



YAIY BEACON

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**The Millennium - When Does It Start?
After the Messiah Returns
The Desert Shall Bloom
What's Legal May Not Be Lawful
Are You Falling Forward or Backward?
Judging Others
Feasts of the Seventh Month**

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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The Millennium

When Does It Start?



Yahshua the Savior, promised He would come again and receive His own unto Himself in John 14:3. He also gave things to look for that would reveal clues concerning His return. A prime example: Revelation 19:7 reveals this is a time of rejoicing for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready; she is now dressed in fine linen, clean and white (Verse 8).

But something has gone awry! The heavens opened and revealed the Rider of the white horse is called Faithful and True, but His clothing is disheveled and ruffled on this joyous wedding day. Why? because prior to the marriage ceremony, Yahshua has been making war on His enemies, sloshing around, much like treading a wine press and getting blood spattered on His wedding garments.

*And he saith unto me, "Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he saith unto me, "These are the true sayings of Elohim." And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, "See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Yahshua: worship Yahweh: for the testimony of Yahshua is the spirit of prophecy." And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war ... And He [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of Yahweh, Revelation 19:9-11, 13. (The **King James Version** is used throughout.)*

Though He gives His enemies as much time as possible for them to repent, it will not be a joyous time when He returns, as the Old Testament clarifies:

*Who [is] this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this [that is] glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore [art thou] red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people [there was] none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of **vengeance** [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and [there was] none to help; and I wondered that [there was] none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth, Isaiah 63:1-6.*

Yahshua and the Saints Prevail

It is the Edomites, enemies of Yahshua and Israel, who make war against Him and the saints who are His "Bride." The Ancient of Days, Yahweh the Heavenly Father, is present at this auspicious time of the marriage of Yahshua and the saints. The Adversary will soon be made powerless for the next one-thousand years, for Yahshua is given supreme power and glory and the kingdom:

And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed, Daniel 7:14.

But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever; Daniel 7:18.

Yahweh the Heavenly Father had turned rulership over to the saints whom their enemies were attacking, but Yahweh soon came to the rescue:

I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom, Daniel 7:21-22.

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him, Daniel 7:27.

And, hath made us kings and priests unto Yahweh His Father; to Him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen, Revelation 1:6.

Study Now to Prepare for the Future

As kings and priests, the saints are given rulership with Yahshua with the same authority that He has! The saints are seated on the same throne as Yahshua, who paid the price for all mankind, and now the saints are given rulership. The saints will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). This includes us, if we are faithful!

To Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne, Revelation 3:21.

Behold, a king (Yahshua) shall reign in righteousness, and princes (saints) shall rule in judgment, Isaiah 32:1.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua and for the Word of Elohim, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Messiah a thousand years, Revelation 20:4.

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 1 Corinthians 6:1-2.

And they sung a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to Elohim by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our Elohim kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth," Revelation 5:9-10.

And he hath on [His] vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND RULER OF RULERS, Revelation 19:16.

The First Resurrection

The saints will be in that first resurrection and will be immortal spirit beings and invisible to the fleshly people, just as the angelic throng is invisible to us today. The resurrected saints will be working with

flesh and blood humans, primarily the scattered "House of Israel," not only Judah.

And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an Ensign of the people; to It shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] Yahweh shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth, Isaiah 11:10-12.

Some estimate 2 ½ million Israelites left Egypt under Moses. But Isaiah is here speaking of an even greater exodus, for it will include people living beyond the Middle East, sons and daughters of Israel returning to the land of their fathers.

Those whom Yahweh brings back to the land will not all be believers in Yahweh's truth, but will submit to the "Root of Jesse" – understood by scholars as a reference to Yahshua – and under His authority, will be taught by the saints:

Therefore, "behold, the days come," saith Yahweh, "that it shall no more be said, Yahweh liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, Yahweh liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers," saith Yahweh, "and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks," Jeremiah 16:14-16.

For thus saith Yahweh; "Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, 'O Yahweh, save thy people, the remnant of Israel'. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, [and] with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim [is] My firstborn, Jeremiah 31:7-9.

“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do [them],” Ezekiel 36:24-27.

“And I will give you pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days,” saith Yahweh, “they shall say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of Yahweh’: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit [it]; neither shall [that] be done any more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem ‘the throne of Yahweh’; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the Name of Yahweh, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers. But I said, ‘How shall I put thee among the

children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations’? and I said, ‘Thou shalt call me, My father’; and shalt not turn away from Me. Surely [as] a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,” saith Yahweh, Jeremiah 3:15-20.

If Yahshua were to return, with 8 billion on the earth, the coming earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, wars, and other catastrophes that are prophesied, the earth’s population might be reduced to only 2 billion. It is from this starting point that Yahshua’s marriage to the saints takes place, the saints are changed to immortal spirit beings, and the thousand-year reign begins.

Not everyone who reads Yahweh’s Word today understands the glorious future to which we have been called to share. Only a few are willing to pay the price today to be a part of that glorious future. The going may get tough, but the promise is secure.

Paul said it best:

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of Yahweh, Romans 8:18-19. Prepare now!

-Elder Don Mansager (deceased)

After the Messiah Returns

We know there are a number of things that are believed about the Messiah’s return. His coming will be to earth at the East gate of the Jerusalem Temple at the end of the age, and everyone will be fully aware of it when He returns.

For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be, Matthew 24:27. (The *New American Standard* is used throughout)

The topography of the Jerusalem landscape will change when He returns.

In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before 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.

The dead in Messiah will be raised first according to 1 Thessalonians 4:16. We also know, according to Revelation 22:10, that He is coming with rewards to give according to what each has done.

Often pictured are saints on clouds with harps. No secret rapture here, but the saints will be changed

forever. *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory."* 1 Cor.15:51–54.

He Defends Israel

Most religious people today desire Yahshua to return. But many don't understand that He Himself will be involved in pouring out the wrath (Rev. 6:16-17, speaking of the wrath coming from the Throne and the Lamb) preceding His feet coming upon the Mount of Olives. Yahshua will fight against all the nations which will come against Israel, which will be a complete blood bath (Rev. 14:18, blood up to the bridle of horses for two hundred miles). Revelation 19:11-16 speaks of the White Horse He will be riding on to judge and make war). In Amos 5:18, there is an admonition to all those who would do wickedly and yet desire the "day of Yahweh" to come. Yahweh says "woe" to them.

The wrath will come on many who live wickedly, even those proclaiming they know Him. Yahweh speaking through Jeremiah to the people of his day reflects what is happening today, *"Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal (i.e., the Lord) and walk after other mighty ones that you have not known (i.e., keeping easter and x-mas), then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My Name, and say, 'We are delivered!'*—that you may do all these abominations. *"Has this house, which is called by My Name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," declares Yahweh, Jeremiah 7:9–11.*

And just as Yahweh spoke through Jeremiah to the people of his day, Malachi does the same to the religious leaders in his time. He might as well be speaking to the ministers today that proclaim Him, but not what He says to do, including honoring His Name. *And now this commandment is for you, O priests. "If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says Yahweh of hosts, "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 2:1–2.

Yahshua as Representative

Interestingly, sometimes Yahshua is described as Yahweh by Name, the Angel of Yahweh, or just Elohim. Is it surprising that He came in His Father's Name, yet the so-called religious people don't accept Him? He said it Himself in John 5:43. Here Yahshua is referred to as the Branch of Yahweh:

In that day the Branch of Yahweh will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. When Yahweh has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then Yahweh will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain, Isaiah 4:2–6.

A canopy is something that was at the beginning before the judgment of Noah's flood. Described in part as a mist rising from the ground in Genesis 2:6. Yahshua will be restoring a temperate climate once again, which this canopy is suggested to provide.

But the Branch of Yahweh is a description pulled from agriculture to describe Yahshua. He is not only the Branch, but a shoot from Jesse (Isa. 11:1), and the Vine to which we need to stay attached. Here is another agricultural reference to what it will be like after Yahshua returns.

Behold, days are coming," declares Yahweh, when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them," says Yahweh your Elohim, Amos 9:13-15.

So much for the replacement theology of the churches. Yahweh will keep His promises to Abram.

Ezekiel chapter 40 speaks of the coming Kingdom and places Yahshua there after His return.

Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; and behold, the glory of the Elohim of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And

His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. And the glory of Yahweh came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of Yahweh filled the house, Ezekiel 43:1-5.

Yahshua here, is the glory of Yahweh. Yahshua has always been the Mediator and Representative of Yahweh on earth.

Changes Are Coming

Yahshua prepares things before Yahweh comes down from His Throne in heaven. The timing of this is after the Millennial Rule, with a purifying fire and change in the physical nature of things to the spiritual as described in Revelation 21:1, with a new heaven and a new earth, with new Jerusalem coming from the spiritual realm which Yahweh dwells.

First, the one-thousand year reign of the Messiah during which even the animals' very nature will be changed during that time.

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea, Isaiah 11:6-9.

The trouble we see with many non-domesticated animals today is a very wild and oftentimes aggressive or fearful nature. That nature will change after Yahshua's return and the putting away of Satan, as described in the opening of Revelation, chapter 20. Love will rule that day, and forever. His way, His paths, His law, His word will be known, and swords will be changed into plowshares.

And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of Yahweh will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of Yahweh

from Jerusalem. And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts has spoken, Micah 4:1-4.

A beautiful picture of what is to come. Everyone will be learning of His Way and Path, which equates with His Laws for all of mankind. What mankind now rejects, mankind will then accept.

There will be continued learning at that time, a Voice saying, "this is the Way"

Therefore Yahweh longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For Yahweh is an Elohim of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him. O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. Although Yahweh has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left, Isaiah 30:18-21.

Yet, another description of Yahshua as Teacher, but this is related to us as well in the sense of working with Yahshua as priests, with Him as High Priest. He will also be King, and they who overcome can sit with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21).

Physical and Spiritual

Israel, not just Judah, will build and plant, live and eat.

They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands, Isaiah 65:21-22.

Verse 20 says, *No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed, Isaiah 65:20.*

Some suggest that because the canopy will be restored, so will the longevity of the physical people living on the land. The restored "canopy" will reduce radiation from the sun and, in turn, result in healthier, longer lives.

All Will Come to Worship

Sabbaths will be kept in the coming Kingdom. *“And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me,”* says Yahweh, Isaiah 66:23.

Many reject the idea of keeping the Sabbaths or Feasts of Yahweh, but it is clear they were kept in the Old and New Testament time period, and prophecy states plainly that they will be kept in the coming Kingdom when Yahshua returns.

Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which Yahweh smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths, Zechariah 14:16-19.

Moreover, they [speaking of the Levitical priests] shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. In a dispute they shall take their stand to judge; they shall judge it according to My Ordinances. They shall also keep My Laws and My Statutes in all My Appointed Feasts and sanctify My Sabbaths, Ezekiel 44:23-24.

The differences in ordinances, laws, and statutes:

- **Laws** (H8451 *torah*/to-raw): instructions.
- **Commands** (H4687 *mitsvah*/mits-vaw; past tense, commanded, H6680 *tsavah* /tsaw-vaw): authoritative instructions.
- **Statutes** (H2708 *chuqqah*/khook-kaw; the singular is H2706 *choq* /khole): instructive and basic regulative decrees.
- **Precepts** (H6490 *piqqud* /pik·kood): regulatory instructions for behavior.
- **Ordinances/Judgments** (H4941 *mishpat* /mish-pawt): authoritative orders from Yahweh, with the latter as an assessment of a matter in a legal way. (Obedience is what Yahweh expects in all of these, and some are interchangeable with one another.)
- **Testimonies** (H5713 *edah*/ay-daw; the singular is H5715 *eduwth*/ay-dooth) are equated to witnesses of things that are important and affirmed to be true.

Levitical Priests

As evident in Ezekiel 44:23-24, already considered, the physical Levitical priests will exist after Yahshua returns, specifically for the physical people. There are also the spiritual priests/saints of the Melchizedek Order who will be working directly with Yahshua, the High Priest.

The following two verses speak of physical sacrifices being made for the physical people.

In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “HOLY TO YAHWEH.” And the cooking pots in Yahweh’s house will be like the bowls before the altar. Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to Yahweh of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of Yahweh of hosts in that day, Zechariah 14:20–21. (The word for “Canaanite” also translates as “merchant,” but either way is correct.)

Ezekiel chapter 43 also speaks of physical sacrifices and burnt offerings on the altar by the Levitical priests. It will no doubt be the tutoring and training of the physical people who will need a better understanding of the law of sin and death. Sin causes death.

It is thought that after Yahweh Himself comes down, that people will no longer bear the image of the “earthly” (1 Cor. 15:49-50) since, according to Revelation 21:1, “there was no more sea” – sea, figurative for people. The implication here, is that physical people after the one-thousand year reign will be granted eternal life as spirit beings. No more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither pain (Rev. 21:4) – these former things passed away, after they are changed.

No End to His Rule

There will be no end to the reign of Yahshua. *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty El, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will accomplish this,* Isaiah 9:6-7.

While there is a clear distinction between Father and Son, the titles Isaiah ascribes to this “child” Yahshua, identifies Him with Yahweh. To further illustrate this identity, let’s consider another passage from the Books of Daniel and Revelation:

*I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the **Ancient of Days** took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened ... I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a **Son of Man** was coming, and He came up to the **Ancient of Days** and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14.*

*And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands **One** like the **Son of Man**, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; and His feet [were] like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice [was] like the sound of many waters. And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength, Revelation 1:12–16*

Prepare to Meet Your Maker

The world is so much in need of a time of peace and prosperity, but it will take time and effort now to prepare ourselves for that time.

For the grace of Elohim has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny wickedness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and reverently in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great Elohim and Savior, Messiah Yahshua, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds, Titus 2:11–14.

Let's prepare for that time when Yahshua returns and establishes the Kingdom.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the

fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of Elohim," Revelation 19:7–9.

In Matthew 25:31–46, after the parables of the ten virgins and of the talents, Yahshua speaks of the sheep and the goats and how some who thought they were doing good will not be accepted. The Master here, speaks of the good deeds of the "sheep":

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me," Matthew 25:31–36.

We should ask ourselves, are we doing all that we need to be doing for one another, and therefore, doing also for the Master who lives in us?

When Yahshua returns, when we meet our Maker, we want to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" from the One who came to serve us.

Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them, Luke 12:35–37.

In Conclusion

We should prepare now by being servants to one another, allowing the love of Yahshua to fill our lives. Just as His Kingdom will have no end, we will take the excellent character we build now into that Kingdom.

Don't neglect the things that will be found in the coming Kingdom. Don't let the things we see in the world discourage you, but rather focus on obtaining a good standing when the Messiah returns through seeking now, His righteousness in our lives.

-Elder David Brett



THE DESERT SHALL BLOOM

There have been many short, imaginative skits in television commercials, movies, and even cartoons. One that is most memorable is a man hungry and thirsty, crawling in the desert. He is so thirsty, that he starts to hallucinate an oasis of cool, refreshing water surrounded by beautiful palm trees and other green foliage. The individual then realizes what he saw, was, in fact, just a mirage.

Many times, we laugh at seeing such things portrayed. But there is a seriousness to it as well, when we consider those starving in other, desert regions of the world.

When we think about it, the world with its immorality and seeking of material things rather than the spiritual things after which Yahweh would have us seek, is a desert, a wasteland. We are told to produce fruit worthy of repentance. But the world and the evils therein produce thorns and thistles and other things fitting for a desert devoid of the living waters that would produce blossoming foliage that we'd see in an actual oasis.

The figurative desert was created when Adam and Eve sinned, yet in it, an oasis started to form during the time of Yahshua and the disciples. When Yahweh's Spirit was poured out at Pentecost it was the start of an actual oasis that was neither imaginary, nor fanciful, but would, in fact, be the start of something that would change the face of the desert plain. We'll see how that process is occurring today and will eventually change the whole world. It is living waters that the desert needs, and it is living waters that are being offered. Will you be a part of the oasis or will you be a part of the desert that is fading away?

Blessing of Water, Curse of Sand

Life itself tells us water is more precious than sand. An example was once given to show just how much little drinkable water there really is in the world. It asked one to consider the earth's water supply (oceans included) all fitting into a one-gallon jug, then taking one tablespoon from that as being fit for human consumption. When you think about it, all it takes is for the rain not to come down for an extended period, and before you know it, there's drought and famine. The prophet Zechariah warns in chapter 14 that there will be no rain on those who refuse to come up for the Feast of Tabernacles in the coming Kingdom. Understand, that will be a serious curse for those disobedient families.

