that show different aspects of Yahweh's character but they are not names.

That men may know that Thou, whose Name alone is Yahweh, art the Most High over all the earth, Psalm 83:18 KJV.

**Objection 3:** Where did the Messiah ever use the Name Yahweh?

**Response:** All the time. Yahshua, in John, in His prayer to his Father, said, "I have declared your Name to them" (referring to his disciples).

*I made known to them your Name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved Me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26 ESV).*

### **Final Thoughts**

There are many more objections that people give as to why they shouldn't have to use the Name Yahweh. All are feeble and petty attempts to subvert Yahweh's commands and sadly it happens too often.

We hope this article has opened the minds of some to the importance of Yahweh's Name and hopefully everybody has learned something new. May Yahweh Bless.

-Brother Lucas Bentley



# THAT NO GREATER JOY

Called out of darkness, into marvelous Light. Forgiven, past sins and trespasses remembered no more. Old things passed away, become now a new creation. We have observed parents of adult children having experienced being transformed and renewed in the spirit of their minds – their hearts turned to their adult children who yet need this experience – conflicted between, “And he shall turn ... the heart of the children to their fathers” (Mal. 4:6) and “I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother ...” (Matt. 10:35).

Surely, no greater joy could come to these parents whose hearts’ desire, before they pass, is to bequeath a Spiritual inheritance to their children (Prov. 13:22); to assume the role of the better in blessing their children (Heb. 7:7); to experience that no greater joy than to both see and hear their children walking in Truth (3 John 1:4), continuing steadfastly in (Acts 2:42) and earnestly contending for the Faith (Jude 1:3); to somehow, reconcile Matthew 10:35 with Malachi 4:6.

## **Rebekah’s Grief of Mind**

Come to mind, is the account of Isaac and Rebekah ... the latter, presumptuously facilitating her well-favored son Jacob should usurp the birthright, and the blessing, reserved to the elder, Esau (Gen. 27:6-17).

Sorrow of heart, grief of mind? It’s a sad narrative, one that has witnessed consequences to this day – a mother, and a father, who in one day lost both their sons with the elder purposing to slay his younger brother for his treachery (Gen. 27:41-42). After twenty years, Esau was reconciled with his brother Jacob (Gen. 33:3-15) and together with him, buried their father Isaac in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah (Gen. 35:29, 49:30). But there is no Scriptural record that purports to the mother ever being restored to either of her sons. Yes, it’s a sad account, and the dread of every parent estranged from their children – that they should pass, without having been reconciled with their progeny.

Often, will the parent, now perhaps elderly, sensing even, that the end of their mortalities is proximate and for reason of a gnawing fervor to set things right – perhaps even, to remove a reproach felt for acknowledged parenting deficits that might have contributed to the parent-child estrangement – to seek to resolve those differences that had intruded into the relationship with their children.

## **The Prodigal’s Father**

As so often characterizes the goodness of Yahweh, He provides examples for our learning (Rom. 15:4); for our admonition (1 Cor. 10:11); for our guidance.

In the Luke 15:11-32 narrative, Yahshua tells of a certain man who had two sons. (Two sons are often the subjects of Scripture lessons – Cain and Abel; Ishmael and Isaac; Esau and Jacob; Joseph and Benjamin; Ephraim and Manasseh – their relationships very often, lending credence to the proverb, *A brother is born for adversity*, Proverbs 17:17.

Here, in Yahshua's account, the younger of this man's (representing our Father Yahweh) sons (representative of you and me) decides to break away from the tutelage of his father and strike it out on his own, demanding his portion of his father's heritage which he subsequently wastes on making provision for the affections and lusts of his flesh (Rom. 13:14) by running to an excess of riot (1 Pet. 4:4) and revelry (Gal. 5:24). (Incidentally, the word *prodigal* is defined as 'waster' and not more popularly interpreted, the portrait of a contrite penitent awakening to righteousness, 1 Cor. 15:34.)

Indeed, in the context of the chapter which is best summarized in Verse 10, *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of Yahweh over one sinner that repenteth*, the prodigal son is properly cast as a principal in the narrative – though he is but one principal. Much to his credit, and to the joy of all with whom he is concerned, this one, after he's lost his inheritance, comes to his right mind. For most people have great difficulty, when once they find themselves wallowing in the mire of the pig sty, to extricate themselves from the consequence of their sin.

Nevertheless, if we singularly focus our attention upon the son's recovery, we overlook the heart of the Father. Yes, we capitalize Father, because we can imagine every day, throughout the day, the Father Whose heart is turned to His child, goes out into the field, looking from horizon to horizon, hoping to see His son's return, and when He does ... Oh, what a blessed reunion. An occasion for rejoicing. Why not, when the younger is seen yet a great way off, with compassion, run to meet His son, enveloping him in His arms with the warmth of a welcomed reconciliation? (Luke 15:20, 22-25). Surely, the demeanor of the prodigal's father should not be lost on us.

### **So, What to Do?**

It is helpful for parents to realize that just as it may have taken them many years to come out of the darkness of their past and to repentance and an acknowledgement of Truth, so may it take a long time and the bitterness of life experience to move

their adult children into a place of contrition and hence, restoration.

But using the Word "like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces" (Jer. 23:29) with which to attempt creating a Yah-centered relationship with an errant child(ren), seldom effects a desirable outcome and will more often, result in widening and deepening the cleavage between the parent(s) and the child(ren).

Quite, will prayer, together with living exemplarily in word, in behavior, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity (1 Tim. 4:8) – briefly comprehended, parents letting their Light so shine before their children, that these latter may occasion seeing their good works and having reason to glorify Yahweh (Matt. 5:16) – better become that vehicle by which children are drawn to the Light. (Yes, preach the Evangel alright, but sparing Words ... reserving them to occasions of necessity.)

Secondly, preparedness is principal. And herewith, we give our advice: Parents, give diligence to show yourselves approved of Yahweh to rightly divide the Truth (1 Tim. 2:15). Discerning the proper season, speak as an Oracle (Isa. 50:4; 1 Pet. 4:11; Prov. 15:23) being ready always, with grace (Col. 4:6) and in meekness and reverence, to give an answer to your children, WHEN they seek a reason for your hope (1 Pet. 4:15) and always, under color of eliciting their consideration to what is said (2 Tim. 2:7), that they might become as fully persuaded in their own mind (Rom. 14:5).

