

YAIY

Beacon

Jan-Feb 2011 - Spreading the Word throughout the world - yaiy.org

Paul says to follow him
as he followed Yahshua,
1 Cor 11:1

Yahshua says we are
to follow Him,
John 10:27

YAIY



Beacon



Volume 5

Number 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION

STATEMENT



Following Paul 3

"If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour," John 12:26.

We are to follow Yahshua as Paul did. **by Elder Donald R. Mansager**

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 salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

This magazine, **YAIY Beacon**, is published bi-monthly by Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua, 2963 Co. Rd. 233, Kingdom City, MO 65262.

This magazine is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the light of truth shine in our day.

© 2011 Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

Lessons and Truths From the Past 9

Called Out - "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen," Matt 20:16.

Remain steadfast and sure, because being called-out does not guarantee to be chosen and our name to remain in the Book of Life. **by Elder Ralph Henrie, deceased**

Mail:
Y AIY
2963 Co. Rd. 233
Kingdom City, MO
65262



Phone:
573-642-4100
Toll free:
1-877-642-4101



Fax:
573-642-4104



Email:
beacon@yaiy.org



Internet:
www.yaiy.org

2010 YAIY Beacon Index 22

Revealing The Truth 23

Cover: courtesy of dreamstime.com

Following Paul

He was an accuser of the brethren, this Paul. He was a strict legalist and apparently a devoted member of the Sanhedrin, the governing council in Jerusalem. But a change had come over him.

He was no longer persecuting those who answered the call to follow the Messiah Yahshua. Why, he himself was now a follower of the man called Yahshua.

Paul told the Corinthian assembly, "Be followers of me, even as I also am of the Messiah," 1 Cor 11:1. He expected that his leadership would be followed and his life in the Messiah would be emulated. He had met the Messiah on the Damascus road and his life was forever changed.

Paul had been zealous in all things pertaining to the law, probably the most strict follower of the letter of the law found anywhere. He freely admitted he was blameless in this matter, Philippians 3:6.

Brought up under the sacrificial system of Judaism, he was a Pharisee of Pharisees, a leader of that religious body in Jerusalem. He knew the Old Testament from beginning to end, but could not comprehend why anyone would give up the way of life given directly by Yahweh through Moses.

This was the very Covenant given to Israel when they were freed from Egyptian bondage. Why would anyone turn his back on the established traditional Temple worship of Yahweh and His ordained priesthood to follow this man called Yahshua of Nazareth?

Anyone caught doing such a thing and calling upon Yahshua's Name was worthy of being placed in chains and taken by Paul before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem.

But now things were different. A great change had come about.

Paul Chosen for His Zeal

Yahshua had chosen Paul to be His special servant to proclaim the Good News of the coming Kingdom. Having been struck down on the Damascus road and humbled, Paul was then called of the Messiah to be His special messenger to the world.

It was indeed a humiliating experience. He was blinded and did not eat for three days upon seeing the resplendent, resurrected Messiah. Paul's encounter with the Savior forever changed his outlook and life's goals. He was a chosen vessel to bring the great Name of Yahshua the Messiah before Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel, Acts 9:15.

Paul was specially selected for his task because he

was fitted well for the job to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19. It would take someone with his tenacity and zeal, his sense of purpose and drive.

Similarly, the elect down through the ages have also been given the responsibility to be a chosen vessel through which the message of salvation will be given to the world. Yahshua continues to choose His servants even today to follow Him and learn of His ways.

The majority of the people of Paul's day were just as deaf to the message of salvation as they are today.

Some will hear the message and marvel at the truth they hear. But it does not penetrate their hearts, and the message is soon drowned out by other voices of the world. Pleasures, enjoyments, the good life, allurements, adventures, excitements, and just plain fun leave little time for the deeper things of Yahweh's Word for most.

Paul, however, became as zealous and sincere in his mission as he had ever been as a Pharisee. His was the task of bringing to the world this precious Name Yahshua - "the only Name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts 4:12.

Paul High and Mighty?

One would certainly think such a high and noble assignment would call for Paul to live in a resplendent mansion on a well-traveled road for high visibility. He would be a man of commanding presence and high dignity fitting his mission.

We could assume Paul in his travels would be given the best accommodations the world could offer. After all, he was representing the King of the universe and his message was a call to have a part in the coming government of Yahweh.

Undoubtedly, one could expect Paul to have a retinue of publicity men and experienced advance and promotional teams to advertise his visit. Camels, horses, and chariots would be at his command.

Thousands would jam the roadway as they journeyed to the gigantic coliseums to hear this earth-shaking news that Paul was bringing to the world. Eager listeners would likely stand in line for days to get a seat to hear of the very Creator's will for His creation and His people.

Amazingly, none of this was the case. It is not that Yahweh could not provide Paul with the finest of accommodations and give him all the conveniences

available at that time. It would be but a small thing for Yahweh to dazzle the world with the splendor of a presentation of truth by Paul never seen or heard before. Yahweh could bring about a gigantic, earth-shaking fireworks display that would pale any Fourth of July grandstand celebration.