The Bible repeatedly relates blessings or curses that shall be awarded people for their obedience or disobedience to Yahweh's laws. Leviticus, chapter 26, records some of the blessings and curses for disobedience to Yahweh's instructions. Verses 26:3-6:

If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the

full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make [you] afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. (See also Deuteronomy 28:12, the **King James Version 1900** is used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)

On the other hand, Leviticus 26:19-21 says,

And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. And if ye [still] walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. (See also Deuteronomy 28:23-24.) Notes on verse 19 in **Ryrie's Study Bible** says, "no rain ... no crops."

Note, that Yahweh first speaks of blessings (the good news) awarded for obedience, and then pronounces the curses (the bad news) incurred for disobedience. Though these were spoken to Israel in the wilderness, they are as applicable for us, today. People then, were destroyed for their sins against Yahweh, and what happened to them was written down for our admonition, so that we might choose life over death (Deut. 30:19). *Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire,* Jude 1:7. (See also 2 Peter 2:6.)

Change to Help Us

Many times, mankind has failed ... failed so miserably, that a New Covenant needed to be made. *For finding fault with them* (the people, not the 1st covenant/agreement), *He saith, "Behold, the days come," saith Yahweh, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,"* Hebrews 8:8. (See also Jeremiah 31:31.)

Today, we are justified (justification: the penalty of death taken from us) in Yahshua, the only Name in which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). All flesh will know that Yahweh is their Savior (Isa. 49:26) – the Savior's Name, Yahshua (Yah[weh]'s Salvation) is our strength and song, and is become our salvation (Exod. 15:2).

And right here, we acknowledge that the name "Jesus" has, therefore, no place in the family Name (2 Chron 7:14; Dan 9:19; John 17:11; Rev 14:1). Though many of us were formerly baptized into

the name Jesus, or titles, such a baptism should be compared to that of John the Immerser – a form of repentance, but not actually fulfilling the Biblical requirement of baptism into the saving Name of Yahshua. (Read our In-depth Studies, ***How the Savior's Name was Changed***, and, ***Why be Baptized into the Name of Yahshua?***)

The New Covenant, and the Spirit from Yahweh, are provided to help us obey Yahweh's instructions (His way). Ezekiel 36:26-27 (**NASB**) shows us ultimately what Yahweh will accomplish in His people:

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

And though many curses have been spoken against, and befallen Yahweh's people (the 12 tribes of Israel) for their disobedience, they, and we, may be encouraged by the following prophecy: *And it shall come to pass, [that] as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: Fear not, [but] let your hands be strong,* Zechariah 8:13.

Prophecy being Fulfilled

While many Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, many prophecies have yet to be fulfilled. Take, for example, the exiled people of Judah. Certainly, they received the curses and yet it was prophesied that they would return to the homeland of Jerusalem. The ten northern tribes will be returning as well, but first Judah's physical return will be accomplished. Indeed, most Biblical scholars believe that when Israel became recognized as a nation in 1948 it was the start of something bigger to come.

As you may recall, more than 6 million Jews were killed during World War II in the 1930's and 40's when Nazi forces in Germany followed the directives of the deranged despotic leader Adolph Hitler. During that time and since, millions of Jews have resettled in Israel and many are emigrating from around the world and returning to the Land each year. Nationhood has not, however, arrested the tension that still challenges the peace in Jerusalem. But peace will come.

Concurrent with Israel becoming a recognized nation in 1948, in the same year, the ***Dead Sea Scrolls*** – significant in that they date 1,000 years earlier than what had been considered the oldest known manuscripts of the Bible – were found in the

caves at Qumran. These finds are noteworthy in that they confirm the content of later manuscripts that had been translated into the Bible that has been in use for hundreds of years, while also supplying the revealed Name of Yahweh in the text. (Most of the translations in use today, have removed Yahweh's Name in direct violation of the 3rd commandment, though a few such as *The Restoration Study Bible*, *The New Jerusalem Bible* and *Rotherham Emphasized Bible*, have restored the Sacred Name.)

Among the Dead Sea Scrolls, a scroll of Psalms was found with Yahweh's Name written in the original Paleo-Hebrew. Whoever penned that particular scroll revered Yahweh's Name, as should we all. A noteworthy article appeared in *Biblical Archeological Review* in which a rhetorical question was posed: "Of the many small fragments found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, which would be the most valuable?" We would, as the author, answer, "Those incorporating Yahweh's Name."

The Desert Will Bloom

The desert will bloom, and be like the Garden of Eden once again – *For Yahweh shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of Yahweh; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody*, Isaiah 51:3. Then shall the desert truly bloom as never before.

Topographical pictures taken from satellites show that Israel has been turning from brown to green, growing in small increments throughout the years since 1948. Comparing a picture from 1948 to a picture taken today, the difference is remarkable. Like a flower blooming, Israel has not only bloomed as an industrial nation and military power, but has become one of the largest exporters of flowers to the United States.

Moreover, prophecies regarding Yahweh establishing Israel will become fully consummated in the coming kingdom (Deut. 30:3-5; Jer. 16:15; Ezek. 34:13, 36:24; Amos 9:14-15). Yahweh will bring His people out of the desert and refresh them not only with water, but also with His Spirit: *They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them*, Isaiah 49:10.

And Yahshua Himself said, "... whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into

everlasting life" (John 4:14).

Come Out of the Desert

One traveling in an air-conditioned vehicle through Death Valley – a desert region, and the lowest point below sea level in the United States – then disembarking into temperatures rising above 110 degrees F. (43 C.) during the summer, would be like opening the door to a hot oven. Intense heat like that, can kill a person. The physical desert is something that most people would avoid, and if one does find himself in the desert, he'd seek a way out.

We've all been deceived, but Yahweh is calling a people to come out of the desert of this world, saying, "**Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4) and to find an oasis of rest in His presence, no longer deceived by the mirages imposed by Satan and his minions. And remarkably, when we respond to His invitation, we become an oasis to others.

But unless Yahweh can awaken one to the fact that he's in a desert wasteland (the world), he may well find himself deluded into thinking the rudiments of this world (Col. 2:8), the deceitfulness of riches (Mark 4:19), the abundance of things which can be possessed (Luke 12:15) are the beautiful oases. It's an illusion, though ... one that Satan, who has deluded the whole world (Rev. 12:9), keeps people in.

Nevertheless, Yahweh can cause rain to fall in the most inhospitable deserts... even upon a deceitfully wicked, and desperate heart that will open to receive His offering true and pure water that comes not from this world, but from the world to come.

40 Days/ 40 Nights

Some years ago, there was a man in Australia who sought to prove to himself whether or not the Bible was true, if it were possible that a man could go into a desert and there, 40 days and 40 nights without food and water, emerge alive. Well, he did and came out alive, though he did eat cactus and drank its juices, and perhaps surviving only because he had reserved stores of body fat.

If Yahweh had called this man to do such a thing, he no doubt would have accomplished it without food and water. Though no one is called to do this today, we are sure Yahweh can provide for us in times of need. Remember what Yahshua the Messiah said, *The things which are impossible with men are possible with Elohim*, Luke 18:27.

Yahshua, however, in His desert, fasted 40 days and 40 nights (Matt. 4:2; Mark 1:13) and was

supernaturally preserved from death, as no man could have survived that without help from Yahweh. You will recall, Moses, too, had spent 40 days and 40 nights on the mountain in which he received the Ten Commandments from Yahweh. *And he was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments,* Exodus 34:28.

Oasis in the Desert

We are an oasis in the desert of this world, blooming like flowers as we grow in grace and knowledge and follow Yahshua Messiah. The times of refreshing are here, and yet its outcome is not fully known. The Apostle Paul said,

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it, Romans 8:18-25, NASB.

Many times, we see through a glass darkly, not fully grasping the future. However, we know that we can make a difference in the world now, and the world does notice. It is not our doing, but the Spirit of Yahweh that works in us. *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the good news; which is come unto you, as [it is] in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], and knew the grace of Elohim in truth,* Colossians 1:5-6.