And we underscore "in meekness" for the servant of Yahweh must not strive. But in gentleness and in patience entreat their children if, perhaps, the Goodness of Yahweh might likewise lead them to repentance and an acknowledgment of Truth (2 Tim. 2:24-25; Rom. 2:4). And afterward, following planting the seed and with only a little watering (1 Cor. 3:6), allow Yahweh His workmanship (Eph. 2:10) to perfect those things concerning them (Psa. 138:8). Patience often comes with a lot of wait!

### **The Conclusion of the Matter**

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of Yahweh ... through faith and patience ... ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while ... though it tarry, wait ..." (Heb. 10:35-37, 6:12; Hab. 2:3). Faithful is He that calleth (1 Thess. 5:24), Who also will perform His Good Work until the day of Yahshua's appearing (Phil. 1:6).

-Elder John W. Reece

# Climate Change, COVID-19, Immigration Concerns, Hyperinflation and Other Perils



But it shall come to pass that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Yahweh shall send upon you cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that you set your hand to do, until you be destroyed, and until you perish quickly because of the wickedness of your doings, whereby you have forsaken Me.

Yahweh shall make the pestilence cleave to you, until He has consumed you. Yahweh shall smite you with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue you until you perish.

And your heaven that is over your head shall be brass, and the earth that is under you shall be iron. Yahweh shall make the rain of your land powder and dust.

Yahweh shall smite you with the sore of Egypt, and with hemorrhoids, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof you can not be healed. Yahweh shall smite you with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart. Yahweh shall smite you with a painful sore that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot unto the top of your head and you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword.

The stranger that is among you shall get up above you very high, and you shall come down very low. All these curses shall be upon you, and shall pursue you, and overtake you, till you be destroyed.

Because you served not Yahweh with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, therefore shall you serve your enemies which Yahweh shall send against you, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things. And he shall put a yoke of iron upon your neck, until he has destroyed you. Yahweh shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand; a nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young. And he shall besiege you in all your gates, until your high and fenced walls come down, wherein you trusted, throughout all your land and he shall besiege you in all your gates throughout all your land.

Then Yahweh will make your plagues wonderful ... even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Also every sickness, and every plague, so Yahweh will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nothing.

And Yahweh shall scatter you among all people, and among these nations shall you find no ease, neither shall the sole of your foot have rest. And your life shall hang in doubt before you, and you shall fear day and night, and shall have none assurance of your life.

### **Applicable Today? Why, Yes!**

This is a digest of curses from 54 verses of Deuteronomy, Chapter 28 ... pronounced upon a once peculiar people but remarkably applicable to the world's peoples today.

The world is in transition. Since before 9/11 even, nations and kingdoms had been disturbed and disrupted by anarchy and terrorism which had made refugees of those indigenous who had survived these troubles, propelling their lives into chaos and in the pronouncement of the author of the TORAH, "and your life shall hang in doubt before you, and you shall fear day and night, and shall have none assurance of your life" (Deut. 28:66).

This assertion, in fact, is becoming the experience of peoples everywhere as the world is transitioning from an uneasy stability to all its foundations – traditional family structure, religion and morality, education, industrial and commercial and personal economies – reeling out of course and decidedly setting a Spiritual people in a minority, their ability to endure tribulation to its end determined by their resolve to continue steadfastly and earnestly, with vigilance and diligence, contend for the primitive faith delivered them while some among them, thought established, strengthened, and settled in this faith, are giving place to this prophetic fulfilling of falling away.

And this erosion away of some, of the foundation, the ground and pillar of their faith; this removing of those who can be shaken, while unsettling, is arousing in those which cannot be shaken, to remain fully persuaded, staggering not through unbelief but rather, reaching forth, pressing toward, and apprehending even now, in this present perilous time and for the joy that is set before them ... though seen afar off, the exceeding great and precious promise of that which others' ears have not heard; that which others' eyes have not seen; that which has not entered into other's hearts: the incorruptible, undefiled inheritance of the Kingdom of Yahweh in which there shall be no more death; neither sorrow; nor crying (for Yahweh shall wipe away all tears from their eyes); neither shall there be any more pain (Rev. 21:4).

Yes, like Abraham, the father of their faith – though they should die in the faith of their father Abraham and like him, confess themselves but strangers and pilgrims on the earth – they nourish through their obedience to Yahweh's Commandments (all of Them) the promise of becoming heirs, and more so, joint-heirs with their Messiah of the Commonwealth

of Israel and the Covenants of Promise. And even if their many adversaries should war against them, seeking to distract and draw away; seeking to entice and tempt; seeking to beset and overcome, and make them to become spiritual refugees without certain dwelling places, their constancy in faith in the face of climate change, COVID-19, immigration concerns, hyperinflation and other perils, proves them unmovable and unblameable and hence, unproveable and unrebukable.

### **Peace and Safety, Then Sudden Destruction**

The peoples of the world are duped into believing that what is reported to them to have occurred in Noah's time, will never be repeated – that somehow, the political messiahs whom they acknowledge and trust, will be able to prevent through mitigation protocols and diplomacy a second cataclysm of global proportions. But their confidence is misplaced. For while the peoples of the world – lulled into thinking and believing that "things" will get better – are looking to their political messiahs to resolve the infirmities, necessities, and distresses already felt by hundreds of millions, these in secret and clandestine convocations are preparing such agendas that will elevate them into positions of power that further subjugate a plebiscite to their will and to their pleasure.

Nevertheless, such pursuits shall be short-lived. For this they willingly are ignorant of: that by the Word of Yahweh the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, being overflowed with water, then perished. And the earth which is now, by the Same Word, is kept in store, reserved to fire against the great and notable day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (2 Peter 3:5-7).

Quite, will man's efforts become futile to save the planet by addressing climate change that is, reportedly, heating up the earth, creating wildfires and droughts; earthquakes in diverse places; hurricanes and cyclones that produce torrential rains that cause massive flooding, and as deadly as droughts upon agriculture; raising sea levels that are, apparently, set in defiance to Yahweh's setting its boundaries; and the secondary effects of destroying a peoples' infrastructures of transit mobility, communication networks, electric power, and safe drinking water and, moreover, intensifying food insecurity among peoples all over the earth.

The earth has been, and is but accelerating on a collision course with the Almighty One, the Elohim of vengeance and recompense Who shall surely requite and manifest. Whose Word shall stand: the creatures' or the Creator's (Jer. 44:28)?

