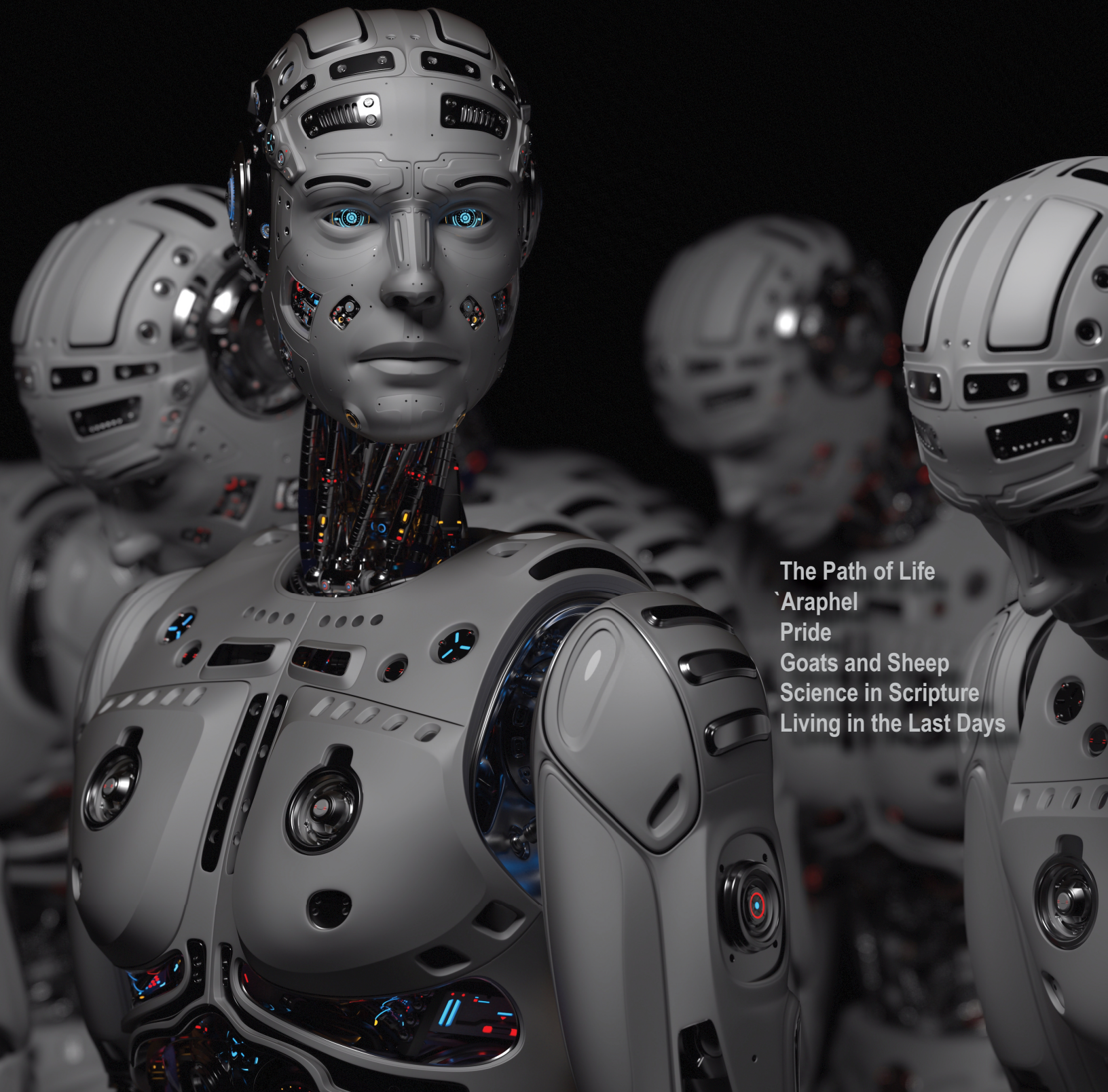


YAIY BEACON

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The Path of Life
Araphel
Pride
Goats and Sheep
Science in Scripture
Living in the Last Days

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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CONTACT US

MAIL: YAIY
2963 County Road 233
Kingdom City, MO 65262

PHONE: 1-573-642-4100

FREE : 1-877-642-4101

EMAIL: beacon@yaiy.org

WEB: www.yaiy.org

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Sabbath Services @1:30 pm CT





The Path of Life

*You will show
me the path
of life: in
Your presence
[is] fullness
of joy; at
Your right
hand [there are]
pleasures for
evermore,
Psalm 16:11*

Psalm 16:11 speaks of a path of life, a way which leads to Yahweh's right hand and everlasting pleasures. Just where may one find this path? And once found, may one go astray? Many examples in Scripture serve as guideposts to the path of life and give warning to those who go another way. ➡

Consider the Garden

Consider the Garden of Eden, a place of paradise where Adam and Eve were told they could eat from every tree, except from the tree of good and evil.

And Yahweh Elohim planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made Yahweh Elohim to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Genesis 2:8-9.

Adam was given a choice – he could obey Yahweh or not. If he chose to disobey Yahweh’s instruction, the penalty would be death,

And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die ...So He drove out the man, and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the tree of life, Genesis 2:16-17, 3:24.

What are the cherubim and a flaming sword? If we can identify these, we can find the path leading to the tree of life. Cherubim are spiritual beings that serve in the presence of Yahweh, and are not visible to the natural man to whom it is not given to discern spiritual things because the things of Yahweh are foolishness to him (1 Cor. 2:14). The flaming sword may be understood in the context of “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Yahweh” (Eph. 6:17).

And He said, “Yahweh came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Paran, and He came with ten thousand of saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them, Deuteronomy 33:2.

From His right hand, a fiery law? Yes, written upon two stone tablets and placed within the Ark of the Covenant and covered, by two cherubim. Thus, the gateway to the tree of life is found: *Blessed [are] they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city, Revelation 22:14.*

So, they which have right to the tree of life are they which turn from their wickedness and do that which is lawful and right (Ezek. 33:19).

Nineveh, Given Us an Example

An example of Yahweh’s grace to the penitent is found in the book of Jonah. There, Yahweh had dispatched Jonah to Nineveh to pronounce judgment

upon that city. *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be destroyed,” Jonah 3:4. But Nineveh responded to Jonah’s words, and proclaimed a fast both of its inhabitants and their livestock (verse 7). Furthermore, its king decreed that everyone should turn from their evil way and the violence in their hands (verse 8), that perhaps Yahweh might repent Himself of His intention (verse 9). And Elohim saw their works, that they turned from the evil way; and Elohim repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them, and He did [it] not, Jonah 3:10.*

Nevertheless, one hundred fifty years later, the people of Nineveh returned to their former estate of sin: *Woe to the bloody city! it [is] all full of lies [and] robbery; the prey departs not; the noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots, Nahum 3:1-2. This prideful city was destroyed, like so many who profess conversion but then turn again to sin and lawlessness. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, “The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire,” 2 Peter 2:22.*

To the one truly transformed and renewed in the spirit of his mind, the enticements that once drew him away and beset him no longer pose a temptation to him. He has become a living sacrifice, dying daily (denying fleshly lusts), and is therefore able to walk in the good, acceptable, and perfect will of Yahweh as a new creature, in newness of life (Rom. 12:1-2).

A Narrow Path to Life and Light

Scripture speaks of the narrow way which leads to life and of the broad way which leads to death (Matt. 7:13-14). To walk on the narrow path to life requires commitment and sacrifice. One must have a willing mind (2 Cor. 8:11-12) to walk in obedience to Yahweh’s will.

What is Yahweh’s will? *O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever, Deuteronomy 5:29. No time out, but a life of continuing obedience.*

And so, *Every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure. Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And you know that He was manifest to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abides in Him sins not; whosoever sins has not seen Him, neither known Him, 1 John 3:3-6.*

The Garden of Eden was a place of pleasure or delight where the only restriction imposed upon Adam and Eve was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. David, the servant of Yahweh, expresses in Psalm 36:7-9 the pleasure or delight the obedient have in Yahweh:

How excellent is Your lovingkindness, O Elohim! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the Fountain of life: in Your Light shall we see Light, Psalm 36:7-9.

The Light of Yahweh is His Word – both a Lamp to our feet, and a Light to our path (Psa. 119:105) – or, if you will, Yahshua, Yahweh’s Word made flesh and through Whom all must come to obtain Life, as He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and by Whom no man comes to the Father (John 14:6).

Yes, Yahshua, the Fountain of Living Waters; the Water that flowed from the rock of flint (Deut. 8:15; 1 Cor. 10:4). He is the Good Shepherd and His sheep know His voice, and they follow Him and no man shall be able to pluck them out of His hand (John 10:27-28).

Conclusion

And how does one know that he loves Yahweh? *He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him,* John 14:21.

Do you have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying? Do you have a willing heart and a desire to walk in Yahweh’s Garden, and to eat from the Tree of Life? Yahweh’s Garden is a place of joy and abundant pleasure and delight ... forevermore, surpassing our imagination.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Elohim has prepared for them that love Him, 1 Corinthians 2:9.