We are told in the Bible to serve our fellow man, especially those in Yahshua Messiah. *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself;”* Galatians 5:13-14. Do you think the world

notices? Yahshua said that we’d be known among men by the love we have toward one another, John 13:35. In doing so, we become an oasis in this world.

An obedient people to Yahweh will impact the world that has moved farther away from Yahweh. The work of the Assembly serves Yahweh, by serving mankind. The Apostle Peter tells Yahweh’s people, *Continue to live such upright lives among the Gentiles (Nations) that, when they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good works and glorify Elohim when He visits them in judgment,* 1 Peter 2:12, *ISV*. Yahweh’s people are an oasis in the desert.

The Kingdom of Yahweh, the Ultimate Oasis

The Bible paints a beautiful picture of the desert blooming in the Kingdom of Yahweh. They which have survived the coming tribulation will receive help from the spiritual firstfruits in the coming Kingdom, guiding and directing them under Yahshua’s rule – And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, *“This [is] the way, walk ye in it,”* when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left, Isaiah 30:21 – to break the strongholds of immorality, hatred, war, and selfishness that Satan has so cleverly made attractive.

The influential evil spirit called Satan will be put away for the 1,000-year reign so all of creation can breathe a breath of fresh air. Even the nature of animals will be changed when Satan and his demons are bound. *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea,* Isaiah 11:6-9.

Moreover, there will be unprecedented peace in this coming oasis of joy and happiness due to the knowledge of Yahweh and submission to His ruling authority. And it will be authoritative as His Son comes to rule with a symbolic rod of iron, showing the power at His disposal (Rev. 2:27).

But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And

many nations shall come, and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Eloha of Jacob (Israel); and **He will teach us of His ways**, and we will walk in His paths: for **the law shall go forth of Zion**, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make [them] afraid: for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts hath spoken [it], Micah 4:1-4.

The mountains will be laid low, both physical and governmental. Even the weather will change for the better for those that follow Yahweh's law. People will no longer be blinded by Satan, thinking, "The law has been done away with." Truth will finally prevail over the centuries of men being deceived by lies. Yahweh's instructions will be followed. Reconstruction of the wastes of the physical, spiritual, and moral world will be rebuilt and changed.

Since the time before Adam and Eve's sin against Yahweh, the desert will literally bloom as never before.

"Behold, the days come," saith Yahweh, "that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains

shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them," saith Yahweh thy Elohim, Amos 9:13-15.

Again, Yahweh tells us, "In that day," saith Yahweh of hosts, "shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree," Zechariah 3:10.

What a glorious time; what blessings there will be for those that hold this hope in Yahshua Messiah.

Conclusion

The coming Kingdom with its many blessings is certainly good news (Luke 9:2, 6). Yahweh's Word makes clear that the coming Kingdom will have no end: *And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end*, Luke 1:33. Is it an oasis beyond our imagination? Is it beyond what Yahweh can do? Not at all. Again, will you be a part of the oasis or will you be a part of the desert that is fading away? Make no mistake, choose life everlasting, choose living waters.

-Elder David Brett



"And it shall be that everyone who calls on the Name of YAHWEH shall be saved."

Acts 2:21



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What's Legal May Not Be Lawful

In 8th Grade Civics class, we were introduced to phrases of words, come from what are regarded as national cherished documents. On July 4, 1776, the thirteen United States of America unanimously declared:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. ... Laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall deem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

And so, with this Declaration of Independence, the United States of America was propelled into a five-year war with England, the strongest maritime nation in the world.

Victory in 1781, and the institution of an experiment in Government under the Articles of Confederation, revealed deficiencies that prompted a Constitutional Convention in May 1787, with 55 delegates from the thirteen United States meeting at the Pennsylvania State House to begin the process of establishing a National Government that has, so far, weathered, and survived, many storms the past 235 years.

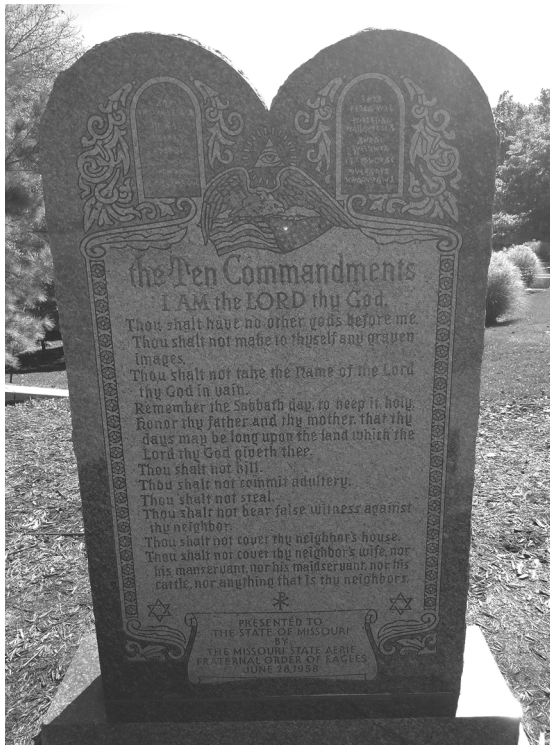
The Preamble of the Constitution of the United States, signed by 39 of the 55 delegates to the Convention on September 17, 1787, and put into effect on June 21, 1788, with New Hampshire as the ninth state to ratify It, reads:

“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

These words would seem to have the approbation of Scripture:

“... The powers that be are ordained of Yahweh. Whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of Yahweh ... For rulers are not a terror to good works, but the evil. Wilt thou then not be

afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and you shall have praise of the same: for he is the minister of Yahweh to you for good. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid; for he bears not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of Yahweh, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that does evil. Wherefore you must be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause you pay tribute also: for they are Yahweh's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor" (Rom. 13:1b-7). (*King James Version* used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)



Tranquility, Welfare, Liberty – Principles Redefined

However, given “the Course of human events” these past 235 years, “a more perfect Union” has fallen into *polarization* so that “justice, domestic tranquility, the general welfare, and the blessing of liberty” have become principles subject to argument, and elusive to ourselves and to our posterity.

Throughout the land, the Ten Commandments and quotations from the Book of Proverbs are inscribed, and engraved upon, marble and granite and limestone facades and the gold leaf of interiors of Capitol buildings, Courthouses, and Legislative Chambers. But in some places, the efforts of a minority of the governed have been successful in their undertaking “to change times and laws” (Dan.

7:25) ... “laying foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall deem most likely to effect their Happiness” – and very much of the time, at the expense of “domestic tranquility, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessing of liberty” and their fellows’ “safety” – legalizing conduct and dispositions that 235 years ago would have been deemed unlawful.

A Shift from Tradition to Normalcy

The past three generations of Americans have witnessed a redefining what is lawful, by legalizing what is unlawful.

Beginning in the 1950’s, through the abandoning of prayer in public schools of instruction, G-d was taken away from the vocabulary of elementary school children, giving rise to that ethereal doctrine of the *separation of church and state* which falls short of, and is not so expressed, in the language of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ...”

And more recently,

- in the State of Alabama, at the beginning of this millennium, the Chief Justice of that State’s Supreme Court was ousted because of his refusal to remove from the main floor a colossal memorial on which was engraved the Words of the Ten Commandments. And with his removal, came also the departure of that memorial from that State’s Supreme Court building;
- in other places, words of Scripture engraved on the facades of Government buildings have, through the skill of masonry, been obliterated;
- the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States has come under scrutiny;
- athletic contests which traditionally are heralded by the singing or orchestration of the National Anthem and summoning spectators to regard ‘the Stars and Stripes’ by standing with the right hand positioned over the heart, are increasingly greeted by the contestants’ protests in ‘taking a knee’ – and which ought to be reserved as an act of homage to Him Who sits upon the circle of the earth (Isa. 40:22).

Ironically, however, the United States Congress still retains a Chaplaincy to open their legislative sessions with an invocation by a Reverend who is paid handsomely for his/her services – an invocation that stands in stark contrast to the business set before their assemblage and gives us pause, as we consider the words of the prophet, *Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with Thee, which frameth mischief by a law?* Psalm 94:20.

And, oh yes, the Chief Executive whose executive orders and legislative initiatives are often opposed to the Law, Commandment, and the Right Rulings of Him Who is the Chief Executive of the Universe, will nevertheless conclude his public addresses with these words, “God Bless America,” though it is not at all certain, that Yahweh will bless a Yah-less America!