But this is not the way Yahweh wants the Good News presented to the world. The presentation of the Evangel of the coming Kingdom at this time is not to be a three-ring circus event with all the hoopla and extravagances of the advertising media.

Paul was not called to dazzle the eyes of the world. Paul was to present the Good News of the coming Kingdom as a lowly prisoner. He would appear before kings, not wearing a Rolex, but in chains.

Perennial Question

Paul's former compatriots in religion now sought his life. Just as he had hunted down followers of the Messiah, Paul was now being hunted down by the religionists of his day, those who were schooled in the Torah and taught the people. Those associates who had joined Paul in seeking disciples of the Messiah now stalked him.

It is strange how supposed religious people tend to be the most vicious antagonists when they suddenly turn upon a fellow believer. Why did these Jews, who obviously were associates of Paul, suddenly become filled with jealousy and hatred for him?

Is this spirit of ridicule and vengeance still with us today? Do so-called religious people still backbite and attack anyone who takes a stand opposing their own erroneous actions and opinions?

Strangely enough, this same attitude is with us today. If Paul were alive today, he would be right in the middle of the controversy just as he was 2,000 years ago.

Paul would be aghast to think

that the letters he wrote to the various assemblies to help them come to a better understanding of law and grace had been turned completely around to say that obedience to the law is not required. The blood of the Savior covers all, we are told.

Christianity in general has been so corrupted that Paul would not recognize it as the supposed thrust of the message of the Redeemer of Israel. Most Protestants teach that the Pauline Epistles declare that we are not under any obedience to the law, but that we are under grace.

Rather than teaching the truth about obedience to Yahweh's law, churchianity twists Paul's writings and renders an erroneous doctrine of grace and love. All the while they ignore the main thrust of Paul's writings, which was obedience to Yahweh's law.

"Faith alone!" was the rallying cry of the Reformation Movement. This was to counter the Roman Catholic selling of indulgences to compensate for any penalty for sins. "Faith alone" is still the argument commonly voiced today against obedience.

Yet, the Bible nowhere teaches a mere "faith alone." James 2:20 plainly says, "faith without works is dead." James goes on to say that Abraham was justified by works when he had offered Isaac upon the altar, verse 21. James 2:22 reads, "Seest how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect?"

Reformer Martin Luther treated the Book of James with disdain and thought it should be removed from the Bible.

What really was the issue that Paul was addressing in his letters to the Romans and the Galatians? These two letters seem to be the ones the majority of the misguided in churchianity turn to in an effort to justify their "no law" teaching.

Was Paul in fact addressing the

question of law and grace? Was he teaching that the law was done away? Is obedience to the Ten Commandments, for example, no longer necessary in this modern age?

Spiritual Ignorance Still

To understand Paul's letters, one must consider the background surrounding the times in which he was writing, and take note of the situation. All of Paul's letters were written after the time of the resurrection of the Messiah, from around 58 to 67 of our Common Era.

The Temple was still standing in Jerusalem, and worship was being carried out through sacrifices and offerings. The priests were officiating and animals were slaughtered daily.

The Temple was the center of the religious life of the Israelites in Palestine. Sacrifices and offerings were a part of the Book of Leviticus and were a way of life.

Sins demanded a sacrifice be made, and there were various and special offerings for each, such as the burnt offerings, the meat (meal) offerings, the peace offerings, the sin offerings, and the trespass offerings.

The priests and money changers were actively engaged in their pursuits in the Temple. It was a never-ending routine familiar to all Jews.

The Sadducees were of the priestly caste and had governed Temple worship during the time of the Messiah, but were gradually losing their prestige to the Pharisees.

The Scribes and Pharisees were respected for their religious activity and busied themselves with meticulous points of the law. They basked in their pomp and ceremony, wore prestigious, flowing robes and broadened the borders of their garments - all the while flaunting their phylacteries as a badge of righteousness.

The religious routine had become a monotonous way of life for the general population, most of whom gave little thought or consideration to their activities.

They were very much like those today who go to church and greet their acquaintances, sing some songs, and hear a 20-minute talk on love, grace, and forgiveness.

Most never carry their Bibles to church, and an open Bible is hardly ever found, for the sermons are usually based on positive thinking, peace, and prosperity, or giving more to the church.

One would assume the purpose in attending church would be to learn deeper truths of Scripture.

Just as mainstream churchianity is ignorant of the Bible, the people in Paul's day were also spiritually ignorant. They offered up sacrifices and brought offerings, but had no understanding of what the underlying meaning of these sacrifices and offerings meant to them.

It was simply tradition and a routine affair that they mindlessly carried out—salve for the conscience.

Each of those offerings and sacrifices pointed to various aspects of Yahshua's redemptive work, yet the people had no idea what these sacrifices were to teach them. They only busied themselves with the cursory, routine performance of their worship.