- Brother Richard Anderson

‘Araphel (Thick, Gross Darkness)

The Hebrew word ‘Araphel (H.6205, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*) translated into English as, gloom, thick darkness, gross darkness, dark, and thick cloud, appears fifteen times in the Hebrew text of Scripture. This word is used in reference to Yahweh’s dwelling as well as the time of darkness which will be upon the whole earth as judgment is poured forth.

Clouds, Darkness: Yahweh’s Dwelling Place

To begin the analysis of this all-important word, we will let Psalm 97:1–2 first speak:

Yahweh reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad [thereof]. Clouds and darkness [are] round about Him: righteousness and judgment [are] the habitation of His throne.

One may ask, “If Yahweh is light and in Him is no darkness, why would He cover Himself with darkness?” (1 John 1:5). When Moses asked to see His glory, Yahweh replied, saying, “*I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the Name of Yahweh before you; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*” And He said, “*You can not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live,*” Exodus 33:19–20.

Yahweh has shielded Himself so that sinful man would not be consumed with His glorious light of righteousness. Yes, Yahweh is gracious and full of mercy and He is not willing any man should perish (2 Pet. 3:9). Therefore, a way was prepared for man’s salvation: repentance, water immersion for the remission of sins that are past, justification by the atoning blood of Yahshua, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and sanctification. These are all done in the Name of, and by the authority of, Yahshua *ha Mashiach* (the Anointed); no other way, no other Name (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Man’s transgressions must be removed and he must put on the garment of righteousness spoken of in Revelation 19:8: *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

This is not a pious attitude of self-righteousness, but rather that of a broken and contrite heart which looks to Yahweh for forgiveness and cleansing. It is only found walking in willing obedience to the Light of His Word – made flesh, as an Example for men to follow (John 1:1–4, 14; 1 Pet. 2:21–24).

At Mount Sinai, following the giving of the Commandments, *All the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking and when the people saw [it], they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, “Speak you with us, and we will hear: but let not Elohim speak with us, lest we die.” And Moses said unto the people, “Fear not: for Elohim is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that you sin not.”*

And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the **thick darkness** where Elohim [was], Exodus 20:18–21.

In the parallel Deuteronomy 5:22–24 account, Yahweh is said to have spoken to the assembly “out of the midst of the fire, of the **cloud**, and of the **thick darkness**, with a great voice.”

In both accounts, the word **’araphel** is used, and translated as **thick darkness**. It is in the thick darkness where Yahweh dwells.

The narrative in 1 Kings 8:10–12 tells when the Temple constructed by Solomon was dedicated and the priests withdrew after placing the Ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy Place, “the cloud filled the House of Yahweh, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of Yahweh had filled the house of Yahweh. Then spoke Solomon, ‘Yahweh said that He would dwell in the **thick darkness**.’”

’Araphel, Other References

In Isaiah 60:1–2, we read:

*Arise, shine; for your Light is come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon you. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and **gross darkness** the people: but Yahweh shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you.*

Yes, even in the darkest of times, the Light of Yahweh can be seen upon His people. In the ninth plague which Yahweh imposed upon Egypt, “there was a **thick darkness** in all the land of Egypt three days” (Exod. 10:22).

We see this word **’araphel** in other places of the nebi’im (prophets):

- *Give glory to Yahweh your Elohim, before He cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for Light, He turn it into the shadow of death, [and] make [it] **gross darkness**, Jeremiah 13:16;*
- *Blow you the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of Yahweh comes for it [is] near at hand; a day of darkness, and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there has not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, [even] to the years of many generations, Joel 2:1–2.*

- *That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble, and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, Zephaniah 1:15.*

It is during this time of **darkness**, that Yahweh will gather His people. *For thus says my Sovereign Yahweh, “Behold, I, [even] I, will both search My sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep [that are] scattered; so will I seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and **dark** day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country,” Ezekiel 34:11–13.*

Finally, **’Araphel** finds its place also, in the following Scriptures:

- *And you came near and stood under the mountains; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and **thick darkness**, Deut.4:11.*
- *He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and **darkness** [was] under His feet, 2 Samuel 22:10.*
- *Then said Solomon, “Yahweh has said that He would dwell in the **thick darkness**, 2 Chronicles 6:1.*
- *And you say, “How does Elohim know? Can He judge through the **dark cloud**?” Job 22:13.*
- *When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and **thick darkness** a swaddlingband for it, Job 38:9.*
- *He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and **darkness** was under His feet, Psalm 18:9.*

Conclusion

’Araphel – prevailing gloom, thick darkness, gross darkness, dark, and thick clouds and the estate in which the most of humanity dwells.

What about you? Are you in a state of slumber? It is time, past time, to awake! Trim your lamp, for the Bridegroom is coming to pour forth judgment upon a disobedient world and afterwards to gather His elect together.

May you, having now steadfastly trusted in His Word, then be found worthy of His calling out!

- Brother Richard Anderson



What does Yahweh think of Pride? The Scriptures are replete with thoughts on the matter. Some areas are very specific. For example, there are seven things Yahweh hates, and one of them is pride as shown by one's haughty eyes. It is first among the list of seven abominations.

There are six things which Yahweh hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness [who] utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers, Proverbs 6:16-19. **New American Standard Bible** used throughout, unless otherwise noted.

Verse 17 in the **King James Version** exchanges "a proud look" for "haughty eyes." And in Proverbs 21:4 of the **NASB**, "haughty eyes" is equated with "a proud heart;" in the **KJV**, "a high look" with "a proud heart."

Satan's Attributes

But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High," Isaiah 14:13-14.

Following the first abomination of "haughty eyes," is "a lying tongue." These are attributes properly belonging to Satan, the devil, who in the beginning lifted himself up in the deception of his pride.

The father of lies (John 8:44), Satan is like a roaring lion running to and fro, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). And not content, he stands before the Throne as the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10), seeking to frustrate the grace and mercy commended to blood-washed saints.

The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate, Proverbs 8:13.

We don't think of a loving Elohim hating anything. But those things which are set at variance with Him, He hates. And whatever is set at variance with Him, we must hate, too.

And so, Yahweh is not willing we should be ignorant of Satan's schemes (2 Cor. 2:11). For they which yield themselves in service to him, devise wickedness and shed innocent blood, causing and spreading strife among peoples everywhere.

Is it any wonder, that Yahweh hates these things? They embody what Satan is. Yahweh wants us to resist Satan and to completely renounce these seven abominations the devil represents.

They which fear, honor and respect Yahweh will reject these abominable ways. For he that willfully continues in sin (Heb. 10:26), brings injury and death to himself (Prov. 8:36).

Opposites do NOT attract in the economies of Yahweh. As in, "the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another" (Gal. 5:17). The Spirit tends toward Life, but the flesh, toward death.

Both blessings and cursings proceed from Yahweh. The following Scriptures further presents us with the cause and effect of blessings and cursings.

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; no one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with Me; he who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to Me. He who practices deceit shall not dwell within My house; he who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before Me, Psalm 101:5–7.

Yahweh will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow. Evil plans are an abomination to Yahweh, but pleasant words are pure. He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live. The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. Yahweh is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous, Proverbs 15:25–29.

You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty, Psalm 18:27.

Kings Not Immune

Conventional wisdom says, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Hitler, Mussolini, Saddam Hussein – all stood and fell as examples of absolute power corrupting absolutely. Satan's pride was his own downfall, sometime after he was created. Satan has become the pattern for

man's pride, since the whole world is under his rule.

In Scripture, we find King Saul starting out humble and good for the position. But then, he sinned and added further transgression to his sin, never properly repenting but instead, wanted to be lifted up in front of the people in 1 Samuel 15:30.

King Nebuchadnezzar thought he was really something – giving himself out as some great one, even the great power of a mighty one (Acts 8:9–10) – until Yahweh abased him for seven years. Afterwards he seemed to repent and acknowledged Yahweh, exalting and honoring Him in Daniel 4:37, saying,

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.

Pride often underlies the motives of men, whether its expression is observable or cloaked with subtlety. James asserts all such boasting in one's arrogance is evil, and that one does well to accept Yahweh's will. Moreover, he says, "one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:16–17).

"I did it my way" – a line from a song made popular by Frank Sinatra decades ago, expresses well the pride many have today. However, its wages are death. We read, *Pride [goes] before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling,* Proverbs 16:18.

Worldly Ways vs. Yahweh's Ways

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and [also] its lusts; but the one who does the will of Elohim lives forever, 1 John 2:16–17.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest, Ephesians 2:1–3.

Dead in sin, walking in the world and of the lusts of the world. But the love of Yahweh opened our eyes, and we repented of these things. And now, we are no longer children of disobedience, but rather of obedience.

“*Pride [goes] before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling*”

-Proverbs 16:18

We can clearly distinguish one who is of the world from one who is not of the world, having separated themselves from the world. We are no longer to be setting our minds on the things that are on earth (Col. 3:2) pursuing the world's pleasures but rather, seeking the things above. Those things of Yahweh, and of the coming Kingdom of heaven (Col. 3:1).