Then there are issues – issues, like reproductive rights – a real *misnomer* for pro-choice abortion rights that again, stand in contrast to hallowed words written 248 years ago: “... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life ...”

And though we laud the majority of Supreme Court Justices who on June 24, 2022, rescinded what had, since January 22, 1973, stood as the Supreme “Law” of the Land – the battle has been shifted to the States as arbiters in this matter of death over life – there has emerged the expansion of pharmaceutical products that effect spontaneous chemical abortion and “charitable” transportation enterprises that assist pregnant “people” traveling to abortion-friendly states to obtain this procedure called “murder-in-the-womb.”

And then, there’s the issue of gender identity ... and now, even specie identity as some of reprobate minds regard themselves as per-hu (a hybrid word composed of removing the second syllables, -son and -man) and “furries” who relate more to members of the animal kingdom than with humankind.

And speaking out against these abominations will earn for you a charge of hate speech – forget Constitutional guarantees provided by the First Amendment: “...or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances” –

- censure of a Kentucky County Clerk when she refused issuance of a marriage license to a queer couple;
- litigation against a Colorado florist who

refused to provide flowers for queer nuptials; and,

- an Oregon baker who declined hire to bake a wedding cake for another queer couple.

Nothing, it seems, is restrained the imagination of reprobate minds given to legalizing their inventions of evil, and sent a strong delusion to pursue ... even to their own perdition, what Yahweh has defined as abominable by Law, Commandment, and Right Ruling.

For the Truth is, neither the Governments over men or men themselves, can sanctify by their words what has not FIRST been sanctified by HIS Word.

Governments cannot legalize or legitimize – under color of the Supreme Law of the Land – what is contrary to His Immutable Law and by Which, on the Great and Notable Day, all will stand before His bar, and be judged.

Legal; Lawful

Yes, the past score of years have given witness to the spirit of the age having caught up with, and overtaken traditional values.

And though we might assert, as our Messiah, that His Kingdom is not of this world, and neither is ours of this world (John 18:36); and that Yahweh is the judge: He puts down one, and sets up another (Psa. 75:7) and that, therefore, we should not participate in the franchise that has been accorded us by Constitutional guarantee ... well, we might want to revisit this matter, because [It is] *an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne (His, and theirs) is established by righteousness*, Proverbs 16:12.

For surely, if we are laborers together with Yahweh in this enterprise of our salvation – and we are – certainly, “justice ...domestic tranquility ... the general welfare, and the blessing of liberty” are not incongruent with His will, neither the command to make supplications, prayers, and intercessions for those that are in authority, that,

- they, too, should be saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth; that,
- we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all righteousness and honesty, even though
- earnestly contending for the faith and standing for the defense and confirmation of Truth may well require much more than the making of supplications, prayers, and intercessions, to this end: that if, indeed, the world shall be judged by us, how much more now, things pertaining to this life.

We might consider that though Yahweh’s authority is established by His Word, His Authority is sustained by Our demonstration of the Spirit and of power. (The last time we checked with Scripture, it is yet, better to place confidence in Yahweh than in princes (Psa. 118:9); still, better to obey Yahweh than men (Acts 5:29) and which **actions**, might well set us at variance with civil authorities and require as much of us as was imposed upon the Master.)

Observations of Wisdom

Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people. ... When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn, Proverbs 14:34, 29:2.

- “An unjust law is itself a species of violence. Arrest for its breach is more so,” Gandhi;
- “All tyranny needs, to gain a foothold, is for people of good conscience to remain silent,” Thomas Jefferson;
- “Be the change you wish to see in the world,” Gandhi;
- “Vote and the choice is yours. Don’t vote and the choice is theirs” Donald Troutman, Clerk, Texas County, Missouri;
- “Evil triumphs when good men do nothing,” Edmund Burke;
- “Prayer should move us off our knees,” John W. Reece.

Indeed, one only has to look at the culture ... how, currently, what was once regarded as *sacrosanct* has been made to become profane, to appreciate that *principle* has been relegated to refuse; that man’s unrestrained imagination and invention of evil with the approbation of civil authority – has been made to become indistinguishable from what is lawful; that Yahweh has been reduced to becoming altogether such as men (Psa. 50:21) ... dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1).

Conclusion

Well, what does Yahweh’s LAW say about what man has “legalized?”

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with

mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

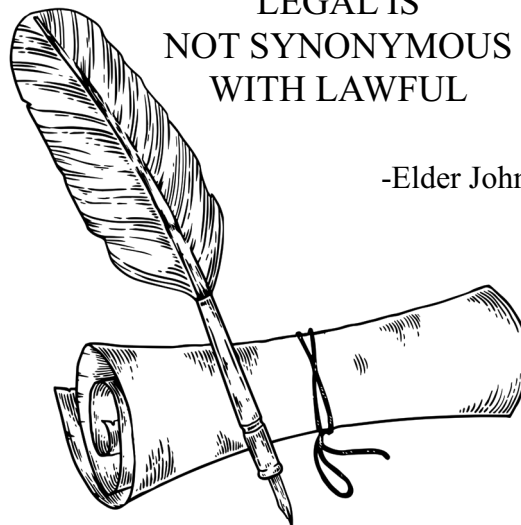
Well-intentioned were the framers of our National Government, couching platitudes in fair speech,

We the People of the United States in order to form a more perfect Union ... hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men ... [to] establish justice, insure domestic tranquility ... promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity ... laying its foundation on such principles ... most likely to effect their Happiness ... secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity ... laying its foundation (liberty) on such principles ... most likely to effect their Happiness, has come at tremendous cost to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and promote the general welfare.

But though men should be called to liberty, the summons – though legalized – was never, and is not now, purposed by their Creator that they should exercise that liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Gal. 5:13), to transgress His Law ... yes, as free but not using liberty (under cover of what’s been made legal) for a cloak of maliciousness (1 Pet. 2:16); wasting the substance of their lives (Luke 15:13) running to an excess of riot (1 Pet. 4:4) and revelry (Gal. 5:21); making provision for the affections and lusts of their flesh (Rom. 13:14), and leading to this inevitable conclusion:

**LEGAL IS
NOT SYNONYMOUS
WITH LAWFUL**

-Elder John W. Reece



Are You Falling Forward or Backward?



You've seen it on television. You may have seen it in person. It may have happened to you.

In many "charismatic" congregations and "revival" meetings worldwide, men, women, and even children are falling backward. Is this "slain in the Spirit," as some would call it, something from Yahweh?

People falling backward, shaking around uncontrollably, vacant zombie-like stares gripping laughter. If you've never seen it, let me tell you, it's something to behold. Let's look at and focus on the falling backward aspect of all this.

You'd think that if this "falling backward" was something from our Creator, then you'd find it is encouraged in the Bible. But in fact, you'll find just the opposite in Scripture. So, what's up or, in this case, what's going down?

Giving Reverence to Others

People in ancient Biblical times had a custom of bowing forward to others whom they regarded worthy of reverence. Depending on the person and degree of reverence given, the bowing was anywhere from a nodding gesture to falling forward on one's hands and knees. We find an account of this type of worship/reverence in Acts 10:25-26:

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself also am a man," (The **King James Version 1900** used throughout.)

In Revelation 22:8, we read, *And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship Yahweh."*

It is clear in Scripture that we are to worship Yahweh. We're strictly admonished not to bow down or worship other deities (Exod. 20:5; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 5:9; Josh. 23:7; 2 Kings 17:35), which would include not calling upon their names (Deut. 12:3; Psa. 16:4; Hos. 2:16-17). (Read our **YAIY Quick Study Sheet: "Calling on Titles Alone?"**)

Worshipping our Creator: Past, Present, and Future

When we come before Yahweh, our Creator, we are to come before Him humbly and obediently. *Oh come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before Yahweh our Maker,* Psalm 95:6.

When Moses and Aaron were having problems with the people in the wilderness after being brought out of Egypt, they both went into the tabernacle and fell forward to seek Yahweh.

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of Yahweh appeared unto them, Numbers 20:6. Nothing about falling backward here, but indeed falling forward. They fell forward, not so fast that they hurt themselves, but in a manner that was done quickly and without delay.