They heard of the promise of the coming of the Messiah of Israel, but the religious leaders convinced the majority that the carpenter of Nazareth was not the one who was destined to redeem Israel.

The Rabbis and Pharisees had a preconceived notion of what this coming Prince would be like and how He would appear. They fully expected that this Messiah would restore the land of Palestine to Israel, and drive out those detestable Romans.

Surely, this Redeemer of Israel would come with power and glory, rightfully seizing rulership. He likely

would come with myriads of angels. Did not Isaiah say that David would rule and establish judgment and justice and the "zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this"? (Isaiah 9:7)

If Yahshua Were Here Today

It is the same with the religionists of churchianity today who claim to be teaching the truth of Yahweh. The message of the Bible is so perverted that if the Savior would return and listen to what is being taught in many churches today, He would never recognize it.

Instead of teaching of the coming Kingdom on earth, we hear of people supposedly going to heaven, something the Bible does not teach. We hear of a compassionate Savior who is so loving He would never even threaten, let alone chastise or harm anyone.

Taught today is that He does not expect us to keep the law, but that He has "nailed it to His cross." (Shouldn't He wonder why He had to die at Calvary because of man's lawbreaking, when now this very law is supposedly done away? His death would seemingly be of no account, having accomplished nothing! When you abolish the law, you abolish sin, too!)

The Savior would never recognize as His, any message doing away with the Ten Commandments. He plainly said He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it in all its righteous requirements and in the fulness of its intent, Matthew 5:17.

He would be shocked to hear in churchianity that He was now called by a Latinized Greek/Hebrew-name - a name He was never called in His life on earth. How could Yahshua, a Jew from the house of David who grew up in a Jewish household, who lived among Hebrews who spoke a Semitic language, have a Latinized Greek-Hebrew name that carries no meaning whatsoever?

He would likely be puzzled to hear that He must be so upset because His pleas for the world to believe on Him go unheeded. The erroneous message He would hear likely would be that He came to save the world in His day, and it still isn't saved. (There are more unbelievers today than ever, and the number is increasing yearly!)

But even more, He would be reminded that the world in general wants the salvation of the Jews, but rejects "Jewish" laws and holy days. (The Bible calls them "Yahweh's".)

Yahweh's Word is very clear that the Savior did not die in vain. In His life of 33 years He lived in perfect obedience to Yahweh's Law as an example for us. He started His Assembly of the "called out saints" with the twelve Apostles and promised that His Assembly would always be in existence. He also gave up His life as the supreme sacrifice for the sins of the world.

What's Necessary Now

Today we no longer are required to bring sacrifices and oblations in our worship of Yahweh. The ninth and tenth chapters of Hebrews clearly emphasize the establishment of the New Covenant.

If we confess and repent of our sins; put our faith and trust in the Messiah; are baptized into His name, our sins will be washed away. We stand justified at that moment, just as if we had never sinned.

But the next moment we may again find ourselves sinning in thought, word or deed. As we repent of that sin and strive to overcome our nature, the world, and the adversary, and are determined not to repeat that sin, we are again forgiven.

By overcoming daily we grow in the stature and fulness of the Messiah, Ephesians 4:13.

This is the basic message of the New Testament. Since the death

and resurrection of the Messiah, it is no longer necessary to offer sacrifices for sins. There is no functioning priesthood any more, and the temple has been destroyed, so the prescribed sacrifices can no longer be offered.

Circumcision (which was required before one could enter the temple) is now circumcision of the heart, Romans 2:29. It is willingly turning to Yahweh in complete obedience.

The supreme sacrifice has been made! The precious blood of the Savior has atoned for the sins of the world—your sins and mine.

Those who believe on Him, repent from sin, and are baptized into His Name, can go directly to Father Yahweh in prayer without having to go through the priesthood. Our Priest is Yahshua who mediates our cause with the Father, and He is a High Priest!

The teachers in churchianity today use Paul's writings to teach the removing of Yahweh's law, a doctrine that is not found in Scripture and which Paul never intended in all of his letters. To be sure, the sacrificial laws and the law of circumcision are in abeyance in this age, but will be reinstated later, Ezekiel 44:9; 45:15.

Paul faithfully taught obedience to Yahweh's laws. Notice his clear statements: "Do we then make void the law through faith? Yahweh forbid: yea, we establish the law," Romans 3:31.

Paul upholds the law and establishes it all the more firmly in Romans 7:7. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Yahweh forbid. Nay, I had not known sin but by the law: for I had not known lust except the law had said, 'Thou shalt not covet.'" Note another example in Romans 7:12, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good."

It should be pointed out that at the time Paul was writing his epistles, the temple was still standing,

although it was destroyed in the year 70 of our common era. Galatians was written about 52-53, C.E.; Romans was written about 58 C.E.; Ephesians around 60-61 C.E. Only the Book of Revelation is said to have been written after the destruction of the temple by Titus.