At this moment, Satan is the mighty one of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and was our mighty one, too. But we've been called out of darkness and into the presence of Yahweh, through Yahshua the Messiah, the Light (1 Pet. 2:9). We serve a different Master now.

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the Word of Elohim, but by the manifestation of Truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of Elohim. And even if our evangel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the elohim of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the Light of the Evangel of the esteem of Messiah, Who is the Image of Elohim, 2 Corinthians 4:1-4.

It's really remarkable when we think about what has happened to us -- where we were, headed toward perdition and where we are now, heirs of an imperishable and undefiled Kingdom (1 Pet. 1:4).

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

The Flesh vs. The Spirit

The spiritual is emphasized now more than the physical. We look through spiritual eyes now, much more than when we used to just look through our physical eyes.

Yet, we are still physical and still have this struggle with the flesh and sometimes, if we are honest, we falter.

James understood this and addressed it.

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; [so] you commit murder. You are envious and cannot

obtain; [so] you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend [it] on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward Elohim? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of Elohim. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?" James 4:1-5.

What James writes here, may be hard for some to receive.

Nevertheless, all Scripture is written for our instruction (Rom. 15:4) and the examples it provides (1 Cor. 10:11) helps us.

King David's pride moved him to commit murder to cover up his adulterous lust for a subordinate's wife (2 Sam. 11). Yet, when he was confronted by the prophet Nathan, "You are the man" (2 Sam. 12:7), he immediately confessed and repented of his sin.

King Saul, on the other hand, when demanded of Samuel the reason for his transgression, neither confessed nor repented of his pride but sought instead, to lay its responsibility upon the people (1 Sam. 15:20).

We pray for better things among ourselves.

For He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, "ELOHIM ISOPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." Submit therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to Elohim and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of Yahweh, and He will exalt you, James 4:6-10.

The message is, in humility, we resist Satan who is full of pride.

Yahshua the Messiah, Who came to serve and not be served (Matt. 20:28) taught that the rewards are not for the proud, but for the humble:

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- *Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.*

- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*
- *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Elohim.*
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of Elohim.*
- *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you, Matthew 5:3–12.

In speaking to the sons of Zebedee, who wanted to sit on each side of Yahshua in His Reign, the Master reproved them for their wrong attitude/spirit.

Yahshua called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and [their] great men exercise authority over them. It is not [to be] this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many,” Matthew 20:25–28.

So, not only did Yahshua come to serve and not be served, but He came to give His life for many.

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Messiah, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not [merely] look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Messiah Yahshua, who, although He existed in the form of Elohim, did not regard equality with Elohim a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men, Philippians 2:1–7.

“... Being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose” speaks of how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to

dwell together in unity (Psa. 133:1). We are to be perfectly joined together in the same mind, speech, and judgment (1 Cor. 1:10). Has this happened yet? We look forward to being united more fully and completely, when Yahshua returns. But, we strive for the perfection even now.

This is the will of Yahshua for His Body, and He Himself became that example for us,

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a torture stake. For this reason also, Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, so that at the Name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the esteem of Elohim the Father, Philippians 2:8–11.

We also, as we humble ourselves and are persecuted for righteousness sake, shall be exalted at the appointed time and rewarded for the deeds done in these bodies.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is Elohim Who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of Elohim above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12–15.

We teach and live Yahshua’s example. We are abstaining from sin, honoring the Heavenly Father by doing His will just as the Savior did.

Considering pride, manifested by the deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:19) and the death it brings, why would one not choose LIFE obtained by doing good, with humility and walking in Yahweh’s Spirit? *For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Messiah Yahshua have put to death the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another, Galatians 5:22–26.* The things opposite to pride, are the things of LIFE.

- Elder David Brett



GOATS and SHEEP



(differences in behavior)

As you can see in the images above, the goat appears a little naughtier – with its tongue sticking out – than the sheep. It apparently, is biting its tongue, which is something we sheep need to do at times.

In this article, we'll take a look at some of the characteristic differences between actual goats and sheep, and apply those things to us as a people.

We have a shepherd's hook on the wall at the Assembly, which is one of the tools of a shepherd. A shepherd will use it to pull a sheep back from harm or to discipline one that is wandering from the flock. It is also used for guiding the flock. In Scripture, we, as a people, are equated with sheep.

My people have become lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside on the mountains; they have gone along from mountain to hill and have forgotten their resting place, Jeremiah 50:6 (*New American Standard Bible*, used throughout, unless otherwise noted). This is end time prophecy.

Israel in Prophecy

"In those days and at that time," declares Yahweh, "the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be Yahweh their Elohim they will seek. They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to Yahweh in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten," Jeremiah 50:4–5.

This is similar to what we read in Ezekiel, chapter 34. It's an allusion or reference to the remnant of Israel in the last days, with Yahshua ruling over them in the coming Kingdom and judging the peoples.

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, Matthew 25:31–33.

We want to make sure we're on His right hand. Discerning the characteristic differences between Goats and Sheep can help us.

Not all attributes of goats are identifiable with mankind, however. Goats fall down when startled by a loud noise. People don't normally do that. Nevertheless, some goat attributes are clearly relatable to people.

Goats Eat Weeds

A PBS special entitled, *Goats Eat Weeds*, presented some interesting facts about goats. Goats are used for land management. There are actual goat grazing projects in which they systematically clear out overgrown brush, weeds and thistles from an area.

When contrasting goat eating behavior from sheep behavior, goats are browsers. Their heads and their tails up and often look around, intrigued, distracted and led by their senses of



sight, smell, and taste and liking to wander farther into areas other livestock won't typically go. Their four-chambered stomachs produce enzymes which aid in digesting hard materials like brush, wormwood, thistle and thorny types of weeds, broken off branches, tree bark, and lower-lying tree leaves. Goats' digestive tolerances adapt to eating poisonous hemlock and other invasive plants. They chew and grind up everything in their mouths, so that not even evacuated seeds can germinate. This is one reason goats are favored, natural weed eaters.

Nevertheless, since goats are willing to eat anything, they can get what is called "bloat" – overeating to the point of death within a day's time. We could consider Adam and Eve, who in one day died a spiritual death when they ate forbidden fruit.

Significantly, the Word of Yahweh identifies what constitutes the diet of goat-people. That is, works of the flesh:

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of Elohim, Galatians 5:19–21.

Sheep, on the other hand, are grazers and keep their heads and tails down and tend not to look around, pasturing on clean grasses exclusively. They abstain from grasses tainted with fecal matter. This closely represents, in their ingestions, the clean foods prescribed in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 14 for Yahweh's people.

Their diet consists of the fruit of the Spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5:22–23).

What are Weeds?

The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life may be thought as weeds, and as those things that can be related to false doctrines and even worldly distractions. Things which can draw us away from doing what we're supposed to be doing.

From Scripture, weeds are represented as "tares." Tares can be very toxic, mixed with the wheat and having the ability to choke out the good grain.

The Apostle Paul, who was also a shepherd under the cover of the Chief Shepherd, wrote to Timothy, saying, *Pay close attention to yourself and to your*

teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you, 1 Timothy 4:16.

Continuing this theme, the Apostle also exhorted the Assembly at Ephesus, saying, *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of Elohim which He purchased with His own blood, Acts 20:28.*

The next verse speaks of savage wolves – in sheep's clothing, no doubt – coming in, not sparing the flock (Acts 20:29). Their doctrine by nature is unclean, poisonous and deadly. It's fitting to make this symbolic connection to noxious weeds.

Wandering Goats

An Australian feral (wild) goat herder once said, "You have to lead the goats where they want to go." His observation confirms the fact that goats travel where they want to go, because that's their nature and so also, is it the nature of fallen mankind. Their hearts are more deceitful than all else and desperately sick (Jer. 17:9). They choose to abide outside Yahweh's will and commandments.

But goats are not smarter because they wander off and get into various things. Hence, the need for electric fences to manage them. And neither are people who wander off and get into various things. In fact, that is what makes symbolic goats (people) unacceptable and why there will be a future separation made by Yahshua the Messiah Who has been given authority to make that judgment (Matt. 25:31–33).

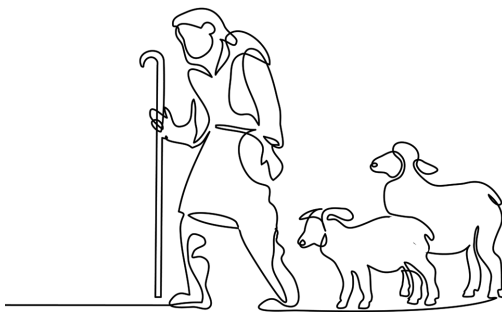
Scripturally speaking, Yahweh's children are sheep, no longer "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Eph. 4:14).

Most people, however, behave like goats. They look around and are intrigued and distracted. This, just as we were formerly, when "we also were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another" (Tit. 3:3).

The Apostle John further corroborates this, writing, *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of Yahweh lives forever, 1 John 2:16-17.*

Get in the Sheep Line!

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of Yahweh is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect, Romans 12:2.