Moses and Aaron also fell forward instantly when Yahweh said He would destroy the people in the camp (Num. 16:22) because they were complaining against Moses and Aaron, Yahweh's anointed (Num. 16:12-14).

Abram, before he was called Abraham, was another of whom we have a record, that he knew to fall forward out of reverence toward Yahweh.

And Abram fell on his face: and Yahweh talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My Covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations," Genesis 17:3-4.

It is foretold that 24 elders will also fall on their faces in the worship of Yahweh.

And the twenty-four elders, which sat before Yahweh on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped Yahweh, Revelation 11:16. Read earlier in Revelation 7:11, the angels along with the elders also fall forward.

Besides the past and future, there is, of course, the present. Yahshua the Messiah, was always setting the right example for us so that we might do the things today that He did then.

In a time of great grief, before His death, Yahshua went to Yahweh in prayer. Yahshua went forward in worship, not backwards. *And He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him,* Mark 14:35.

"Things" Going Forward

We read in Philippians 2:10, *That at the Name of Yahshua every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.* This Scripture is figuratively speaking of angelic beings (in heaven), you and I (on earth), and the dead not yet resurrected (under the earth). No actual "things," per se.

But there are "things" that we see in the Scriptures that are falling forward. We read in Numbers 8:2, *Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, "When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick."* In other words, the light was to fall or go forward.

Remember the walls of Jericho? Now the interesting thing about the walls falling flat is the way the walls were built. One has to understand that these are not like the walls we typically have today. According to *The Bible Reader Companion*, by Lawrence O. Richards, "The rugged walls of Jericho featured a stone base 11 feet high, topped by 35 feet of smooth

stone sloping upward at 35 degrees to join the towering main walls."

This means the walls had a slide of sorts to fall down, the wall fell down flat, but it also fell forward. We read in the book Joshua that Yahweh's people were told to shout on the 7th day. The 7th day mentioned here, may not have been the Sabbath day. But whatever the day was, Yahweh made the walls fall flat (Josh 6:20). The city was utterly destroyed that day, allowing Joshua and the people admittance into the city, via the crumbled mud bricks from the main towering walls.

Archeological proof of this occurrence can be found in many sources. One such source is *Mysteries of the Bible* (<http://www.biblemysteries.com>), an online Biblically-focused archeological website.

Concerning the walls of Jericho, *Mysteries of the Bible* says, "Careful removal of the debris of ages has revealed the remains in Jericho of walls that are tilted forward, deeply fissured and dislocated. In all likelihood, these are the ramparts that collapsed."



The Bigger They are, The Harder They Fall ... Forward

The Philistines thought that by stealing the ark of Yahweh, they would be getting the upper hand on the Israelites. What they did get into was a lot of trouble.

Let's just read a small portion of the story in 1 Samuel 5:2-4:

When the Philistines took the Ark of Yahweh, they brought It into the house of Dagon, and set It by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the Ark of Yahweh. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the Ark of Yahweh; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

This spooked the Philistines, and along with the plagues they received, they were more than happy to return the ark to the Israelites.

But of all the historical events in Scripture, we find the story of David and Goliath one of the most memorable. This is where a young David, destined to become a great king of Israel, was confronted with this giant chief warrior of the Philistines. It would be more correct to say that this “small in stature, but big in heart” David confronted him!

One thing you may have never considered is the fact that this giant fell forward, along with the stone that embedded itself into his forehead.

We read, *And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth,* 1 Samuel 17:49. Symbolically, you could say that Goliath fell forward not only to the future king David, but also to all of Israel and Yahweh Himself.

Accidents Do Happen

Yahweh didn't leave falling backward out of Scripture completely. We are told that falling backward can kill you! Just look at the story of Eli when he found out that the ark had been taken from Israel.

And it came to pass, when he made mention of the Ark of Yahweh, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died, 1 Samuel 4:18. This was an accident evidently, as it is indicated that he was old and heavy-set and nearly blind.

Another accident happened when Judas led the officers and other men to Yahshua. When Yahshua made Himself known to them, they were startled and fell backward (John 18:6).

Falling Backward: Something Not to Do!

We find an admonition in the Bible not to fall back into our old sinful ways. Isaiah 1:4, says, *Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken Yahweh, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.*

Yahweh can become quite infuriated with us if we are found falling backward. He may use it to discipline us so that we repent and change course to go forward again.

But the word of Yahweh was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken,

and snared, and taken, Isaiah 28:13.

Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would lay siege on Jerusalem because even the priests were parading around drunk and were lax in observing Yahweh's commandments. There is an indication that they were beginning to believe the false “once saved, always saved” ideology (Isa. 28:15). They were beginning to think that they could do whatever they wanted and still be protected (Jer. 7:10). *But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear; but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward,* Jeremiah 7:24.

Conclusion

Yahweh is not pleased when we go backward, He would much rather see us go forward.

We all stumble at times and do things we shouldn't. Sometimes we receive immediate judgment, like Lot's wife (Gen. 19:26). She disobeyed by looking back; she would have lived if she had kept looking forward.

We need to keep looking forward. If we're traveling forward on the straight and narrow path, when we stumble, we'll at least be stumbling and falling forward toward Him, which is far better than stumbling and falling backward away from Him.

If you feel Yahweh isn't close to you, ask yourself, “Who moved?” And then fall forward in worship to Him, it will certainly put you closer to Him, once again.

- Elder David Brett



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Judging Others

People today find it very easy to label or judge people who are different than they are. Judging can be good or bad, but for clarity, let's first look at the bad side of judging others. We should keep the following Scripture in mind while doing it:

But I say unto you, "That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, 'Thou fool,' shall be in danger of hell fire," Matthew 5:22. (The **King James Version 1900** used unless otherwise noted.)

Speaking of the word "Raca," **Robertson's Word Pictures** says, "...probably an Aramaic word meaning, 'empty,' a frequent word for contempt."

The underlying Greek word for "Thou fool" is "moros" from which we get the word "moron."

As we grow up, our parents may actually teach us to judge people in a negative way and to call them names. Parents who openly express negative judgments about others in front of a child are setting up that child to be critical of others. After all, "mom and dad do it," a growing mind thinks.

A parent's example is one of the strongest teaching guides in determining how one will mature and grow. But there are other factors too, such as one's friends while growing up. Movies, books, and music can also influence what we become. Many songs today contain messages of hate, lust, and improper attitudes toward others. We need to be aware of these influences on our own attitudes and behavior.

As we seek Biblical understanding on the subject of judging, we find that our Master Yahshua tells us, in Matthew 7:1, *Judge not, that ye be not judged*. What does that mean, though? Can we understand all the ramifications this implies?

You've probably witnessed this law in action: A person is critical of someone else and labels him or her with a name that he or she thinks is appropriate based on something they did. Then, that person turns around and does the same thing, thereby making others wonder or even judge this person with the same measure. Often a label like "hypocrite" will also be added.

Looking further into Matthew chapter 7, we read in verse 2, *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again*, Matthew 7:2. This is quite straightforward and should always be in mind when one thinks or talks about others.

In **Robertson's Word Pictures** we find the following explanation for the first two words used in 7:1 of Matthew: "**Judge not** (*mê krinete*). The habit of censoriousness, sharp, unjust criticism. Our word 'critic' is from this very word. It means to separate, distinguish, and discriminate. That is necessary, but prejudice (prejudgment) is unfair, captious criticism."

Do You Judge Others?

Do you judge others? Do others judge you? We all are guilty, aren't we? For example, a woman in a department store who looked like she was ready to check out after shopping looked around and put all that she was carrying down onto some display in one big pile. It seemed like she had gotten impatient and walked out. A minute later, she was back with a cart and picked up all the items and put them into the cart, and continued her shopping. She had thought of some other items she needed.

Do you do things that would cause people to judge you? An important Scripture regarding avoidance of others' judgments is the following: *Abstain from all appearance of evil*, 1 Thessalonians 5:22. This would mean more than just getting a shopping cart first before you proceed to shop, of course. It would mean not

having an appearance of sin, such as dressing inappropriately in provocative attire or letting children run around in an unruly manner in formal settings.