This means that during Paul's ministry, the general population of Palestine continued going to the temple for worship and sacrifices.

After the Savior's resurrection, the Apostles came with the message that physical circumcision was no longer required. Physical circumcision had been a requirement directly given by Yahweh for observing Passover, Exodus 12:43-49. This was later applied to Temple worship as we see in Acts 21:28-29.

They Held to Circumcision

Because of the Pharisees, the majority of the people, with few exceptions, continued with circumcision and carried on with temple worship instead of accepting the shed blood of the Lamb as an atonement for sins, John 1:29.

The message of the Apostles was that Yahshua paid the penalty for sins and repentant mankind now had immediate access to the Heavenly Father through the Son.

The Pharisees continued to harass the Apostles as well as Paul and insisted that every convert had to be physically circumcised. The Book of Acts carries the account of this continuing persecution of Paul and others by the legalistic Pharisees.

It was quite apparent to the religious hierarchy that success in converting those early Israelites would bring about a decline in temple attendance, with the Scribes and Pharisees being the biggest losers.

Their position and livelihood were at stake, and they were determined to stamp out this growing offshoot

of Judaism, which was turning more and more people to following the risen Yahshua of Nazareth. The early Apostles, however, continued preaching the Messiah, Acts 4:18; 5:40; 8:35; 17:18; 28:23.

Under the Old Covenant, it was necessary for the worshiper to be circumcised to enter the temple for worship and offer sacrifice. The question arose among the Apostles whether it was necessary for a Gentile who desired to enter into the New Covenant to be circumcised.

The Old Testament clearly showed that Yahweh's promise was to Israel, and it was through Israel that the nations of the world should be given the adoption and glory, the covenants, the law, the service of Yahweh, and the promises, Romans 9:4.

Circumcision was a token of the Covenant given to Abraham by Yahweh (Gen. 17:11). Should not this regulation be honored in the New Covenant?

The question of requiring circumcision for the New Covenant converts was the primary issue recorded for us in Acts 15. It was not a question, as is erroneously taught by churchianity, that this meeting in Jerusalem was to do away with obeying the law of the Old Testament.

Obedience to the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, calling upon Yahweh's revealed Name, the Feast Days, and adhering to clean meat laws still stand, and were never in question in Paul's day. The question was whether a new convert should be physically circumcised to enter the New Covenant.

The opinion of these Spirit-filled elders was that it is not required of a Gentile that he be circumcised to become a part of the Body of Messiah. Baptism into Yahshua's Name is a public acknowledgement of our entering into the new relationship with Yahweh through His Son.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change of heart.

James summarized the decision the assembled elders reached in Acts 15:19-21 as follows: "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to Yahweh; but that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time has in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day."

These Gentiles were accustomed to worshipping idols. They would dedicate a sacrifice to their idols, then eat these unclean sacrifices. Temple prostitutes abounded in these pagan temples, along with fornication and acts of impure worship.

Theirs was a pagan worship of sex and fertility, from which comes the Easter rabbit, eggs, mother worship, and other modern rites.

Banned also was their eating of blood directly or eating an animal that had been strangled.

While these four proscriptions took care of the fundamentals of impure pagan worship, James also noted that these new converts were attending worship with the Jews, where Moses' writings were read every Sabbath. This means that Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were read and heard by the assembled converts as they gathered in the synagogue each Sabbath.

We cannot read Acts 15:29 without considering what has been given before. These pagans habitually had eaten blood, participated in acts of sex worship, and followed other abominations of heathendom. Now they were told to stop these loathsome practices and enter into the worship Yahweh had ordained.

There is nothing in this chapter or in the New Testament to show that the Ten Commandments of

Yahweh are done away. The issue was circumcision for Gentile converts, not the doing away with the law!

Paul's Writings Misjudged

When some Bible teachers erroneously teach that the law was abolished, they will often turn to Paul's writings. Peter warns us to be careful how we handle Paul's writings, calling him "beloved brother" in 2 Peter 3:15, and then goes on to say in verse 16, "As in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Peter admitted that Paul's writings were difficult to comprehend. He warned that the unlearned and unstable would use Paul's letters and other texts unto their own destruction. And so they do!

When we read of this warning by Peter, we must be very careful how we interpret Paul's meaning. We must have more than one witness according to the Savior's words in John 8:17.

If a no-law teaching were true, it would easily be found throughout the New Testament. The misguided teachers usually twist Paul's letters of Galatians and Romans in their mistaken effort to do away with the Law.

Peter, in 2 Peter 3:17, continues his warning about misconstruing what Paul is telling us, "You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

The word "wicked" is the Greek *athesmos*, meaning lawless, and by implication, criminal. It carries the meaning of being without law. We are warned not to be led away by assuming we need not be guid-

ed by any law.