Sheep are ambassadors for the Kingdom of Yahweh, looking toward the promise of the life that shall be (1 Tim. 4:8) and striving to live that Kingdom life now, by overcoming this world. Sheep look forward to Yahweh's Government and to inheriting Its Good and Perfect Promises. Promises reserved for the sheep, and not for the goats.

To the sheep, the instruction is clear. **Get in the Sheep Line.** "Seek His Kingdom ... for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the Kingdom" (Luke 12:31, 32). So, it's important to be distinguished from goats, and particularly known by that upon which they are feeding.

And we can know we are sheep, by renouncing what we were and acknowledging what we are now become. We have heard and follow the True Shepherd's voice Who always did/does His Father's will (John 8:29).

Goats want, and will do that which is right in their own eyes (Judg. 17:6) and are not easily led. This is what differentiates goats from sheep.

Obeying His Voice

Sheep know their master's voice and will come at His summons. But if a stranger comes and calls them, they will pull away or ignore that one altogether. Yahshua, the Chief Shepherd and Overseer (1 Pet. 2:25) affirmed: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me ... And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers,* John 10:27, 5.

How do we know the True Shepherd's voice? Isn't it because of the Word He speaks? It's not of His own, but of His Father!

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love, John 15:10. In which is also a confirmation of what we read in Deuteronomy 5:10, *Showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

These two parallel verses show that Yahshua did our Father's will and abode in His love because of doing His Father's will. He never sinned. He

never transgressed His Father's commandments.

Do we want to abide in Yahshua's love, just as He abides in Yahweh's love? Of course, we do. The point is, we are sheep who hear His voice and obey It. We are different from goats in our behavior. We prove

ourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude ourselves (James 1:22).

This Way (Acts 9:2) as we already know, is a lightly traveled road. But it's the Correct Way. It's Yahweh's Way, "A stronghold to the upright, but ruin to the workers of iniquity" (Prov. 10:29).

What does this word, "iniquity," mean? Well, it's also translated as "evil" and "wickedness" in other translations. Yahshua defined "iniquity" this way: *And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness,"* Matthew 7:23.

Those who are lawless tend not to maintain their focus on the Word of Yahweh. Hence, they go to the left or to the right and don't remain steadfast in Spirit and in Truth.

But as sheep in Yahweh's pasture, we are not be distracted. Sheep in Yahweh's pasture embrace the wisdom of Proverbs 4:25-27:

Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not run to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.

Stubborn and Unpredictable

As animals go, goats can be likened to donkeys. They are known for their stubbornness and unpredictability. They will butt heads with an opponent and won't stop fighting, because they like playing "king of the hill." And don't try to take away what they're eating.

There are, what are called "he-goats" ... likened to the Alpha Male within a wolf pack. Other goats tend to follow a "he-goat" within a particular herd. But "he-goats" are also likened to false prophets, of whom the Master warns:

But beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? Matthew 7:15-16.

Another goat-trait is found in Proverbs 29:1:

A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

Something Better

Neither this character trait – hardening the neck after much reproof – nor its outcome, characterizes sheep. Sheep, who, if they are truly walking by the Spirit in Messiah, have the following attributes, with love first and foremost.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.

“Endures all things,” reminds us of sheep. If pasturing in the rain, they will endure. Goats, on the other hand, because of their nature, become irritated and will seek cover. Symbolically, perhaps, the sheep are created specifically to receive spiritually, the early and latter rains, the Spirit of Yahweh, the cleansing of living waters, etc.

Sheep, docile and humble, stay the course. The Apostle wrote,

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others, Philipians 2:2–4.

Paul’s Epistles – It’s Feeding Time

In establishing the Assemblies in the first century, Paul’s Epistles establish “the decrees for to keep” (Acts 16:4 KJV). These are to be kept pure and fed to Yahweh’s flock, that is, the doctrines from Yahweh’s Word – Scripture, in other words. It tells us what to do and what not to do.

Here are some highlights, from those letters by the hand of the Apostle Paul:

- 1 Timothy 1:3 *As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines.*
- 1 Timothy 4:6 *In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Messiah Yahshua, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.*
- 1 Timothy 4:13 *Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.*

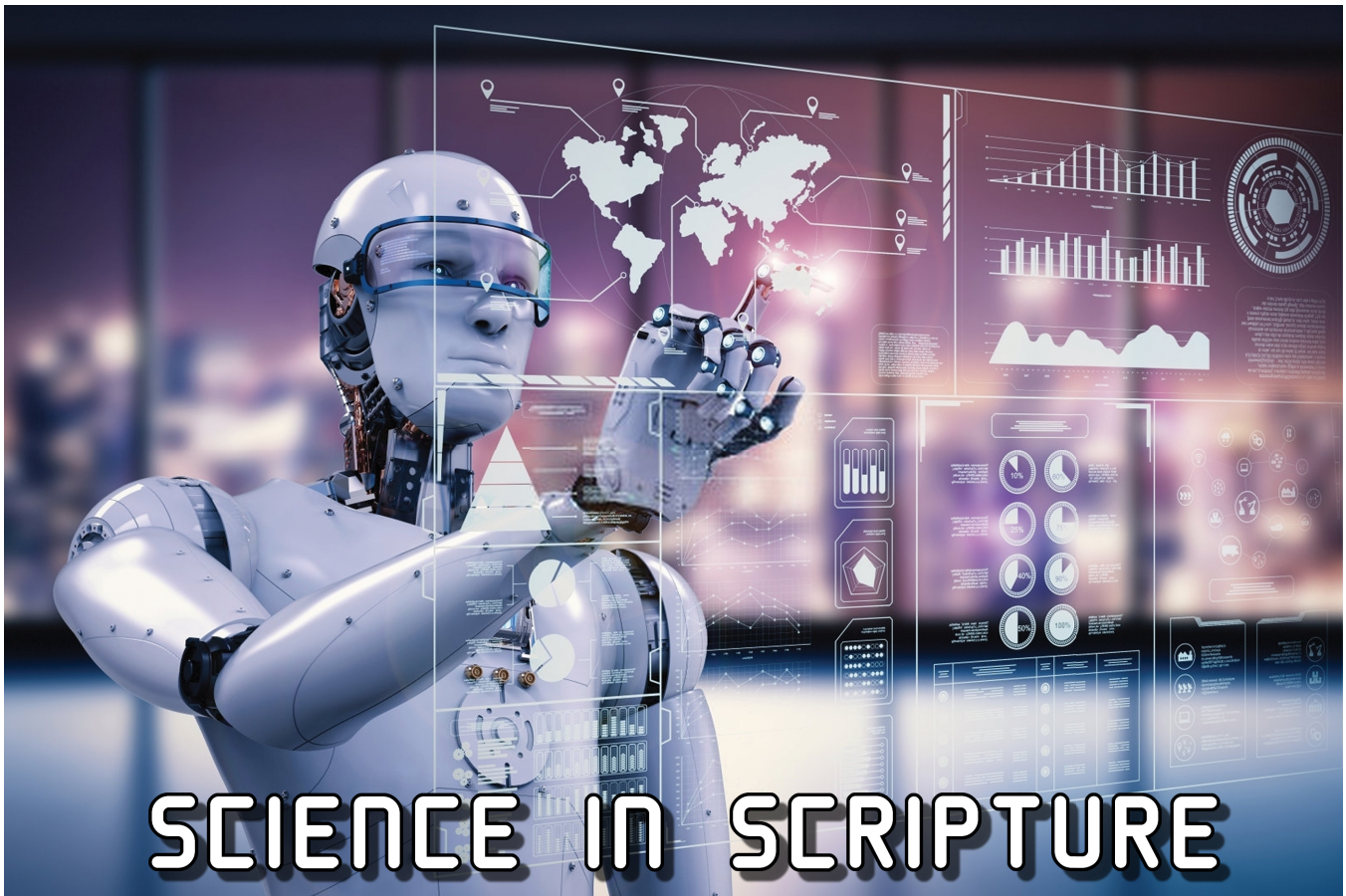
- 1 Timothy 5:20 *Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.*
- 2 Timothy 1:3a *I thank Elohim, Whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did ... (see Gen. 26:5).*
- 2 Tim. 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth*
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 *All Scripture is inspired by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of Elohim may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*
- 2 Timothy 4:2–3 *Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.*
- Titus 1:9 *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
- Titus 2:1 *As for you, speak the thing which are fitting for sound doctrine.*
- Titus 2:14 *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 1:3 *Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.*

Conclusion

The separation of the goats and the sheep will be easy. By our deeds, we are judged with the very Word of Yahweh.

As sheep, our very nature – renewed and transformed – will be repulsive to the goats. But as Yahweh’s sheep, He makes [us] to lie down in green pastures; He leads [us] beside quiet waters, Psalm 23:1–2.

-Elder David Brett



SCIENCE IN SCRIPTURE

Some years ago, I was listening to a radio interview of a scientist who admitted scientists only know and can explain about 2% of the physical universe. He described it as taking a piece (or a portion) of a bumper off a car, and then without seeing the rest of the car, trying to describe the rest of the bumper, the drivetrain, the doors, the roof and tires, etc. He said this is what scientists are trying to do when it comes to the physical universe.