It's not only important to be obedient to our Heavenly Father, but also to not even show a hint of disobedience in our lives. For example, there was once a minister who owned a "chopper," a fully customized motorcycle with a flame job, extended forks, and a high backrest. What would you associate with a chopper? Would it be rebellion, perhaps, or maybe a motorcycle gang? This minister came to see the light of 1 Thessalonians 5:22 and decided to do something about it ... he sold it.

Sometimes when we judge others, it can be with a pompous attitude. With human nature, influenced by Satan's spirit, it can actually feel good to put someone down and to judge. We feel dominant somehow, and judging someone gives us authority, or so it would seem. We read, *For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man,* John 5:26-27.

Real authority comes from above and is in Yahshua Messiah, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.* John 5:22.

Judging Ourselves?

Apostle Paul, when giving instruction to the Corinthians on a number of issues, said concerning Passover, in 1 Corinthians 11:28-32, *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Master's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Master, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

The word "judge" used here is **Strong's** #1252 Greek word: "*diakrino*" {dee-ak-ree'-no}, which means to make a distinction or discriminate. It basically means to determine, give judgment, or decide a dispute.

The word "judge" used in the previous Scriptures is either **Strong's** #8199 Hebrew word: "*shaphat*" {shaw-fat'} or **Strong's** #2919 Greek word: "*krino*" {kree'-no}. Both words can mean discern or condemn, depending on the context. For example, discern might be meant here, *Do ye judge uprightly,*

O ye sons of men? Psalms 58:1.

The word condemn may be used here: *Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations,* Ezekiel 7:8. The word condemn is a powerful word, but yet some in the world – without good reason – are guilty of having "condemned" (judged) people in their thoughts, words, and even actions.

Both "discern" and "condemn" might be used here: *If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked,* Deuteronomy 25:1.

So, when we talk of judging ourselves, we're not to condemn ourselves but decide to do what is right, judging or discerning ourselves, each individually. Yahweh's Spirit is given so that we receive some help in judging ourselves.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged, John 16:7-11.

Judging Those in The Faith?

In describing how silly it was to judge a person, because he or she is a vegetarian (Rom. 14:2-3, see our booklet **Yahweh's Food Laws** to find out why they were eating only vegetables), or upon the day(s) one decided to fast (Rom. 14:5-6), the Apostle Paul goes on to say in Romans 14:10, *But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Messiah.*

Judging someone because they choose one day over another for fasting, whether it's once a month or even twice a week (see Luke 18:12), is just plain silly, but yet that's what some were doing. We're told not to do such things because they are not the right attitude we are to have:

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge (condemn) another? James 4:11-12, **NKJV**.

If you find yourself confronted with a situation where someone has offended you, perhaps you have witnessed something that is clearly a sin in a fellow brother or sister, then we have clear instructions on what to do:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the assembly: but if he neglect to hear the assembly, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican, Matthew 18:15-17.

This is a process that works. But keep in mind when going to a brother or sister to discuss something like this that it's better to begin with "I" instead of "you." Have your dialogue planned out ahead of time, and be levelheaded with your emotions under control. Let the person know you're not there to condemn.

Saying, "I understand" is much better than saying, "You have a problem." You should put yourself in their shoes and try to understand their situation. Otherwise, you will be condemning the person from the onset, though evidence of criminal actions rather than civil may need a direct approach with law enforcement.

Studying and learning what the Scriptures say about judging people is very important. The Bible gives us relationship skills that we need to use.

From the following verse, we can see that we need to be judging ourselves a little more, rather than judging others. *And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Matthew 7:3, NKJV.*

In considering our own shortfalls, we will be better able to have love and compassion when dealing with others. And isn't this what we want from our Heavenly Father Yahweh? We should then have these same things in abundance for others. Not condemning, but rather discerning rightly, when we think and look at others.

Benefits of Being Judged

When someone's situation is judged (discerned) to not be in line with Yahweh's Word, a guide for all of us (2 Tim. 3:16-17), it's an opportunity for growth.

Having one's shortcomings brought out is not the most comfortable of things to experience. Still, it is

an experience, if dealt with appropriately, that can be the guidance for change in the right direction.

Sometimes we can be unaware of ourselves, our actions, and how we may affect others. When approached, we can take objective information and humbly and prayerfully consider how imperfect we are and how we can take steps to improve. With Yahweh's help, all things are possible (Matt. 19:26).

It is important that we do not allow Satan to get to us and puff us up. Know that Satan was even able to get to King David, a man after Yahweh's own heart:

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it," 1 Chronicles 21:1-2.

Yahweh, many times over, will give us ways out of things so that we don't fall into sin. Joab was an individual who knew what King David was about to do and knew that Yahweh would not be pleased. Joab judged King David's words and went to him, but King David did not listen to reason, and as we will see, he suffered because of it.

And Joab answered, "YAHWEH make His people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my master the king, are they not all my master's servants? why then doth my master require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?" Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem, 1 Chronicles 21:3-4.

Joab was humble toward King David and repeatedly admitted that he was his servant by calling him master. His approach to King David was good, but King David, as we've already seen, didn't take the advice.

The punishment against King David for allowing Satan to move him was a pestilence that killed 70,000 people. David would have benefited greatly if he had humbly considered the advice of Joab, something which he evidently didn't do.

The lesson for us is to take sage advice when someone is correctly judging our situation. We must rely on the Spirit of Yahweh, Who may move someone to judge us so that we might stop and judge ourselves and change for the better. We all need to work together, and that will include, at times, judging and being judged.

Just remember that we are to be humble people, not condemning anyone, but rather discerning.

-Elder David Brett

Feasts of the Seventh Month

With the approach of autumn, we welcome the first of the four Annual Sabbaths, starting with the **Day of Trumpets**. It is a Sabbath of rest when no laborious work is to be done, except for the meals of the day. None of the Feasts of the seventh month has been fulfilled as yet. Fulfillment is yet ahead of us.

Remember, you are an example to those around you. Be a light to the world, and make this day a joy for your family. Spend extra time studying your Bible and prayer. Many of the brethren participate in a video or audio taped message both of which are available from YAIY.

Atonement

This day is indeed unique because it is referred to as a Feast day, but is actually a day of fasting! The Day of Atonement is a day in which no food or drink is taken for 24 hours — from sunset to sunset.

Leviticus 23:27 reads “afflict your souls,” which is a commanded fast. This can be seen by comparing Psalm 35:13; 69:10; and Isaiah 58:3. There are certain benefits from fasting, and Yahweh has legislated that His people fast at least this one special day.

Yahweh commands that no work of any kind be done on this day. It is the holiest of all days of the year. It is not uncommon that extra rest be taken this day. Make certain all work is completed beforehand so no complaints from the family will be forthcoming. Remember that fasting is from sunset the previous evening to sunset of this day.

Remember Yahweh’s days begin at sunset (Lev. 23:32). When the sun has set, a new day begins and eating an evening meal can commence. Eat only a moderate meal following the Day of Atonement. Those under medical care should check with their physician.

Feast of Tabernacles

This is the most joyous time of the year. The harvest is in, and we can thank Yahweh for a bountiful growing season and look forward to His harvest of souls.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to join with others of like faith in thanking and praising Yahweh. We share our hopes and dreams for the seven days with others also striving to enter the Kingdom under Yahshua Messiah. It is a time to rejoice!

Reading the book of Deuteronomy is timely, for it will be the constitution of the coming Kingdom. The book on the side of the ark, which went into

the promised land, was the book of Deuteronomy, 31:26. We can relate this to our own future entrance (Heb. 4:1). (Take special note: Heb. 3:16-19; 4:11).

High Sabbath and Last Great Day/Eighth Day

The first Day of the Feast of Tabernacles is a High Sabbath, and after seven days comes the last Great Day of the Feast, written in the Law as the Eighth Day. No work is to be done neither on the first day of Tabernacles nor on the last Great Day.

Yahweh places His Name in His people through baptism, and the Elders of His Assembly invite all sincere people to attend the Feast and join with others who have been sealed with His Name (Rev. 14:1).

Assemble for Annual Sabbaths

The Passover in Egypt was a family gathering as they huddled in their houses for fear of the destroying angel. The next day Israel gathered together as a congregation at Rameses to keep the first annual Sabbath, the first day of Unleavened Bread. ALL Israel joined in convocation to keep all seven Annual Feast days. They did not keep these Feasts in their back yard.