### So, What Must We Do?

What believers in every age have always done:

- repent and confess our iniquities, transgressions and sins, and those of our nation ... that perhaps we might be pardoned through His Grace and Mercy;
- lean not to our own understanding; trust and acknowledge Yahweh in all our ways;
- give attendance to reading, exhortation, and wholesome words and sound doctrine meditating therein, that our profiting might appear to all;
- count all things temporal but loss and an equitable exchange for growth in the grace and the knowledge of our Master and Savior, Yahshua Messiah;
- abstain from appearance of all evil, including fellowship with them that walk disorderly;
- watch and pray that we might in the face of trouble, have the answer of a good conscience

void of offense toward man and Yahweh;

- watch and pray, resisting the adversary lest we should enter into temptation and fall into sin;
- watch and pray for the world's leaders, that the Goodness of Yahweh will lead them to repentance and an acknowledgment of Truth to the end we might live quiet and peaceable lives with all righteousness and honesty;
- continue steadfastly in, and earnestly contend for the primitive faith of Abraham ... both willing and doing of Yahweh's Good Pleasure, confident that He shall direct our steps.

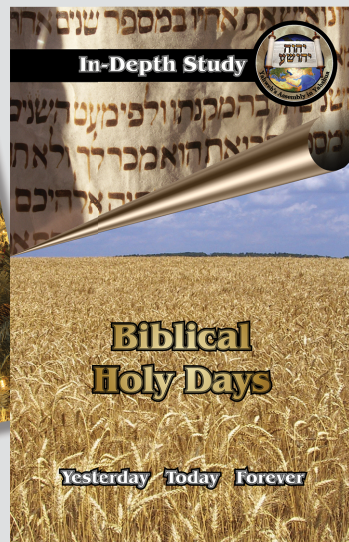
### Conclusion

Having done all these things to stand, we will be able to stand in the evil day and receive of the Master Yahshua, Discerner of every thought and intent of every man's heart, and to Whom all judgment which is according to Truth, has been committed, and become therewith empowered to withstand such things and be accounted worthy to escape (even death is an escape) all these things which are coming upon the earth. Indeed, when a man's ways please Yahweh, He is able even to make him at peace with his enemies.

-Elder John W. Reece

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# End Time Witnesses

## Who are these Two Witnesses?

Quite often there is a question as to who the two witnesses are, which are mentioned in the book of Revelation. If we look closely, Scripture does give us some ideas as to who they might be.

In all of this, Yahweh's Spirit will accomplish His will at the appointed times.

In Joel 2:23 it mentions "The early and latter rain"... "the *moreh* and the *malchosh*" as a more literal translation would have it: "the former rain and the spring rains."

In the springtime, here in America, we often see significant rainfall. Israel is known also for their rains, but in winter, rather than the springtime. The question is, however, will rainfall like this, in a spiritual sense, be poured out for us at the end of the age?

Could we say figuratively, the early rains are what we saw poured out during the time of Pentecost in Acts chapter two?

The Apostles had begun experiencing the type of miracles they had only seen from Messiah Yahshua prior to that point.

The two witnesses, we're told in Scripture, will receive power from Yahweh. Could we see a parallel to the end of the age as we saw at the start of Pentecost in the New Testament?

### **By My Spirit**

Yahweh is a blessing to us through His Word and Spirit, telling us the end from the beginning. He gives His people insight at the appropriate time in the making and progression of history prior to the coming Kingdom being established.

In Revelation, we understand Messiah is giving testimony (speaking on Yahweh's behalf) and telling what will happen. While we consider what He is doing, we need to ask ourselves: Who is Yahshua working with today? Who will be working with Him in the Kingdom?

*And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before Yahweh of the earth, Revelation 11:3-4 KJV.*

We find the two witnesses will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days: 3 ½ years (42 months).

They're clothed in sackcloth; they've shed everything worldly and are in a complete attitude of prayer and humility toward Yahweh.

They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before Yahweh, and they are evidently protected by Yahweh, through His Spirit Power.

*And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire,* Revelation 11:5–6 **NASB**.

It is true that these two witnesses could be two individuals. Enoch and Elijah are often mentioned, as well as, Moses and Elijah (Moses turned Egypt's water into blood; Elijah brought fire down from heaven and also caused drought and rainfall), but we've proven in previous studies from Scripture that they've died (Heb. 11:13) and are not currently living.

We know the two witnesses will be living, because they will die (3 ½ days) due to the Beast/Anti-messiah (Rev. 11:7-8).

### **The Power of Two**

Consider for a moment the parallels (e.g., two olive trees, two menorahs). There are other "twos" to which we can also look. Scripture points to the two houses, the two nations, the two sisters, the two branches, the two sticks. We can also relate the two loaves of the tabernacle as being symbolic of the people of Israel.

Could we think of the House of Judah and the House of Israel (lost 10 tribes), which are fully submitting themselves to Yahweh in the Messiah today, as the two witnesses? As we're seeing, two is a consistent number presented.

Over the years, we've come to understand that Yahshua came for the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 15:24). The northern tribes of Israel were dispersed through Assyria, scattered abroad from there to the ends of the earth, making up a good portion of the nations.

The message of salvation through the Messiah also went to Judah first, brought back from Babylonian captivity. Jews, it should be pointed out, are the dominant tribe of the southern tribes of Israel.

In mentioning all of this, we establish that Yahweh

is not done with Israel and is working out an amazing plan of which most are unaware. Read our mini-study on *The Hope of Israel*.

We also find two anointed ones mentioned in Zechariah chapter 4. In fact, we find mention of the two olive trees (similar to Revelation) and there's reason to believe there are two lampstands (i.e., two seven branched Menorahs) related to Israel. The parallels cannot be ignored.

### **Yahweh's Power**

Revelation 11:6, says, *These* (i.e., two olive trees and two lampstands, v. 4) *have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.* It should be pointed out, it doesn't say these are two individual "men."

When we think of Yahweh's Spirit giving power to His people, we could consider the Apostle Paul. Paul had Yahweh's Power to give sight to the blind, as well as to blind those who had sight. We have the following account from his first missionary journey which included a visit to the island of Cyprus, and specifically the capital called Paphos, the home of evidently one of the temples of Aphrodite. It was originally dedicated to the Syrian goddess Astarte (Ishtar, Easter). We could call this the original "Easter Island."

Paul was not alone in this first journey, but Barnabas and at least one other is thought to have gone with him: *When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Y'shua. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the Word of Yahweh,* Acts 13:6–7 **ESV**.

Continuing: *Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of Yahweh?"* Acts 13:9–10 **NIV**.