According to *The Wikipedia, online encyclopedia*, “Science in the broadest sense refers to any knowledge or trained skill, especially (but not exclusively) when this is attained by verifiable means.”

In thinking about some of the different areas of Scriptures which have been verified, Genesis is a good place to start. It’s a good place to start when looking at the topography of the earth, in which we have a clear view from space. And even before space exploration, the earth was already mapped out pretty well through ship and land exploration.

Pangea, Now a Big Puzzle

Through what scientists call *Pangea*, we can understand that the land mass of earth was evidently in one location with water all around. We get a visual description of this from Scripture.

Then Elohim said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. Elohim called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and Elohim saw that it was good, Genesis 1:9-10. New American Standard Bible used throughout, unless otherwise noted.

From space and looking at terrestrial maps of the world, one can see big pieces of a puzzle which once fit together as one land mass (*Pangea*) before the Flood recorded in Genesis 6-8.

In Chapter 7 of that narrative, we read, *In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened, Genesis 7:11.*



“All the fountains of the great deep burst open” would indicate great seismic activity, giving place to tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic activity produced by tectonic plate movement. The Pacific Rim’s Ring of Fire of 452 known volcanos – some of which are still active – are likely the product of the Flood’s disruption to Yahweh’s original created order.

Moreover, scientists (geologists) have mapped subterranean water reserves called aquifers – even under the oceans. Off the east coast of the United States, a sub-oceanic Atlantic aquifer whose diameter – measured with electromagnetic waves – is about 250 miles in width, and was discovered 50 years ago. There is currently an aquifer under Kenya, Africa, which if tapped, scientists say could provide water for 200 years for all of the Kenyan people.

Oil rigs have hit other fresh water pockets in other areas they’ve drilled. Some of these have been measured, and one was estimated to have enough fresh water to fill a billion Olympic swimming pools. Yes, that’s a billion, with a b.

Still, further down 400 miles below the earth’s surface, in what is called the Transition Zone (Asthenosphere), which some scientists have suggested there may be as many as three times the amount of water than what is currently in all the oceans.

A diamond found within a Brazilian volcano, contained water minerals, one of which (Ringwoodite) actually contained water. Geologists/scientists agree it is from this Transition Zone.

Evaporation Cycle

From the Creation, Yahweh knew exactly what was needed for life to exist. Before the Flood, *a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground*, Genesis 2:6.

Furthermore, there was evidently a type of greenhouse canopy made of a type of water fog. The Scripture reveals what science today has called the evaporation cycle (or water cycle).

Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; and on its circular courses the wind returns. All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again, Ecclesiastes 1:6-7.

Science Gives Insight

Dr. Jason Lisle, an astrophysicist, wrote *Taking Back Astronomy* with the subtitle, (The Heavens Declare Creation and Science Confirms It). He has also delivered numerous lectures, but one in particular worth searching is *Creation Astronomy* (Viewing the Universe through Biblical Glasses).

He and other Creation scientists have presented some interesting facts, especially concerning gravity and the moon. In contrast to non-creation scientists who posit the age of the universe as 4.5 billion years, Dr. Lisle gives the universe a much shorter life.

The decreasing strength of the earth’s magnetic field (see chart below for the last two hundred years), has been diminishing, due to the moon moving away from the earth. This is measurable, in part, through the magnetic field of the earth.

Magnetic Field of the Earth:

Year-Strength

1965-8.017 (weaker)

1925-8.149

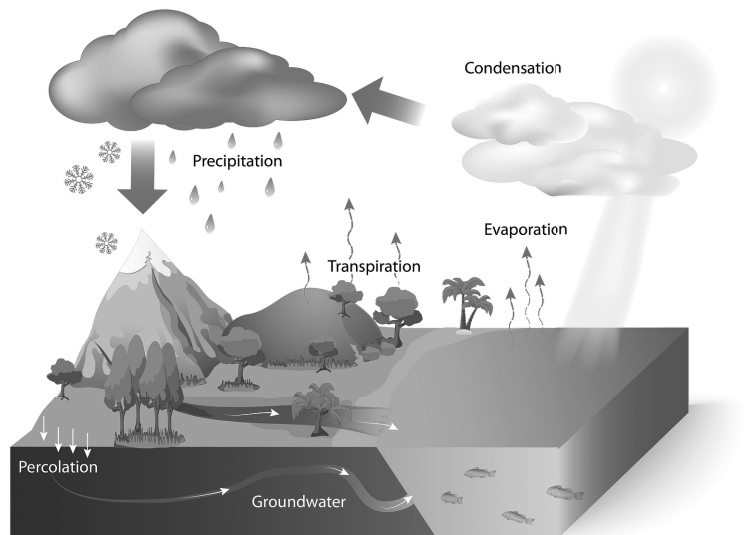
1880-8.363

1835-8.558 (stronger) –*The Geology Book*,

by Dr. John Morris

Taking the mathematic calculations back 8,000-9,000 years, the magnetic field strength of the earth could have pulled the iron from people’s blood, which gives credible evidence to support the 6,000-year-old earth narrative.

And yet, there are still atheists and agnostics. Though some are accepting the creation view due to more recent discoveries of DNA, which define how we and other living things are made. Basically, DNA is embedded instructions from the beginning.



Birds Do Not Make Dogs

All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one [flesh] of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish, 1 Corinthians 15:39.

Clearly Yahweh has fearfully and wonderfully (Psa. 139:14) created us, and all living species with capabilities to procreate, each after its own kind (Gen. 1:11-27). This has continued throughout generations and millennia. His Creation abilities are clearly seen, so that man really has no excuse for unbelief, as it is written:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse, Romans 1:20.

For example, bacteria has a built in “propeller” among its cellular material, enabling it to travel throughout an organism. Under great magnification, one can see that the propeller on the end has about three or four main parts. Take away one part (or destroy the “propeller” in any other way) and the bacteria dies. It did not form (evolve) over billions of years. It was put together from the start to function properly.

Another example, is giraffes. They have a built-in blood valve in their necks, shutting off the supply of blood to their head and preventing them from passing out when grazing the ground grasses.

We could also look at woodpeckers, who close their eyes just before the impact of their beak on a tree. If they didn’t close their eyes, their eyes would pop out from the tremendous force created.

We are told Elohim created heaven and earth, and we have no reason to doubt it, but people do. *In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1.*

And though scientists continually look for, and show other planets in the universe can support intelligent life, many fail to see that there is a Creator Who says the Earth specifically was created and formed to be inhabited with life.

For thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (He is the Elohim who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, [but] formed it to be inhabited), “I am Yahweh, and there is none else,” Isaiah 45:18.

Sir Isaac Newton observed, “When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”

Interestingly enough, the sun is at just the right distance from the earth as well as the moon and allows for periodic eclipses (perfectly in-line) of inter-orbital lunar and solar revolution orbits. And as the moon is measurably moving away from the earth, the earth is measurably moving away from the sun. Backing up, the latter would have the earth as burned toast some 4.5 billion years ago.

Flat Earth?

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in, Isaiah 40:22.

The world is described accurately in Scripture as a circular shape. Yahweh’s thumbprint is on all of creation – in space, larger celestial bodies orbiting the smaller. All of this, in a circular type manner.

Nevertheless, there are some, misappropriating the same Scripture, teaching the earth is flat, canopied by a dome with Yahweh sitting on its top. There are a lot of strange and diverse ideas out there (Heb. 13:9) – some farther out than others. For example, some say the earth is on a giant elephant who stands on a giant turtle who is swimming in a cosmic sea. Ancient Egypt believed that the earth was on literal pillars.