The Feasts are given to Yahweh’s people to educate and strengthen them in the most holy faith. Work is permitted between the first Day of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day (except for the weekly Sabbath which falls within the week).

To neglect the full week of the Feast and keep only the High Days deprives one of the joys that Yahweh has set before us. The Feast of Tabernacles is like a giant family reunion. Brethren we meet inspire and encourage each of us and we learn we are not alone, for many wrestle the same problems we face.

If the reason you are not attending Yahweh’s Festivals is financial, you should start saving now a second tithe which you set aside to ensure your means of attending future Feasts (Deut. 14:22-23). This is Yahweh’s way of ensuring your obedience in gathering together with His spiritual family of sons and daughters.

May Yahweh inspire you with zeal to become fully committed to Him so that when you come you are behind in no work or responsibility, but have faithfully trusted in Him to guide you in deeper truth. Should you have any Biblical questions, feel free to get in touch with us. Allow Yahweh the opportunity to bless you and plan to attend the next Feast of Tabernacles with us.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q In Deuteronomy 21:22-23, the Scriptures say that a man whose body is hanged on a tree shall not remain on the tree overnight, but his body should be buried on the same day lest a curse should befall upon the land. I want to know, 1. Because the Scripture commands that you should bury a deceased person on the same day as his passing, is it a sin to place the corpse in a mortuary, there prepared for a funeral service and interment a few days later? 2. If someone dies on the sabbath, is it a sin to bury the corpse on the Sabbath?

A The command applies to one who is put to death because he was worthy of death, that is, he was sentenced to death, and not particularly to those who die of natural causes or by accidental means. The phrase, “upon the tree,” foresees impalement, vis-à-vis, the Roman’s means by which Yahshua was executed.

The urgency with which Yahshua and the two malefactors who were executed with Him were removed from their torture stakes and interred the same day, because the next day was a High Sabbath, the first day of Unleavened Bread and they which had condemned Yahshua to death did not want themselves to be defiled so as to prevent their observance of the Sabbath (John 19:31). This verse should inform our practice, too, of not burying the dead on the Sabbath, lest we risk becoming defiled.

Under the proscriptions of the Torah, this command was peculiarly applicable to Israel, because unattended dead bodies would incur a curse upon

the land which they had received of Yahweh as an inheritance. Moreover, disgrace and shame might be accorded both the deceased and family members for negligence in seeing to the immediate disposition of the decedent’s remains.

Lastly, leaving a corpse subject to open air and without proper burial could produce the potential for communicable diseases suffered among the living.

Q It says in Matthew 27:52, when the Messiah was resurrected, the body of saints rose with him. Did they go to heaven and do we see them in Revelation 4:4 as 24 elders singing and praising? And, in Revelation 4:4 who are the 24 elders, and what are the 4 creatures?

A Concerning Matthew 27:52 we have to keep in mind that there are two major resurrections (Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13). Before the first one, yet ahead of us, we know no one has ascended to heaven except the Son of Man (Acts 2:29, 34). When the earthquake took place, tombs were opened, but evidently, no one rose from those open tombs until Yahshua arose from His. They were called holy ones (saints). Does that indicate they were faithful to Yahweh, similar to the faithful mentioned in Hebrews 11? We know it could not possibly be those who had accepted the Messiah and baptized into His death, accepting His Sacrifice. Certainly not before the Sacrifice occurred. However, could it have been those living during His time (3 years since preaching) and being accepting of Him, but having died before He did? If they were raised, they could be baptized and live until they went back to sleep (death) and be raised when He returns a second time. This latter option may have more merit than the other. Nevertheless, they did not enter into heaven as spirit beings (first fruits) in Messiah, which happens during the first resurrection when He returns (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

Concerning the twenty-four elders who wore white and had crowns like kings. Is this symbolic of those going before Yahweh day and night, like the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3-4)? Suggestions that they represent the Twelve Tribes and Twelve Apostles (Rev. 21:12-14), would mean John is seeing a vision of himself. But we really don’t know, though it’s interesting to think of the possibilities. The four living creatures may also represent twenty-four, as they each have six wings ($4 \times 6 = 24$). Twelve is symbolic of a perfect government, whereas twenty-four is double emphasis on that idea. I’m at a loss of who or what they are, other than perhaps seraphim (see Isa. 6:2, 6).



Q Isn't addressing ministers by titles as Elder, Deacon, Pastor or even one another as Brother or Sister, respecting their person and giving occasion to puff them up? Why not instead, address them by their given names, or ascribing titles to them as, "Mr."... "Mrs."... "Sir"... Ma'am" ... "Miss"?

A The Book of Job, reputed to be the oldest in the Canon of Scripture, provides us with an answer:

Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; [in so doing] my Maker would soon take me away, Job 32:21-22.

Then, we read in Matthew 23, Yahshua's instruction to the multitudes and to His disciples, that they should refrain from addressing any as "Rabbi ... Father ... Master". Nevertheless, it is important to appreciate the context in which He said this and also, the real reason Job decries giving flattering titles unto man, which beg the question, "Why would Yahshua instruct His disciples not to address any as "Rabbi ... Father ... Master"? And why would Job refrain from giving men flattering titles? Well, the answer has something to do with, "My Maker would soon take me away."

In Matthew 23, Yahshua was speaking of scribe and Pharisee who were much better telling their subjects what they should do, than doing so themselves. Of course, they hadn't yet read 1 Peter 5:3 – well, they couldn't have, as the epistle hadn't yet been written – Neither as being lords over [Yahweh's] heritage, but being examples to the flock or perhaps, understood in the Master's own words, But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant, Matthew 23:11.

If there is wrong in addressing any with titles, it would be in man taking this honor to himself (Heb. 5:4). To be sure, scribe and Pharisee sought to be accorded the greatest honor among men. Receiving others' address as "Rabbi ... Father ... Master" only served to accentuate the esteem with which they regarded themselves. (Remember, these trusted in, and went about establishing their own righteousness, Luke 18:9; Rom. 10:3.)

Beside Yahweh there is none else. Surely, He Who had said – no fewer than eleven times in the Book of Isaiah alone – "I am Yahweh ... there is no other ... I know none other" – wants us to avert becoming like the pagan priest Simon Magus who gave himself out as some great one, even the great power of Elohim (Acts 8:9, 10) or perhaps worse, like that principality and power; that spiritual wickedness in high places; that ruler of the darkness of this world

(Eph. 6:12); that prince (John 14:30) and god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4); that prince of the power of the air (Eph. 4:2), which thought he could ascend to, and exalt his throne above the stars of Elohim and be like the Most High (Isa. 14:13-14). It is still better that another should praise you than that you should praise yourself (Prov. 27:2).

It could be argued, moreover, that "Mr." ... "Mrs." ... "Sir" ... Ma'am" ... "Miss" are titles that also respect the persons to which they are ascribed. Very many would think it disrespectful to address their physician as just, So-And-So, rather than by Doctor So-And-So. In a court of law, that one who occupies the bench is customarily addressed as, "Your Honor," even by the attorneys who may not be of any less prominence in training, education, and experience than he.

Bottom line: If a member of the Presbytery – whether Elder or Deacon – behaves himself unbecoming to the position of a servant-leader, he should not be worthy of receiving such a title of respect. Otherwise, as a fellow citizen of the House of Yahweh, we should "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (1 Thess. 5:13).

And of addressing a water-immersed Brother and a Sister for what they are, a water-immersed Brother and a Sister? Why not recognize such as called out and separated from all that is the rest of the world? Certainly, all that is the rest of the world are not brothers and sisters in this Holy Fraternity. Yahweh approves that of some, we should make this difference (Jude 1:22).

Q Where did the term Jew come from, since it's not the original?

A It's like most of the confusion we see today through languages and the rules thereof. For example, Greek has no "sh" sound, so uses "s." Latin adds an "us" to the end of any proper masculine noun. Hence, we have the perfect storm to misdirect the Savior's Name into something He nor the disciples of His day would recognize. The term "Jew" was first used as a derogatory name for those taken captive by the Babylonians in the 6th century. Originally the name was Yahudah (one of the 12 sons of Israel), which means one who praises Yahweh (Gen. 29:35). We can tell when someone is or is not genuinely praising Yahweh, as they'll do what He says.

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***"...On the fifteenth day of the seventh month is the
Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to Yahweh." Leviticus 23:34***