The Spirit gave Paul insight, it gave him strength to speak up against evil. It also gave him something else: Power (Yahweh's Power) to disable evil in its tracks.

*Now the hand of Yahweh is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness*





*came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about Yahweh, Acts 13:11–12 NIV.*

### **Miracles for a Purpose**

The governor believed, not in the Messiah, at this point, but in the One who sent the Messiah.

The question is, however, will this same strength in Yahweh's Spirit be shown at the end of the age, as a type of latter rain? Will the two witnesses have this extra surge of power from on high to combat the intense evil during their time of testimony to the world?

What is still to come? Do we think about being in a spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12) right now? What about later, when things get worse?

Do we think about the bad attitudes and actions of particular people? Are these people heavily influenced by Satan (Eph. 2:2)?

How much of Yahweh's Spirit will Yahweh's people need to proclaim the message of the coming Kingdom, when the world no longer wants to hear it?

### **Tribulation**

During the tribulation, do we think people will want to hear about the coming Kingdom? Will Yahweh's people stand out from the others in the tribulation?

*And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of Yahweh in their foreheads, Revelation 9:3–4 KJV.*

Only those men who do NOT have the seal of Yahweh, strongly suggests, those with Yahweh's seal will be there and that they will be protected. A similar parallel could be considered with those coming out of Egypt, as they were protected from the plagues in the land of Goshen. Yahweh made a distinction then, and will apparently do so again.

In verse 5 it says the plague lasts for 5 months. This is the 5th trumpet, so it's in the midst of the tribulation. If we take 5 months times 7 trumpets blasts, we may have another witness to the approximate time period of the tribulation.

### **Mark of the Beast**

There is another type of filter which will help identify those who have not taken the mark, besides the Saints. But what benefit is there really in knowing this? We know that those who take the mark of the Beast will not repent and be saved:

*And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of Yahweh upon the earth." And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image, Revelation 16:1-2 **KJV**.*

Here is the start of the bowl judgments... the 1st is painful sores on those who have fully received the mark, which appears to be twofold. They receive the mark, but in addition they also worship the Beast. For them, there is no forgiveness.

*And they blasphemed the Elohim of the heaven for their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their works, Revelation 16:11 **TS**.*

These have received the mark of the Beast, and go all the way into Armageddon. Notice verse 15 and 16:

*"Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed." Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon, Revelation 16:15-16 **NIV**.*

Doesn't this "staying awake and keeping clothed" in Revelation 16:15 go back to the armor of Yahweh? The helmet and breastplate protect the Spirit, and figuratively the whole armament speaks of putting on the Messiah.

And where is the Messiah in all of this tribulation? It turns out that He's fully aware and involved.

*Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of Yahweh, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb,"*

Revelation 14:9-10 **NASB**.

The twofold attributes of those going ultimately to the lake of fire, as well as being destroyed in the tribulation, comes back to their receiving of the mark and worshipping the image of the Beast. Read our ministudy, ***Just One Resurrection?***

*And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name. Here is the perseverance of the Saints who keep the Commandments of Yahweh and their faith in Yahshua. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Master from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them," Revelation 14:11-13 **NASB**.*

Keep the Commandments? Yes, that is what we are to be doing.

### **What's in a Name?**

There will be an ultimate death and end for those who worship the Beast and have the mark of his name. Notice that, somehow the mark is a name (also a number, Rev. 13:17). We don't fully understand this, but it is a name, no doubt, contrary to Yahweh or Yahshua.

There are some who make a pretty good argument that the Islamic Jihadist and the symbol on their forehead bands is similar to 666 in the Greek, with Allah spelled out in the Arabic.

Maybe John saw the Arabic letters revealed and explained it the best he could knowing some Greek letters/numbers (spelling 666), but understanding it was somehow a prophetic name. We currently can't say for sure at this point, except for when the Man of Sin is revealed. Read our ministudy, ***The Man of Sin***.

We could ask, at this point, what are the twofold attributes of the Saints during the tribulation? Did we just read it?

*Here is the perseverance of the Saints who keep (i.e., do, observe, live) the Commandments of Yahweh and their faith in Yahshua, Revelation 14:12 **NASB**.*

And what is the mark found on (or within the thoughts of) the Saints?

*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Name and the Name of His Father written on their foreheads, Revelation 14:1 **NASB**.*



## Mount Zion

One of the reasons for trying to understand what is to come is to prepare now for that time. We need to resist the enemy now, we need to produce the works and deeds now, so we can have part in the work in the future and to be told “well done, good and faithful servant” (Matt. 25:21) as we enter into it.

We recently received an email asking, “So, who do you think are the two witnesses?” If Yahweh’s people are spoken of as being alive and protected in the midst of the tribulation, it’s then a good guess they may indeed be the two witnesses. This, especially, if we also consider the two houses of Israel and the process of being grafted back in through the Messiah today.

The winds of tribulation, also called the “Day of Yahweh” in Scripture (Joel 1:15, 2:11; Zeph. 1:14), are ultimately being held back until the final sealing of the Saints occurs:

*Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living Elohim, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the Servants of our Elohim on their foreheads,”* Revelation 7:2–4 ESV.

It’s a time ahead, but when exactly we don’t know, though the signs of the times in the world are currently getting progressively worse and not better.

We are getting a better understanding of just how long the period will be. It is, thankfully, not as long as some prophecy teachers teach.

### Three and a Half Years

As we continue, we need to understand that there is figurative speech, and literal meanings in Scripture prophecies.

Duality of prophecy is where something happens

at one point, but then happens again at another point. Antiochus Epiphanies is a perfect example said to have gone in and sacrificed a pig on the altar of the Temple, but yet we see another example of this happening in the future when the man of sin goes into the Holy of Holies and defiles it:

*And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle of the week [3 ½ years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate,* Daniel 9:27 NASB.

This gives us insight to the timing yet ahead, as one week, is understood as 7 years, but half is 3 1/2 years. A peace treaty for seven years, but tribulation for the last half of that time period.

This also tells us there will be some sort of temple/tabernacle set up beforehand, for this desolation of abomination to be set up. We also are told in Scripture this is when Yahweh’s people will start to take strong actions, with the help of Yahweh strengthening them.

*His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their Elohim will firmly resist him,* Daniel 11:31–32 NIV.

Those that know Him, that is, those who do NOT break covenant with Him, after the Man of Sin enters the Holy of Holies, the people knowing Yahweh will stand strong.