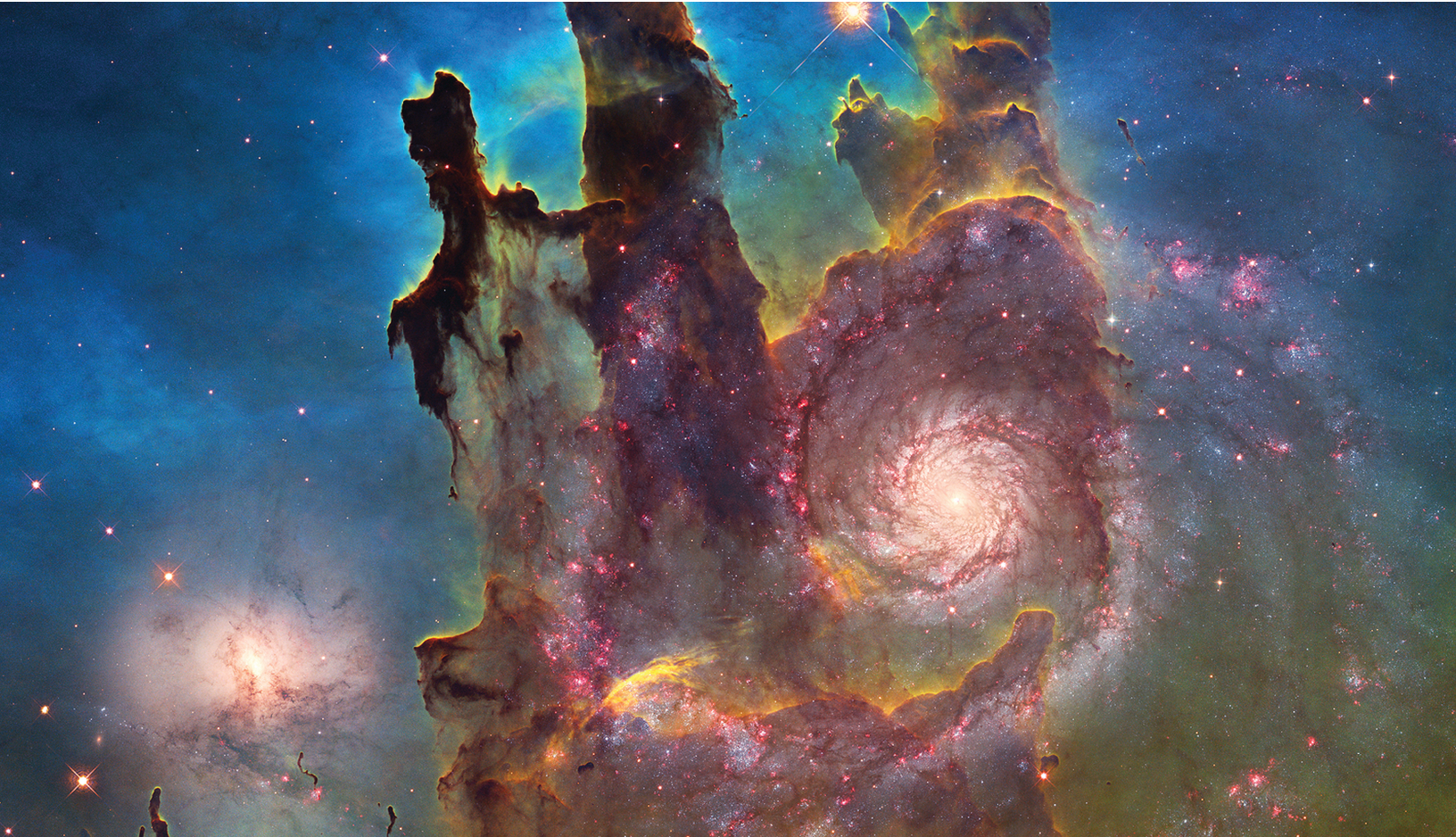
And, yes, the Bible in the Psalms speaks of Yahweh setting the earth’s pillars (Psa. 75:3) and alludes to its foundations being out of course (Psa. 82:5), but we understand these references in a figurative, rather than a literal sense. Remember, Hebrew is known as a flowery and meaningful language with poetic phrases.

We can, however, say the following is literal. The earth hovers in space – *He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing, Job 26:7.* It’s not contradictory to the other Scripture which says the earth is on pillars, because that is figurative and this is literal as images from space show a blue marbled earth hanging on nothing.

And so, to these “theories” which find no firm foundation in His Scriptures, Yahweh replies, *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts, Isaiah 55:9.*

While there is “oppositions of science falsely so called” (1 Tim. 6:20 KJV), science proves the Bible is true!

Interested more in the spiritual dimension? Please read on, and also see our mini-study called, ***The Spirit Realm.***



Expanding of Yahweh's Universe

Bless Yahweh, O my soul! O Yahweh my Elohim, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a cloak ...It is He Who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in, Psalm 104:1-2; Isaiah 40:22.

This is figurative speech with some literal meaning. About 15 years ago, and much to the surprise of scientists, the universe was discovered to be expanding at an ever-increasing rate with new galaxies and planetary bodies being found by astronomers.

And more recently, about 10 years ago, the 100 million galaxies, each with 100 million planetary bodies and stars, were ballooned by scientists who are now saying, it's actually billions and not millions. And that number may be proven to be even greater once more data with stronger telescopes is gathered, and giving credence to these words from Jeremiah 33:22: *As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.*

We would be remiss not mentioning, there are

three heavens identified in Scripture. The first heaven is what we immediately feel and see, such as whirlwinds and clouds in our atmosphere. The second heaven is composed of celestial bodies of stars and planets. The third – to which Paul alludes in 2 Corinthians 12:2 – is the invisible realm in which Yahweh and the angels dwell.

Peter speaks of heavens – which we understand to be the first and second heaven because of the physical matter with which they are made, but not the third heaven, the dwelling place of the Elohim – and the earth reserved for fiery judgment (2 Pet. 3:7).

Its Decay

*Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; **Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.** But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end, Psalm 102:25-27.*

Lift up your eyes to the sky, then look to the earth beneath; for the sky will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitant will die in like manner, but My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not wane, Isaiah 51:6.

That we are not all evolving into bigger and better things, is evidenced by all matter coming into a state of decay.

While matter is decaying, and everything, as the Apostle Peter said, is going to be burned up (2 Pet. 3:7, 10), there is still some reproduction apparently occurring in the forming of new stars called Nebula (nursery for the stars). These are said to be composed of hydrogen gas, among other things. Hence, "Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed."

And galactic black holes which are known to be at the center of most every galaxy, including ours, will suck up everything like a vacuum, given enough time.

Anciently, they couldn't look up and say the heavenly bodies were in a state of decay. They could, however, look at the earth and observe its rocks crumbling into dust and the devastation of fire could readily be seen.

We see the physical that supports "His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature ... so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

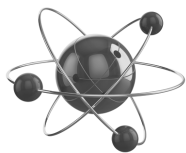
Light in Light

For with You is the Fountain of Life; in Your Light we see Light, Psalm 36:9. This is a prophetic reference to Yahshua and the close relationship He has with the Father.

This verse is an example of a Spiritual thing needing to be Spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:13-14). Yahweh is the Light that we see in Light (Yahshua) Who is also the Fountain of Life (John 4:14, 7:38).

By the way, light molecules called photons are said by some scientists to be the first "active" molecules, which takes us back to Genesis when Yahweh said "let there be light."

The Smallest of the Small, Connected?



As science advances and discovers more phenomena, we find strange things occurring. Life is made up of atoms and molecules and their constituent parts, infinitely small – neutrinos, protons, positrons, electrons, antiprotons – too small, for the unaided eye to see. These subatomic particles, are evidently able to phase in and out of apparent nothingness. "Neutralinos" is yet another phenomenon identified by scientists. It is dark matter – matter, indeed, because they see light bending around it. They assert that dark matter makes up 90% of the universe.

In *The God Effect*, Brian Clegg (July 2006) writes of the "Entanglement Theory" (Quantum Physics), the idea there is a connection between particles of molecules that can affect other particles of molecules. Einstein in his day, referred to such a theory as "spooky."

Thinking about connection between particles of molecules, bring us to a property belonging exclusively to Yahweh – omniscience. He Who knows everything and is able simultaneously, to know your prayer and my prayer and answer simultaneously. One might call this "Spiritual Multi-tasking."

Read what King David said: *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?* Psalm 139:7.

And from the pen of the Prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh speaking, *"Am I an El Who is near," declares Yahweh, "and not an El far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares Yahweh. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares Yahweh,* Jeremiah 23:23-24.

The Brain: Physical and Spiritual Connection?

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of Elohim, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF YAHWEH, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Messiah, 1 Corinthians 2:14–16.



There appears to be more of a connection between the physical and the spiritual than we understand at this time, though we can see in Scripture the connection between Yahweh's Spirit and us through the Messiah.

When we think about how Yahweh's Spirit can work in conjunction with our own mind, it becomes, well, mind-blowing.

Scientists say our brains have as many as 100 billion neurons communicating with at least one million-billion synapses or connections and putting into play, chemistries, hormones, nerves, proteins and various other molecules and processes and sending signals occurring 1000 times each second, which is 1 quadrillion events every second while we think about this article or anything else throughout the day. To capture just how fearful and wonderful Yahweh's created order is, consider this:

Scientists have taken a tiny part of a mouse's brain, the size of a grain, and sliced it up (25,000 times) and scanned it and copied it to a cloud drive, which took 5 months of continuous micron scopes recording and capturing every detail. 100 million images – two million gigabytes of space – were retrieved, and which took nearly 3 months to create a 3d model.

(This information can be viewed on a YouTube video called *Can you upload your mind & live forever?* The channel is *Kurzgesagt – In A Nutshell*. Within 24-hours of putting it on YouTube, it received 3 million views.)

Science is increasingly infringing upon a dominion best reserved to the Sovereign Creator. Some recent movies have shown people's minds uploaded to a computer or a robot [transhumanism]. At issue with believers, is that while our brain might be thought as something akin to an organic computer, it is physical but with a spiritual component which allows us to think, create, and do like no other

species. But when we die, this spiritual component returns to Yahweh Who gave it, as it is written: *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7.*

Yahshua the Messiah expressed this idea when He said,

And Yahshua, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last, Luke 23:46.

This *ruach* (in the Hebrew) or *pneuma* (in the Greek) can be described as life or being, and describes the mind or spirit; essentially, the essence of a person we find from Scripture returned to Yahweh at one of the two resurrections.