The interesting point overlooked by the Biblically ignorant is that Paul actually taught obedience to the Ten Commandments and all of Yahweh's laws.

Over the years many have sought to ferret out those questionable verses which might be made to show that we no longer have to observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths, and other verses that supposedly do away with the direct command to call upon Yahweh's personal Name.

Paul's argument was that physical circumcision is no longer required. For those who latch onto these verses and twist them to say that obedience to the Law is no longer required, Peter says such are unlearned and unstable.

A clear verse in this regard is 1 Corinthians 7:19, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh." Can anyone not see that Paul is upholding the keeping of the Ten Commandments? He is not doing away with them, ignoring them, setting them aside, or saying they are unimportant!

The Apostle Paul's letters actually teach the keeping of Yahweh's Laws of the Old Testament, which are brought to spiritual perfection in the New Testament. Even to hate is tantamount to murder. Lust is equated with adultery. This is clearly emphasized by the Savior in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

The Apostolic Assembly kept these commandments, and a remnant has kept them down through the ages until this day. We strive to keep them today as taught by Yahshua and His Apostles.

Upon the destruction of the Temple in 70 in our common era, the priesthood could no longer function. Temple worship came to a halt. There were no

more sacrifices.

Instead of following in the footsteps of the Savior and worshipping Yahweh as He and the Apostles had done, the new converts from paganism brought along their customs and various rites and days of pagan worship were added to the church.

The flood of pagan converts soon swamped the fledgling Assembly that Yahshua had started, and for the most part it lost its characteristic Jewish flavor. From the time of Constantine onward, the Apostolic Assembly was almost buried under paganism.

The writings of Paul, which the unlearned and unstable use in an effort to do away with Yahweh's law, are taken out of context or forced to apply to something altogether foreign to his message. Obedience to Yahweh's Law is spurned by most of churchianity. Paul refers to those who are so minded as carnal, that is, not having the Spirit of Yahweh guiding them. Notice Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh: for it is not subject to the Law of Yahweh, neither indeed can be." A carnal mind is not about to submit to Yahweh's Law!

A good example of wresting Paul's writings is found in Ephesians 2:15. "Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the Law of commandments contained in ordinances..." A carnal mind reads this and assumes that it says the Messiah abolished the Law. But that is not what it says.

Through His death on the tree, Yahshua abolished the enmity, the hatred, the hostility, the racial and religious antagonism between Jew and Gentile. Yahshua the Messiah brought Jew and Gentile together through His death by abolishing the

ordinances that separate Jew from Gentile.

Both Jew and Gentile can now approach Yahweh through the blood of the Lamb. Fleshly sacrifices through the priesthood are now in abeyance. Verse 16 clearly says, "Having slain the enmity thereby."

Hebrews 10:16-17 reveals that the New Covenant is the inscription of Yahweh's Laws in the hearts and minds of His people. This is drawn from Jeremiah 31:31-34, declaring that the same Old Testament Laws will be placed in the hearts and minds of the saints.

It is difficult to comprehend how those who hate Yahweh's Laws now and want to do away with them can expect to have them placed in their hearts and minds. How can those who hate Yahweh's Laws now become kings and priests in the Kingdom (Rev. 1:6 and 5:10) and teach and enforce these same laws on others?

Is it possible to have laws and concepts you hate placed in your heart and mind so that you uphold and obey them? Can you upbraid someone in the Kingdom for not keeping His Laws when you detest these very Laws even now?

Sacrifices to Be Reinstated

The laws of animal sacrifices are still in our Bibles. These sacrificial laws are given as a reminder of the purity and holiness of Yahweh's Ten Commandments and other laws.

The sacrifices will again be put in effect in the Kingdom as we read in Ezekiel 44 and 45. Circumcision will also be required, Ezekiel 44:7-9. This will likely take place when Yahweh deals with nations other than Israel.

Sacrifices now take on a spiritual meaning. This is to help us perceive the deeper meaning of the sacrificial system. Paul reveals in Romans 12:1 that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. We are to sacrifice our lives on the

altar of daily living in the world.

Through obedience to Yahweh's Law, Peter shows that the called-out ones are the living Temple for Almighty Yahweh. Notice, "Come, and let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a spiritual temple; become a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to [Yahweh] through [Yahshua the Messiah]," 1 Peter 2:5, NEB. Hebrews 13:15 also shows through the sacrifice of praise of our lips that Yahweh is well pleased.

Laws' Importance Magnified

All Laws given by Yahweh have a deeper spiritual meaning. The Laws of sacrifice and ceremonial requirements having to do with Temple worship are set aside in favor of the spiritual, which stand forever.

We can easily grasp the Laws of Yahweh by noting that the Laws dealing with Temple worship have taken on a deeper spiritual meaning through the death and resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah. He clearly said to the woman at the well, "Yahweh is Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth," John 4:24.