Some, however, will fall to the wayside, weakened a short time, by fire, sword, and even imprisoned, to help them grow spiritually. But eventually they’ll be given extra Spiritual help from

Yahweh. Many will flatter them when they see the strength/help they have received.

*And those of the people who have insight shall give understanding to many. And they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering, for days. And when they stumble, they shall be helped, a little help, but many shall join them, by flatteries, Daniel 11:33–34 TS.*

Whatever the help is, it's going to be enough to impress people. People who evidently aren't that sincere, because they try to appease or please them with flattering lips.

It reminds us of the Israelites of old who went into the promised land to conquer, but some of the inhabitants fooled them into not annihilating them, but rather, because of their deceit eventually became Israel's servants (Josh. 9:22, 27). It was better than death, they figured.

Another one with false words is the Beast himself, but he will ultimately die.

*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months, Revelation 13:5 KJV.*

### **Opposing Forces**

The Beast is given strength for 3 ½ years (1,260 days). This same time period is likely when the two witnesses will be given power from Yahweh and be able to prophesy:

*And I will grant authority to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth, Revelation 11:3 ESV.*

The two witnesses are clothed in sackcloth. Holocaust images we've seen before show Jews wearing what looks like sackcloth.

*Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them, Revelation 11:7 NIV.*

Here the Beast is at this time able to overcome the two witnesses, which is evidently at the end of 42 months (Rev. 11:2).

Getting back to thinking who the two witnesses are, will we be playing a part in pouring out the wrath along with continued witnessing to the nations?

*Yahweh will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem's inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah, Zechariah 12:7 NIV.*

The dwellings of Judah are evidently the common people of Judah, not the aristocrats or government

officials who live in the better homes and locations of Jerusalem.

Notice what happens in the day of tribulation for these people:

*In that day shall Yahweh defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as Elohim, as the angel of Yahweh before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem, Zechariah 12:8-9 KJV.* This is in reference to the time of Armageddon, no doubt.

Now, even if Yahweh's Spirit gives strength to Judah, it's still Yahweh's Spirit accomplishing all of this. And even if these of Judah are not in Messiah, in the New Covenant, they may still be steadfast toward Yahweh knowing only the Levitical priesthood. Read our booklet entitled, **Orthodox Believers.**

Either way, Yahweh will give strength to Judah at the end of the age. Is this the latter rain, which is spoken of in the book of Joel? Can we understand these things today?

### **Israel Saved**

*The word which came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, "Thus says Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book. For behold, days are coming,' declares Yahweh, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' Yahweh says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'" Now these are the words which Yahweh spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah, Jeremiah 30:1–4 NASB.*

Notice both Israel and Judah are mentioned. Who is Yahweh working with at the end of the age? Even with all of this, there is great tribulation coming.

*For thus says Yahweh, "I have heard a sound of terror; of dread, and there is no peace. Ask now, and see if a male can give birth. Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it," Jeremiah 30:5–7 NASB.*

Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, had 12 children making up the 12 tribes of Israel. Israel, both northern and southern tribes will be saved out of it. That is, saved in the "Day of Yahweh," the time of tribulation ahead of us.

Some think the tribulation will last 7 years in total,

as already mentioned, but what we've looked at so far, has only indicated that the peace process brokered by the Beast (again, also known as the Man of Sin), is 7 years. Halfway through it is when tribulation really starts in earnest.

*He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time, Daniel 7:25 ESV.*

It says here that the Man of Sin will wear out the Saints. Whatever power the Saints are given, it's still not going to be that easy (just like the trouble with the evil angel/prince over Persia in Daniel 10:13). There doesn't appear to be any rapture out of tribulation occurring here, even though people teach such things.

The Man of Sin intends (i.e., thinks, plans, he will try) to make his own laws. Maybe he succeeds to a certain extent. After all, there is some sort of mark and some sort of worship of the image of the Beast. How hard will it be if one, even a Saint, cannot buy or sell without taking the mark of the Beast? Very hard, we would imagine.

### Is Judah Separate from Israel?

There are some places in Scripture where we don't really get a chronological order, but rather somewhat of a disjointed cohesion of facts. Revelation chapter 12 is one such place, but it's significant to what we're looking at today. Knowing who the 12 tribes are really helps our understanding with this passage.

*And she bore a male child who was to shepherd all nations with a rod of iron. And her child was caught away to Elohim and to His throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by Elohim, to be nourished there one thousand two hundred and sixty days, Revelation 12:5–6 TS.*

Some teach His people will be taken to a place of safety and they will point to this passage. The problem is, this is speaking specifically of the tribe of Judah. Judah is not the whole of Yahweh's people.

Yahshua, came from the line of Judah, and therefore, the woman in this part of Revelation 12 is specifically Judah.

*And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the*

*place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, Revelation 12:13–14 ESV.*

She is taken to a place of safety for 3 1/2 years. Does this eliminate Judah from being one of the two witnesses? Not if we understand that there are those in Messiah now who are of the tribe of Judah and of the northern tribes, as well. They are just not in the land of Israel, but rather around the world.

Non-Messianic Jews who might be taken out of harm's way, may give them time to examine the Messianic prophesies. Those who have accepted a false name (acronym or hybrid) for the Messiah, may come to understand more deeply how the Pharisaical doctrine of "Ineffability" (unutterable or too righteous to use) of Yahweh's Name has even affected the Savior's Name (Pharisees using an acronym "YESHU" meaning, "May His Name Be Blotted Out"). Read our ministudy called, ***How the Savior's Name Was Changed.***

Paul evidently also had to take time out to study the word more thoroughly and eliminate those false ideas he may have held, by going away for three years.

*Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were Apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days, Galatians 1:17–18 KJV.*

*But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Yahshua was the Messiah, Acts 9:22 ESV.*

He would have done so by proclaiming the Old Testament (***Tanakh***) prophecies alluding to the Messiah, like Isaiah chapter 53.

There are also other reasons for thinking Judah is the one going to a place of safety.

*So when you see standing in the holy place "the abomination that causes desolation," spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, Matthew 24:15–16 NIV.*

It's true that Messianic Jews are the likely ones to be aware of this instruction, but it may be that there will be those of Judah who will come to an understanding due to the Spirit of Yahweh being poured out more. Some will probably understand that they also need to go.

There are some Jews who have read the New Testament (***Brit Hadasha***), but at this time haven't accepted the Messiah as their Savior.