Ezekiel 37:1-14, for example, alludes to this connection once again being restored in the second resurrection for those in the valley of dry bones. So even if one has turned to dust, a new body and brain will function as previously.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable [body], it is raised an imperishable [body]; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual [body] ...But El gives it a body just as He wished, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 38.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of Elohim, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3.



Living Forever

“He has also set eternity in their heart” (Eccl. 3:11). A lot of people are fascinated by the possibility of living forever.

Scripture provides us with a glimpse of the faculties we might also possess with eternal life. Yahshua materialized on the road to Emmaus, and just as easily vanished from these two (Luke 24:15, 31). Later, when they were relating their experience with Him to the others behind sequestered doors, He appeared again (Luke 24:36). A third time, He appeared when Thomas was assembled with them (John 20:19), locked doors notwithstanding.

Biblical accounts in both the Old and New Testaments of angels, appearing and then disappearing, from and into the spiritual realm, further connects the science of matter phasing in and then out to nothingness with the Bible or, rather, confirms the Bible accounts are not only possible, but true.

In saying this, we are not embracing the apostate notion that people have an immortal soul. Read our mini-study called, *Do You Have an Immortal Soul?*

Additional Scientific Confirmations

Science corroborates other things as well. Science has concluded that the frontal lobe of the brain (the specific area of long-term planning and goal setting) hasn't fully developed until the age of 20 years, that age of accountability established by Scripture (Exod. 30:14). Read our mini-study entitled, *Scriptural Age of Accountability*.

Science also shows circumcision of males on the 8th day (Gen. 17:12), anciently given as a sign or token of the Abrahamic covenant. Vitamin K and also the hormone Prothombin – both clotting agents in the blood – are at their optimal levels on the 8th day of life for male children. We can now see through scientific discovery why Yahweh designated, specifically, “the 8th day.”

We began this article, citing from *The Wikipedia, online encyclopedia*, “Science in the broadest sense refers to any knowledge or trained skill, especially (but not exclusively) when this is attained by verifiable means.”

And we agree. There is science that is verifiable: it actually does a good job verifying the Bible.

- Elder David Brett

SEARCHING FOR TRUTH?

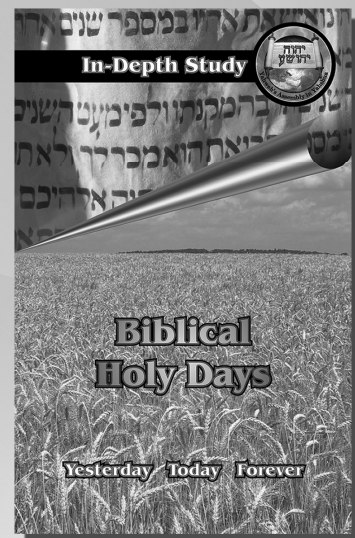
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Living in the Last Days

(eight reasons to believe we're doing just that)

The First Reason

Daniel 12:4b prophesied knowledge shall increase in the end times. He said, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Think in terms of what has happened in the last 100 years.

In an article called "The Rapidly Changing Workplace" from his 1982 book, *Critical Path*, and found on the website modernworkplacelearning.com, futurist and inventor R. Buckminster Fuller estimated that up until 1900, human knowledge doubled approximately every century. By 1945 it was doubling every 25 years, and by 1982 it was doubling every 12-13 months. IBM (International Business Machines), builder of the Watson Supercomputer that played in the quiz show "Jeopardy," estimated before the end of the year 2020, human knowledge will be "doubling every 12 hours." But now even more sophisticated supercomputers and systems are in the works for 2021.

This has a lot of implications, but the main one is the ability to keep track of everyone. The commerce of buying and selling is of particular interest to us because we know prophetically, there is going to be some sort of system in place to prevent everyone from shopping unless they have

this mark and worship the Beast.

*And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and [he provides] that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, [either] the name of the beast or the number of his name, Revelation 13:16-17. **New American Standard Bible** used throughout, unless otherwise noted.*

The technology and means to accomplish this are already available. This system will be headed by the Man of Sin – currently, unknown – and will engulf the whole world.

Technology allows for what is called chipping, which is common for pets, and some people are getting nanochips implanted into their hands so they can, for example, open doors with electronic sensors. It's not much of a leap to start having credit information and other matters of privacy stored in such a manner.

But with knowledge doubling every 12 hours – if that is indeed the case – we need to be vigilant, lest we become prey to the subtlety and cunning of this Beast system. It is written,

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints (the chosen) of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court will sit [for judgment], and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of [all] the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom [will be] an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him, Daniel 7:25-27.

So, while we know more difficult times are coming, we are told the end from the beginning and the hope we have is assured if we don't faint.

The Second Reason

Video technology allows the whole world to watch anything in real time.

And their dead bodies [will lie] in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Master was put to the torture stake. Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations [will] look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb, Rev. 11:8-9.

Revelation 11 speaks of “two witnesses” lying dead three and a half days in the streets of Jerusalem, with none stepping forward to bury them. A full video coverage of the event in real time, and seen around the world by “peoples and tribes and tongues and nations” (Rev. 11:9).

There are endless possibilities currently with 3D, virtual reality, etc. In the midst of all these technological capabilities, the question is begged, “Will Yahshua find faith on the earth when he returns?” (Luke 18:8). Not from many, evidently. They’re too busy with technology to even care.

The Third Reason

Acts 3:21 tells of a “restoration of all things,” before Messiah returns.

But the things which Elohim announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Messiah would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of Yahweh and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, Whom heaven must receive until [the] period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient times, Acts 3:18–21.

The suffering of the Messiah has already occurred, thus fulfilling prophecy. But the Apostle Peter’s words (written by Luke) affirms there are things that will yet occur before Yahshua’s second coming. It is a restoration of all things, the covenant of promise made first with Abraham, that through his seed, all the nations of the earth should be blessed (Gen. 22:18).

For many centuries, especially from the 4th century on, the decline in the Truth of Yahweh’s Word and the rise of apostate doctrines and heresies propagated by Christianity have increased exponentially.

Since the 1930’s, however, two of the most important, among many Scriptural Truths, have been restored: The Sign and Seal – the 3rd and 4th Commandments, not only the true weekly Sabbath, but also the 7 annual Sabbaths and the Sacred Names of the Father and the Son.

The Fourth Reason (or, reasons consolidated)

In Matthew 24:32–33, we read, *Now learn the parable (or, learn the lesson) from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize*

that He is near, [right] at the door.

“When you see all these things” – deception, famines, earthquakes, persecution for His Name’s sake, the Evangel preached around the world, false prophets, false messiahs.

What’s left? The heavens being shaken and the sun, moon and stars not showing their light (excluding blood moons of recent years, which occur every 800 years or so). Luke 21 provides a parallel account of great terrors and great signs occurring in heaven, and on the earth.

So, while we consider we are experiencing the beginning of sorrows – wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilence (Matt. 24:6–7; Luke 22:9–11) – more is yet to come. The great Day of Yahweh, a Day of Darkness and Gloom as Joel 2:2 describes it. The Archangel Michael says in Daniel 12:1 a time of trouble, such has never been. Jeremiah 30:7 calls it a time of trouble for Jacob, but that he’ll be saved out of it. And finally, Yahshua calls it Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21).

The Fifth Reason

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short, Matthew 24:21–22.

Besides everything else falling apart, add nuclear weaponry.

According to energy.gov website: “The world’s first nuclear explosion occurred on July 16th, 1945, when a plutonium implosion device was tested at a site located 210 miles south of Los Alamos” New Mexico. The code name for the test was called “Trinity,” of all things.

It is believed there are between ten thousand to fifteen thousand nuclear warheads today – down from more than sixty thousand during the 1980’s. Most are owned by the US and Russia, with Russia possessing a few hundred more than the United States.

Many believe with what nuclear warheads remain, if all were launched, it would be enough to cause a nuclear “winter.” It basically would end all life through a cascading domino effect of radiation poisoning, effecting economic and social collapse, with famine, disease and death as its outcome.

It’s been termed the “Nuclear Holocaust.” But, again, everything else is simultaneously falling apart, making the prospect of a nuclear war appear less worrisome.

The Sixth Reason

May 14th, 1948: Israel is recognized by the United Nations as a sovereign state, and Judah begins its return to the land. Small numbers, compared to what was promised Abraham more than three millennia ago. Nevertheless, prophecies foretold by Isaiah and Ezekiel appear to be in process to an end, in which, they will be completely fulfilled.

- *“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons. Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says Yahweh. “Or shall I who gives delivery shut [the womb]?” says your Elohim. “Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her;”* Isaiah 66:8–10.
- *Say to them, “Thus says Yahweh Elohim, ‘Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their Elohim,’”* Ezekiel 37:21–23.

Indeed, even with the trouble that Jerusalem has seen, many rejoice with her. Israel is acknowledged once again in the world.

Nevertheless, a more complete restoration is yet to come, since they are not all cleansed. Tel Aviv, for example, is a center for unspeakable sin. Even in Jerusalem, Gay Pride Parades have been allowed. No wonder they are referred to by the Messiah as mystically, or symbolically, Sodom and Egypt (Rev. 11:8).