Paul did not do away with Yahweh's Law. He merely set aside physical circumcision and physical requirements of Temple worship. Reread Paul's epistles with an attitude of perceiving the deeper meaning of that higher spiritual requirement of Yahweh's holiness, which He expects of His people.

Circumcise your heart by making these Laws of Yahweh a part of your life, these Laws that Paul said were "holy, just, and good," Romans 7:12.

The last book of the Bible clearly supports Paul in upholding the Ten Commandments given by Almighty Yahweh. Notice Revelation 12:17 tells of a small Commandment-

<see **Paul** page 22>

Called Out

For more than 15 centuries, most Bible believers have been taught that it is not necessary to obey any law of Moses except the few moral laws specifically mentioned in the New Testament.

It will shock many to learn that it can be proved from New Testament Scriptures alone that a baptized believer in Messiah is obligated to adhere to the whole law of Moses, except for a few laws specifically changed by the Messiah. The law was given to Israel by Yahweh through Moses.

Therefore, in the Bible, "law" refers to Yahweh's law even when it is called the "law of Moses."

His People and His Name

Acts 15 tells about a council of apostles and elders at Jerusalem convened to decide whether circumcision of Gentile believers was necessary.

The decision that it was not necessary to circumcise Gentiles was finally agreed to after James reminded the council that Yahweh had said He would take a people for His Name from among the Gentiles.

Realize, however, that not all Gentiles are called, and fewer yet will remain faithful. "Many are called, but few are chosen," Matthew 20:16. (Scriptures quoted in this study are from the New International Version.)

Today, many reject Yahweh's Name and few are called by it. Is there an implication for Christians in the correlation of this fact and Yahshua's statement?

Isaiah 52:6 and 43:7 say Yahweh's people will know His Name and be called by it. Can those who reject His Name after it has been revealed to them be among Yahweh's elect?

Gentiles as well as Jews are called to the Messiah's wedding feast. The parable in Matthew 22:2-14 informs us that anyone who answers the call and comes to the feast will be cast out if not wearing the proper wedding garments. The proper wedding garment is the righteousness of the saints, Revelation 19:8!

Those who call themselves by Yahweh's Name should guard against becoming self-righteous or complacent about their salvation. They should understand that the words: "Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" applies to them as well as to those who call themselves born again, 1 Corinthians 10:12.

The righteousness of the saints amounts to more than just calling on Yahweh's Name and keeping His Sabbaths and Feasts.

The called-out are instructed to acquire wisdom and

understanding, Proverbs 4:5 and 7. Could the senses be trained to discern good from evil without understanding? Could Timothy rightly handle the Word of Truth without understanding? (Hebrews 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:15)

If we do not grow in wisdom and understanding we will remain babes in the Word, tossed about by ever-changing doctrines.

Wisdom is defined as knowledge of what is good or right, coupled with good judgment. Judgment depends upon understanding the knowledge possessed.

Hence, understanding of Scriptures determines a person's religious beliefs and practices. Knowledge of Yahweh and His Messiah is obtained by study of the Bible.

But a person needs help in acquiring understanding, Acts 8:30-31. The help should come from men to whom Yahweh has given the gift of understanding.

Separate Truth from Error

Since Yahshua sent out disciples to preach and teach righteousness, thousands of profound thinkers have wrestled with understanding Scriptures.

Many thousands of preachers and teachers have proclaimed the concepts of the most popular and highly regarded of these theologians, philosophers and Bible students. Sadly, few of these thinkers have had minds spiritually opened to truly understand Scriptures, Luke 24:45.

Regardless of their sincerity, their concepts and their teachings are a hodgepodge of truth and error. That is the reason for the command to test the spirits and separate the wheat from the chaff.

Most people realize they need help in understanding the Bible, but since they will not endure sound doctrine, they turn to men whose teachings are pleasing to them. They think they are separating truth from error when all they are really doing is separating false doctrines of one teacher from the false doctrines of another. That is one of the reasons for the many divisions in worship today.

A bad tree cannot bring forth good fruit! False prophets (teachers) plant seeds (thoughts) in people's minds. The trees (organizations) that grow from the seeds bear the fruit (beliefs, attitudes, practices and actions).

Inspect the Fruits

Only by comparing the fruits produced with Scriptures

can those responding to Yahweh's truths be distinguished from people responding to deceptions and falsehoods.

Since the Reformation three groups have considered themselves as called out. They are:

Protestants who separated from the Catholic Church;

Puritans who separated from the Anglican Church;

Sacred Name believers who are separating truth from error.

The fruits produced by each of these groups can be determined by a study of historical accounts, but the quality of the fruits can be determined only by comparison with fruits produced by called-out groups in Scriptures.

There are four accounts of called-out people whose fruits can be verified in Scriptures. They are:

- Abraham, called out of Ur of the Chaldees;
- Israel, called out of Egypt;
- Jews, called out of Babylon;
- Gentiles, called out of paganism.

Since a detailed comparison of the fruits of all groups mentioned would be too much for one study, this meditation will be limited to the implications for Gentiles of Abraham's call.