## **There is an Escape Plan**

*The sun is turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the day of Yahweh, the great and the fearful. And it hath come to pass, everyone who calleth on the Name of Yahweh is delivered, for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there is an escape, as Yahweh hath said, and among the remnants whom Yahweh is calling!* Joel 2:31–32 **YLT.**

There is a place we know called Petra. A documentary recently portrayed Petra as a ghost town, but mentioned that it makes up 20 square miles, with a supply of water off the mountains, 1000 cave dwellings (some can hold up to a 1000 people); the overall area can easily hold a million people, they say. It had been considered a City of Refuge and King David had gone there when fleeing from Saul. Petra is similar to a fortress, like Masada, only much larger. Though 100 miles (162 km) away from Jerusalem, it can be reached easily by car or other motor vehicle. Maybe the wings of a large eagle, prophesied, speaks of the transportation being greater than the wooden carts and donkeys of the Exodus.

There is also the Jewish Autonomous Region of Russia, established in 1932. Some think that might be the place of safety. All of this is fine and good, and we trust Yahweh will lead. But the point we want to make is, this is not speaking of those of us outside of the land of Israel going to a place of safety... a long held, but false belief, of some.

## **The Northern Tribes**

Revelation indicates there is going to be trouble for the rest of the children of Israel (the northern tribes, dispersed from Assyria).

*Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of Yahweh and hold to the testimony of Yahshua. And he stood on the sand of the sea,* Revelation 12:17 **ESV.**

The real sense of the woman mentioned here is Israel overall and not just Judah, and it goes back to the woman mentioned in verse one that had 12 stars. Most likely a reference to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Interesting that the Dragon (Satan) stands on the sand of the sea. Both sand and sea figuratively describe people in Scripture.

There are still deeper things to be understood in Scripture, but we are coming along and learning as time passes, as Yahweh allows us to see. Even though we might see, we still have difficulty

understanding at times. This was true for the prophet Daniel, too.

*I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed. As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My Master, what will be the outcome of these events?"* Daniel 12:7-8 **NASB.**

The power of the Saints is shattered? This must be speaking of their own strength, as Yahweh's strength cannot be shattered. The Saints are still physical, and therefore they can be eventually killed. This may be what the word "shattered" is speaking of here.

*He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!"* Daniel 12:9-12 **NASB.**

Again, there is confirmation that there is 3 1/2 years of tribulation to pass. Getting past it (1335 days), means we're well into the Kingdom, with the Messiah having already placed His feet on the Mount of Olives. Certainly, a blessing for those that make it to that time.

## **Speaking the Truth**

But before that time of "shattering," the two witnesses will give their testimony in the power of Yahweh's Spirit. They are going to preach the Word of Yahweh whether anyone wants to hear the message or not. It is a witness to those who are perishing, but some will be saved who will have ears to hear.

What will the two witnesses be teaching? No doubt, the same message that was preached by John the Immerser, Yahshua the Messiah, the disciples, and that which is being preached now: "Repent, turn to Yahweh." "Stop sinning." "Think about the future and choose life." Right now, we have not been granted the ability to control things as is foretold. It is, however, coming.

*They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. Now when they have finished*

*their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them, Revelation 11:6–7 NIV.*

Okay, not the kind of ending we'd like to hear necessarily, but it isn't really the ending.

### **Shocking News**

*And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Master was impaled. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves, Revelation 11:8–9 KJV.*

Everyone can watch videos on the Internet or their big screen TVs. Even the new phones today, give live video streaming.

But is that it? No more? Not quite.

*And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth, Revelation 11:10 NASB.*

Some think this might be during the time of Christmas or Hanukah, and certainly with winter the bodies could stay in the street for a while without decomposing.

*But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from Yahweh came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them, Revelation 11:11–12 NASB.*

### **Two Representatives?**

The idea has been presented that there may be too many, if all those in Messiah are counted, since Jerusalem can only hold so many in its streets. The solution may be that it will be two specific witnesses, one representative from each house of Israel. This would allow the other Scriptures to fit along with the geography. That is, to say, there will be room to see two dead in the streets of Jerusalem.

However, this can also apply to all those in Messiah, as the passage in Daniel 11:35, speaking of "stumbling," may better indicate "fall," as in "death" by sword, flame and captivity. This would be similar as to what happened to the Jews during the holocaust with witnesses to what had happened, standing in the end. Though the starting number of Saints would be far less at the end of the age. The following indicates the small number will fall even lower at the start of the tribulation period.

Daniel 11:35 appears to be part of the prophecy spoken of by Yahshua in Mathew chapter 24:9 *NASB*, which says, *Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My Name. He also prophesied, They shall put you out of the congregations, but an hour is coming when everyone who kills you shall think he is rendering service to Elohim, John 16:2 TS.* Note here, this may be at the very start of the tribulation, which means there are still three and a half years for the witnesses to witness.

With these prophetic Scriptures in mind, it may also mean two peoples (plural) left alive, may not be so many as to need more room than the Jerusalem streets can provide.

### **When Yahshua Returns**

*On that day His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then Yahweh my Elohim will come, and all the Holy Ones with Him, Zechariah 14:4-5 ESV.*

The, "all the Holy Ones with Him," may be speaking in general of the angels already in heaven (Matt. 16:27, 25:31), but we also know it can be speaking of those in the first resurrection (Matt. 22:30; Rev. 20:4-6).

Those in the first resurrection will be caught up but not before those who have died in Messiah (1 Thess. 4:16-17). The exception here may be the protection for the witnesses at the end before the third woe (Rev. 11:11-14) which comes just prior to Yahshua's return (Rev. 11:15).

Is this the *hour* which comes upon the whole world to test it (being refined in fire), in which, the Philadelphia Assembly (Rev. 3:10) is protected?

They are not necessarily from one location, as in Asia Minor, but multiple locations around the world, no doubt including descendants from the northern dispersion of Israelites.

Revelation 3:10, we believe, was/is pointing to a future fulfillment. Just as a portion of the Jews in Judea will head for the hills to be protected, others in the world may actually be a part of the Assembly noted for brotherly love, and keeping the commandments of Yahweh and holding to the

testimony and faith of Yahshua the Messiah.

These are a few things to think about as we consider the subject which, at this point, is still open to some possibilities.

### Hard Questions

Two things which may need more consideration is Yahshua saying the tribulation will end early for the sake of the Elect (Matt. 24:22), and Paul saying the change from mortal to immortality will come when Yahshua returns (1 Cor. 15:52).

On the first matter, is Yahshua saying the Elect will need things to end before they themselves are destroyed? Or will they be a kingdom of priests (Rev. 5:10) over no one living, unless intervention occurs?