May 14th, 1948, also set-in place the narrative of Ezekiel 38 which speaks of Gog of the land of Magog which may be Russia or perhaps, Turkey or even Syria, coming down into, and laying siege against Jerusalem.

Moreover, the Man of Sin needs Israel’s temple (which could be a tabernacle) set in place, so that he can fulfill his own Scriptural destiny.

Levitical priests and the Sanhedrin are ready, along with the altar and other furnishings for the temple.

But years before, dating to October 13, 1881, the Hebrew language which had not been spoken as a mother tongue since the second century CE, enjoyed a revival when Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and his friends agreed to speak Hebrew exclusively in their conversations. Even the shekel as a monetary unit was restored as the medium of currency.

And, since 1948, the inhospitable desert of Israel has become like a blossom in the land. ***The Holman Christian Standard Bible*** (HCSB) says, in Isaiah 35:1, *The wilderness and the dry land will be glad; the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose.*

Prophecies like this will ultimately be fulfilled in the Kingdom, but we see a glimpse of the beauty and the hope of the Kingdom when we look at what has already occurred these last 70 years.

- *I will open rivers on the bare heights and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water. I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert together with the box tree and the cypress,* Isaiah 41:18–19.
- *The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. They will say, “This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified [and] inhabited.” Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, Yahweh, have rebuilt the ruined places [and] planted that which was desolate; I, Yahweh, have spoken and will do it,* Ezekiel 36:34–36.

Prophecies such as these have been concluded and the trees mentioned are now all situated in Israel, whereas some were never thought to have been there before. Furthermore, in Ezekiel, we see prophecy of the wilderness being cultivated rather than desert, dust, and sand. Innovations such as drip irrigation have helped.

While this is impressive, again, what now constitutes the geography of Israel is not all the Israel that has been promised, both in land and people. But that will change in the Kingdom when all the land promised to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac will be like a garden of Eden.

In all of this, with major prophecies becoming fulfilled, Israel restored is a monumental, identifying sign that we are in the end times.

Yet, despite such phenomenal progress, Israel is hated by all those around them. But it will get worse just before Yahshua's return.

Zechariah 12:3 says, *It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.*

The Seventh Reason

Six thousand years have passed from creation to this present time, 2400 years from Adam to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. From the latter, the Scriptural Record counts three and a half more millennia of years of the history of Yahweh's people through Egyptian exile, the wilderness sojournings. We also count the periods of the Judges and then the Kings, subsequent exiles in Assyria and Babylon, and restoration to the land under Imperial Rome to the time of Yahshua in the 1st century C.E. Since then, 2000 years awaiting the prophesied millennial reign of Yahshua.

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our ancestors (fathers) died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by Elohim's Word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water [physical evidence]. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the unrighteous. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with Yahweh a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day, 2 Peter 3:3–8 NIV.

While some interpret 2 Peter 3:8, "with Yahweh one day is as a 1000 years, and a 1000 years as one day," and propose that creation week may have actually

been 7000 years, we understand the word day as a literal 24-hour day. In the Genesis 1 narrative, each successive period of time is marked. "and there was evening and there was morning" (Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31, 2:1). Creation, in such a short time is not impossible for Yahweh, but our minds have a hard time wrapping around how powerful and capable Yahweh actually is. His abilities are really beyond our comprehension at this time.

Six days we work, but the seventh day is a rest. It's easy to see how man has exercised six thousand fruitless years of rule on this earth. Nevertheless, Yahweh has allowed man's "dominion" to go on. We can learn from the futility of this time and anticipate the Sabbath day, when people will come into the Kingdom learning of Yahweh's Word and have that peace the world has not seen during the preceding 6000 years.

However, we are seeing scoffers today. You hear it in songs, we see it in the actions of people, some leaving the faith. We ourselves could be discouraged if we don't recognize the hope of a future in the Kingdom and beyond.

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, [men] who forbid marriage [and advocate] abstaining from foods which Elohim has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth, 1 Timothy 4:1–3.

Celibacy, the abstention from marriage, brings to mind the vows priestly candidates in the Catholic Church take and the inability of some to exercise power over their own will (1 Cor. 7:37). Unable to bring their bodies into subjection (1 Cor. 9:27) – thus, the sex abuse scandals that have rocked that apostate institution these past decades.

Abstaining from certain foods declared clean and are sanctified first by the Word, and then prayer. Simple, but Satan twists it to mean one can eat everything today. In times past, there were self-made and self-abasement types of religions mentioned in Colossians 2:32 and are essentially worthless man-made and even demonically-influenced ideas contrary to Yahweh's will, clearly laid out in His word (see Leviticus chapter 11 and Deuteronomy chapter 14).

Satan's efforts to keep people in sin is not diminishing. He, in fact, may be trying even harder now.

The Eighth Reason

In Yahshua's own words, recorded in Luke 17:26–30, *And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.*

Today, people are still getting married and partying, but other things are going on as well.

Then Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Yahweh was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart, Gen. 6:5–6.

The evil we are seeing today makes us grieve in our hearts. It is a reflection of Yahweh's Spirit within us.

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of Elohim, and the earth was filled with violence. Elohim looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth, Genesis 6:11–12.

Any violence or corrupt ways in the world today? Is it getting better? Or, is it getting worse?

What nation is there like ours even which can claim over the past 50 years, 60 million murders? That is violence of the worst kind – murder of those who cannot defend themselves. Life is at conception,



plain and simple.

What about Sodom and Gomorrah, in the days of Lot? It is noted, “Wicked exceedingly and sinners against Yahweh” (Gen. 13:13). What are we seeing today?

Many, likened to Sodom and Gomorrah, are demanding recognition and acceptance by the world. It is a movement. But there is something also noteworthy about people in general today, which is likened to as in the days of Lot.

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw [it]. Furthermore, Samaria did not commit half of your sins, for you have multiplied your abominations more than they. Thus you have made your sisters appear righteous by all your abominations which you have committed, Ezekiel 16:49–51.

Besides homosexual and other aberrant sexual practices (e.g., bestiality), and efforts to force acceptance of their ways upon others as they did with Lot's angelic guests, they were also evidently wealthy enough to help the poor and needy, but refused to do so. That, specifically, appeared to be a weightier matter as described by Yahweh. (See also Matt. 23:23).

Considering the times we live in, “Who in the world is obeying Yahweh?” In other words, “Who in the world is NOT sinning against Yahweh?” Very few, sorry to say.

What should we do? Yahshua our Savior and soon coming King tells us:

So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of Elohim is near. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man, Luke 21:31–36.

Good advice, especially seeing what has happened in the last 100 years. And what we have seen in these last 100 years are reasons enough for us to believe we are in the last days.

-Elder David Brett



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q If someone who has lived a life of crime (gang member) involving drugs, stealing, killings, comes to repentance, changes their life to one of service to others and wants to be baptized, do they hand themselves over to the authorities for the crimes they have committed?

A The relevant Scripture that comes to mind is in Luke 19:8, in which Zacchaeus said he'd give back four times as much if he had defrauded anyone. The idea was, maybe he had not. Nevertheless, he evidently knew the law and the recompense needed for certain things (Exodus 22:1). This also brings us to King David when Nathan confronted him with his sins (2 Samuel 12:6). For the murder of Uriah and the adultery committed with Bathsheba, King David should have been given the death penalty, yet he was forgiven by the One who could forgive such things. But, with the forgiveness of the death penalty, came consequences (2 Samuel 12:10-14).

If a former gang member came to see the Light and repented of murder, for example, it is unlikely the death sentence would be administered. With that said, consequences would most likely follow of jail time, fines, etc. (Rom. 13; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

In the United States there are statutes of limitations, but with Yahweh there are none. Unless a sinner, when his eyes are opened, repents and starts living according to the Word of Yahweh, there may be no repentance in the end. Now is the time to make any restitution, and to make one's calling and election sure.

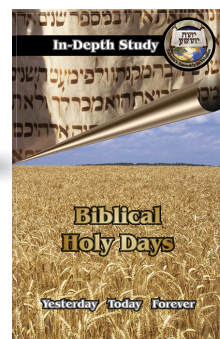


Q Many churches teach once saved always saved. Do the Scriptures teach this to be so, or are these churches in error?

A There are regrettably denominations stemming from Protestantism which believe that once one is saved nothing can un-save the person. While there are verses (John 10:28-29) relied upon to "prove" such a stance, there are many which refute it (Hebrews 10:26-31; Revelation 10:15; 21:27). Even King David, a man after Yahweh's own heart, knew the Spirit could be taken away from him (Psalm 51:11) as King Saul found out the hard way (1 Samuel 16:14; see also Matthew 12:44-45). The idea of overcoming in Messiah, means that the opposite is true of the one who does not (Revelation 3:5; John 15:5-10). The desire of Yahweh is that all would repent and not perish, but He gives free will to everyone. He says to "choose" life (Deuteronomy 30:19), but not everyone will accept the terms by which one can be saved.

Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Aleph and the Tau, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his Elohim and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death,"
Revelation 21:6-8.

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When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place.
And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent
rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were
sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire
distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Acts 2:1-3