Justification Through Obedience

Yahweh called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees to separate him from the pagan religions of Babylon and to make him the father of a nation through whom all people of the earth could be blessed, Genesis 12:1-3.

Gentiles are also called out of Babylon, Revelation 18:4, and through Yahshua the Messiah become partakers in the blessing, Galatians 3:14.

The implication of Abraham's faith and obedience for Gentiles is spelled out in Genesis 26:5 and Hebrews 11:8-17.

It was Abraham's faith and obe-

dience that gained Yahweh's approval. Gentiles should understand that faith brings approval; belief leads to righteousness.

Righteousness is obedience and it is obedience that gains the justification that guarantees salvation.

Gentiles should read James 2:21-24 and ask themselves, "Would Abraham's faith have been approved if it had not been perfected by obedience?" Understanding that after baptism, justification is faith perfected by works (obedience) and NOT by faith alone that corrects many misunderstandings that sanction belief in lawless doctrines that condone continuance in sin.

Not Faith 'Alone'

Believers in the "faith alone" doctrine point to Romans 3:28 for support and either ignore or reject

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini Study



Why Grace Leads to Obedience

"Guilty" was the jury's verdict. The judge's sentence: death by lethal injection. For Wey Ward, a convicted murderer, the nightmare of that December day seven years ago had played endlessly through his mind.

In a jealous rage he had taken a man's life. He realized that he deserved the death penalty for what he had done. No amount of agonizing could change that.

Regardless of how many times he pleaded for forgiveness from the victim's family, no matter how much he wished he could relive events, one persistent fact remained. Ward deserved to die. The law was the law. He was guilty of a capital crime and he had to pay the price for his sin.

With nowhere else to turn, he begged mercy from the governor.

"You Have Been Pardoned"

Just 10 minutes before his scheduled execution, Wey Ward heard the most unbelievably wonderful words ever spoken to a condemned man:

"By the grace of the governor of this state, you have been pardoned."

"I can't believe it," he said to himself. "He forgave me!"

Humbly thankful for the gracious pardon, Ward vowed from that point on that he would be a model citizen. And he never was in trouble with the law again.

Although fictitious, the foregoing illustrates the concept of scriptural grace and how it works in the

James 2:24. These verses read:

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law," Romans 3:28.

"You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone," James 2:24.

The harmonious relation between these two seemingly contradictory statements is significant for the called-out Gentile to understand what Yahweh requires of His people.

The rallying cry for Luther's reformation was "Fide Sola"—"Faith Alone." The footnote in the NIV to Romans 3:28 states that the word "alone" is not in the Greek, but was inserted by Martin Luther.

If the "alone" were in the Greek and Paul and James were both referring to justification given at baptism, they would be contradicting each other.

A great deal of misunderstanding of Scriptures arises from the belief that justification is by faith alone, and thinking that, is what Paul means by the phrase "apart from observing the law." The phrase does not mean "alone," and neither does it mean the New Covenant is lawless.

A misconception of the meaning of the word "faith" in the New Testament is evident in the NIV's footnote to James 2:14-26. The footnote speaks of a saving faith and a faith that is merely an intellectual acceptance of a truth without trust.

In the New Testament the word "faith" is translated from the Greek word *pistis*, which means trust and nothing else. Intellectual acceptance is "belief." James is not referring to belief without works. He is referring to trust without works! He expressed this thought in James 2:20 as "faith without deeds is useless."

Faith does not mean belief anywhere in the New Testament, and to think that it does is misunderstanding.

It is evident that the editors of

the NIV believe in justification by faith alone, but the footnote reveals a more serious misunderstanding.

They do not understand that Paul and James were not writing about the same thing! Paul wrote about the declaration of innocence obtained at baptism. James wrote about the forgiving of sins that are confessed and repented of between the time of baptism and the time of death, I John 1:69.

Faith and obedience to a new way of life after baptism is the most important implication Gentiles are to learn from Abraham's call to come out of Ur of the Chaldees.

Circumcision of Obedience

Another implication called-out Gentiles should understand is the subject of circumcision. It isn't surprising that we must turn to Paul's writings to study this subject.

"It is not as though Yahweh's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' In other words, it is not the natural children who are Yahweh's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring," Romans 9:6-8.

"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only those who are of the law but also those who are of the faith of Abraham," Romans 4:16.

Abraham's natural descendants are named after his grandson, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. Romans 2:13 reads:

"For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in Yahweh's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous."

No Contradiction

It was just pointed out that Abraham and his descendants are declared righteous if they believe and have faith. Now we are told it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

It would seem that Paul is contradicting himself, but if what he is writing about is understood, then clearly he is not.

In this verse he is referring to the forgiveness of sins that precedes salvation at the RESURRECTION and not about the declaration of innocence granted at BAPTISM as in Romans 3:28.