On the second matter, when Paul says a change will come when Yahshua returns at the last Trumpet, is it out of the question to say it may be more complex a matter than not? That is, when the witnesses are taken up in a cloud prior to the last Trumpet, are they changed at that specific time from physical to spiritual or are they only protected at that time like Judah at the mountain area? Both a cloud and mountain are physical. As noted in previous studies, Enoch and Elijah stayed physical beings even though taken up (transferred) to other locations.

### Final Thoughts

While we agree that no prophecy is open to personal interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20), we can see Scripture pointing to a people, His people, which are often referred to in twos.

In all of this, we are to have patience and endurance, as it is a noted quality of the very Elect, in direct relation of obedience to Yahweh and faith in His Son, Yahshua. The Spirit of Yahweh is needed in our lives to accomplish His will.

*Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Master the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Master is near; James 5:7–8 NASB.*

This is encouragement for the days ahead, and even now, as we look for prophecy to unfold. We know all things are in Yahweh's capable hands.

We have no need to fear what is coming, if we stay close to Yahweh through His Son, Yahshua. This, by the way, is also what the two witnesses will be doing.

-Elder David Brett



### Unequally Yoked After Marriage

Genesis 2:24 provides us with a fundamental lesson in marriage relationship. From the beginning, the man was commanded to leave his father and mother, cleave to his wife, and the two should become one ... in flesh, yes, but also in mind, speech, and judgment (1 Cor. 1:10). This is an important principle in marriage, because how can two walk together except they be agreed? (Amos 3:3). So, to that end wives are commanded to be subject to their husbands, seeing the husband is the head of the wife even as Yahshua is the head of the Assembly (Eph. 5:22-23).

The husband, moreover, has responsibility come of his authority in the home to nourish and cherish his wife – that is, to bring his wife into Spiritual maturity – even as the Master, through the Holy Spirit, does the Assembly (Eph. 5:29).

But what is a wife to do, if she finds herself having more understanding than her husband? (Psa. 119:99). Well, the one thing she is NOT to do, is usurp her husband's authority (1 Tim. 2:12). For doing that, usually results in the husband and the wife striving about words to no profit (2 Tim. 2:14) instead of letting their communication be that which is good, useful to edifying (Eph. 4:29).

Moreover, though the wife may present fervent in spirit (Rom. 12:11) and zealously affected (Gal. 4:18), yet her fervor and zeal may not be tempered with knowledge (Rom. 10:2) which still, puffs up (1 Cor. 8:1, 13:4). And besides, she knows nothing yet as she ought to know (1 Cor. 8:2). So, trying to convert her husband may have the undesirable outcome of provoking him (1 Cor. 13:5), to trample underfoot what she has come to treasure and then, he turning upon her (Matt. 7:6).

Yahshua asserted He had not come to send peace but to reciprocally set a man at variance with his father, a daughter with her mother, and a daughter-in-law with her mother-in-law (Matt. 10:34-35). Interesting, that He did not come to set either a husband or a wife at variance with, and at enmity against the other (Rom. 8:6), because the husband



and the wife were created to be ONE, even as He and His Father are ONE!

We find in the Scriptures – in 1 Peter 3:1-2, 4-5 and 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 13-15 – the Apostles Paul and Peter had somewhat to say to both wives and to husbands.

1 Peter 3:1-2, 4-5: *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the Word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ... let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in Yahweh's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in Yahweh used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands.*

1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 13-15: *To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Master): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say (I, not the Master) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her: If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not under bondage. Yahweh has called you to peace.*

Now, before proceeding, a word concerning Verse 15. One of the failures of the Christian religion, is that there has been far too small an effort toward reconciling husbands and wives and restoring marriages, and far more in becoming a party to what Yahshua decried in Mark 10:9: *What therefore Yah has joined together, let not man put asunder.*

Men of religion want to loose on earth what they presume will automatically be loosed in heaven (Matt. 16:19) ... even if what has been charged from Heaven, is an immutable principle. “Not under bondage ... called you to peace,” has far more to do with releasing one or the other partners in a marriage from striving to sanctify a marriage that will just not become subject to Yahweh's workmanship. So, “not under bondage ... called you to peace” CONTEXTUALLY, has nothing to do with divorce and remarriage – a subject already addressed in 1 Corinthians 7:11, and reiterated in

Verse 27, Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. We might add here, the Scripture is adamant in affirming that a woman which has a husband is bound by the Law of Yahweh as long as he is living, and only death was intended by Yahweh to loose her from the marriage compact (Rom. 7:1-2).

Now, having laid some foundation, we particularly address the question, “Would it be alright to accompany your husband to his church service but just not sing their hymns and to take communion with the congregation?”

There is not so very much instruction that can be appropriated from Scripture to answer this question. However, in 2 Kings, Chapter 5, we read of Naaman (a Syrian military commander, but a leper) who had submitted himself to Elisha's emissary who appointed his immersion in the Jordan River seven times for a cleansing of his disease. Afterward, with gratitude for his recovery, he exclaimed, “... for your servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice to other gods, but to Yahweh. In this thing Yahweh pardon thy servant, that when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand ... Yahweh pardon your servant in this thing” (2 Kings 5:17-18)

For sure, accompanying your husband to Sunday services is not equivalent to inquiring how they worship (Deut. 12:30).

So, established and settled in your persuasion the 7th Day is the Sabbath (Exod. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15), and determined to observe it as a Set Apart Day according to statutes found in Leviticus 23:3 and Isaiah 58:13, and to invoke the Names of Yahweh and Yahshua in prayer and to reading Scripture and refraining from making Their Names of none effect in conversation (Exod. 20:7; Deut. 5:11), accompanying your husband might well be regarded a gesture toward seeking amelioration of your differences (1 Pet. 3:11).

However, you should not contribute to, or participate in liturgical rites (singing, responsive readings, and taking communion with the congregation), lest you should bring a reproach upon your new found faith (2 Pet. 2:20; see also, Heb. 6:4-6).

May you, together as a laborer with Yahshua (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1), become that light of the world (Matt. 5:14, John 8:12), in letting your light so shine before men, that they will glorify Abba Yahweh (Matt. 5:16).

- YAIY Elders



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q** Will there be judges again before Yahshua returns, as in the days of the Book of Judges? If so, who would the judge(s) be from YAIY at Kingdom City? and the “officers”? (See Deut. 16:18).

**A** In the beginning, Yahweh purposed that man should exercise dominion over all His created order, and so commanded that he should (Gen. 1:28). And even though, through the fall in Eden, man lost his dominion and right to subdue the earth, nevertheless, even before the dispersion of humankind throughout the world per Yahweh’s commandment that the species should “replenish the earth,” there were governments instituted among them. Genesis 10:9-10 speaks of Nimrod’s kingdom in the land of Shinar.

Through Shem’s seed, came the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and his progeny who also encountered kings in the lands in which they sojourned. Jacob’s son Joseph was viceroy in Egypt, functioning much more than just the administrator of food distribution. He was second to the Pharaoh in the throne (Gen. 41:40-44), his authority extending to impressing the Egyptians to servitude and receiving their lands as compensation when money with which to purchase food failed (Gen. 47:13-26). We read even, that he exercised authority of retaining his own brother Simeon in ward until the others would meet his demand that they should return with their youngest brother Benjamin and then assigning them and their households and his father Jacob to the best of the land of Egypt and the care of the Pharaoh’s livestock.

Moses certainly presided as a sort of Chief Judge over wilderness Israel, with Joshua succeeding him

upon his death. Under Moses, at his father-in-law Jethro’s urging, “associate” judges were appointed to adjudicate the concerns of the people, with the hardest cases reserved to himself.

In the Book of Judges, we read of 14 who served as the Head of State – as Israel was certainly a nation-state in Canaan – until in 1 Samuel 8, the people demanded of the last Judge, Samuel, they should have a king set over them as the nations about them and which demand, incidentally, was prophesied in Deuteronomy 17:14-20 – some 340 years before Saul was anointed the first king.

But increasingly, the monarchy of Israel became weakened through the oppressive character with which they exercised rule, together with their assimilation with the pagan cultures about them. The division of Israel into northern and southern kingdoms which became rivals one to the other, resulted in their being further alienated from the blessing of Yahweh (1 Kings 11; Ezra 4:1-4; John 4:9).

The kings together with the priests of the Levitical order exercised rule over Israel until the exilic period. The Pharisees and Sanhedrin emerged from the Babylonian exile assuming much of the authority over Israel that had previously been reserved to Judges, then Kings.

By the time we get to Yahshua, Israel had lost its autonomy. The Herods and their successors were political appointees and puppets of Imperial Rome.

Yahshua affirmed to Pontius Pilate His answer that He was indeed a King, but also that His Kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). The Apostles



Paul (1 Tim. 6:15) and John (Rev. 17:14) assign to Yahshua, title of King of kings and Sovereign of sovereigns – not altogether however, as King and Sovereign above those which are made of men, but much more, as He which is Chief over a Kingdom of Kings and Priests of a Holy Nation (1 Pet. 2:9) after the Melchizedek order (Rev. 1:6, 5:10).

The Apostle Paul, moreover, wrote to the Assembly at Corinth that he would to Yah that they did reign, and that he and his entourage should co-reign with them (1 Cor. 4:8). Then in 1 Corinthians 6:1-4, he reminds them that they, as saints, under the authority of the King of saints (Rev. 15:3), would judge the world ... and even angels. But this side of the millennial reign, we which aspire to exercise rule must become Set Apart from the world.

Nevertheless, are we in training for the reigning, having rights, even now, pertaining to Kings and Priests, judging nothing before the time (1 Cor. 4:5) and neither after the appearance, but righteous judgment (John 5:24) ... of men's fruits by which we can know them (Matt. 7:20) and have reason to withdraw ourselves from fellowship with the unfruitful works(ers) of darkness (Eph. 5:11) and even, from brethren whose conduct is disorderly (2 Thess. 3:6). As an addendum, we would reply to those who are ever inclined to chide others, citing Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 2:1-2 – you know, the “Judge not, that ye be not judged” folk – as with all Scripture, that which pertains to judging others must be rightly divided. We would add, however, that he who lives in a glass house ought not to be among the first to throw stones until he has first examined, judged, and proved himself obedient in all things (2 Cor. 13:5).

To this end then – our training for the reigning – Yahshua gave Gifts to His Body: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers to perfect the saints to do the work of the ministry and to edify the Body of Believers toward the end that we all should come into the unity of the Faith and of the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of His fullness (Eph. 4:11-13).

What we discover from reading and understanding the New Testament Scriptures, is that there were autonomous Assemblies of Yahweh established in, and elders ordained in every city (Titus 1:5) in Asia Minor, in Palestine, and in Southern Europe. These elders were responsible for feeding the flock under their charge – and not for filthy lucre, either – willingly taking the spiritual oversight over them,

and exemplary to their charges (1 Pet. 5:2-3) in word, behavior, love, faith, spirit, purity (1 Tim. 4:12). These neither judge for reward, teach for hire, or divine for money (Mic. 3:11).

Thus, the “saints” are commanded to obey the presbytery of elders. For they are His vicars on the earth, bearing rule over them and watching for their souls as they who must give an account of their spiritual oversight to the Chief Shepherd and Bishop (1 Pet. 2:25, 5:4; Heb. 13:17). Therefore, the “saints” should look to themselves, beholding what manner of persons they are supposed to be in faith and obedience, that those good works and words which are wrought among them by the presbytery might not become subject to receiving a lesser reward (2 John 1:8) and that they which do labor, may experience that no greater joy than to both see and hear the other walking in Truth (2 John 1:4; 3 John 1:4).

**Q** What is the unforgivable sin mentioned in Matthew 12:31-32?

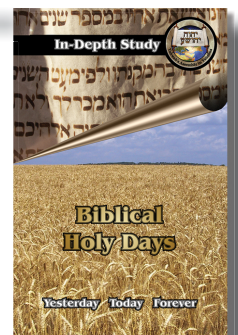
**A** Yahshua defaulted to Yahweh many times, even saying, “Why do you call Me Good, there is One Who IS Good” (Luke 18:19) referring to the Father. “Yahweh is Spirit” we are told by Yahshua in John 4:24. Therefore, the verse in question might better read, in part, “whoever speaks against Yahweh.”

Is anyone foolish enough to speak against (curse) the One above all and Father of all mankind (Luke 3:38)? While some speak and act in ignorance (Lev. 4:27), which can be forgiven, there is also the idea of knowing, and even experiencing the divine nature, and then doing such a thing. It is the latter in which there is no forgiveness (Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26-29). We might suggest here that to speak against the Holy Spirit would indicate one has experienced Its presence.

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He made the moon for appointed times;  
The sun knows its going down. -Psalms 104:19