The truth of this can be understood from the fact that in Romans 2:12 Paul wrote, "All who sin under the law will be judged by the law." In verse 16 he said this judgment will take place after Yahshua's return at the end of the age. Paul is referring to the declaration of innocence at the time of salvation in Romans 2:13.

"Aha," some will say, "You are twisting Scriptures to make it appear that Paul is contradicting what He said in Romans 6:14." In this verse he wrote, "You are not under the law, but under grace."

If we twist Scripture by pointing out that there is a declaration of innocence for past sins given at baptism, and another declaration of innocence for unwitting sins committed after baptism (Heb. 10:26), then everything in this study is a twisting of Scriptures.

A bit of word study will verify that the word "under" in Romans 6:14 is an accurate translation of the Greek, but the word "under" in the NIV of Romans 2:12 is an insertion of a word not in the Greek.

The KJV translators inserted "in" instead of "under," which fits into the sense of the verse better than "under." The NIV editor's insertion of "under" in Romans 2:12 indicates they believe, as most Christians do, that being under grace means it is not necessary to be concerned

about obeying the law.

In Romans 2:29 Paul tells us circumcision of the heart is made by the Spirit and in Ephesians 2:11 he tells us there is a circumcision made by hands.

"Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law you have become as though you had not been circumcised," Romans 2:25.

Circumcision of the flesh is the Old Covenant sign of the seal of righteousness that Abraham received after he was declared righteous, Romans 4:11.

From this we can understand that circumcision of the heart is the New Covenant sign of the seal of righteousness, which is received at baptism in Yahshua's Name. Hebrews 8:10 informs us that Yahweh's law is written on the hearts of Gentiles who have become Abraham's offspring by adoption.

Romans 2:25 and following verses must imply that if the called-out Gentile breaks the law written on his heart, his heart will become as if it had never been circumcised. There are many other Scriptures that indicate the truth of this understanding.

Romans 4:13-16 reveals that Abraham and his offspring did not receive the promise that they would be heirs of the world through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Difficulties of Paul's Words

Peter wasn't exaggerating when he wrote that there are some things Paul wrote that are hard to understand. Comparing Romans 4:14 and 16 is an example of the truth of Peter's statement.

"For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless." (Verse 14)

"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only those

who are of the law but also those who are of the faith of Abraham..." Verse 16 tells us.

What does Paul mean by "faith has no value" if those who live by the law are heirs, then in almost the next verse implies that some of Abraham's offspring are of the law?

Another example of the difficulty shows up when comparing what he wrote here with, "You are not under the law, but under grace," Romans 6:14. We just saw that Hebrews 8:10 tells us the law is written on the hearts of Abraham's offspring. How does that tie in with Romans 4:14 and 16 and 6:14?

It is certain we will hardly understand anything in Paul's epistles if we believe that the law has been abrogated in the New Covenant or if we forget that without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh.

Who did Yahshua have in mind when He told His listeners: "...Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but the rules of men.' You have let go the commands of Yahweh and are holding onto the traditions of men," Mark 7:6-8

Yahshua called the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for making a show of a faithless obedience to the law. Most of the Jews of Yahshua's day probably didn't make a show of their religious practices, but they lived a faithless obedience to the law and the traditions of men.

Though less showy, they were probably as hypocritical as the Scribes and Pharisees and their worship just as vain.

The "who" in "who live by the law" in Romans 6:14 must refer to the faithless, hypocritical Jews Isaiah prophesied about. Since they were faithless, Paul can ask what value would faith have if they are heirs to the promise made to Abra-

ham?

Turning now to Romans 4:16, the apostles, elders, and all Jewish disciples who answered the call to come out of apostate Judaism must be the "who" of "who are of the law." The Gentiles who answered the call to come out of paganism must be the "who" of "who are of the faith of Abraham."

Now, insert the true meaning of the word "grace," i.e., the influence of Yahweh's Holy Spirit in the heart, into Romans 4:16 and understand the difference this makes, rather than thinking "unmerited forgiveness of sin."

It boils down to the fact that promise comes by trust so that it may be by the influence of Yahweh's Holy Spirit to all of Abraham's offspring, whether they have come out of Judaism or all become spiritual Isra-

elites.

Starting A Difficult Walk

Preachers discredit teachings that detract from what they believe is the simplicity of salvation. They teach that all that is necessary for salvation to is believe and be baptized.

It is true that one must believe and be baptized, but belief in lawless doctrines and baptism into a vain worship will not bring a righteous man's reward, which is the crown of life (Matt. 10:41; Rev. 2:10). Nor will being baptized in a name other than the only Name given to men whereby we can be saved bring forgiveness of sin, Acts 4:12.

Those who have been baptized in Yahshua's Name have merely entered upon the narrow way to eternal life. Paul warns Yahshua's followers not to continue in sin just because they are now under grace (influence of Yahweh's Holy Spirit), Romans 6:1-2.

Many Scriptures plainly warn believers that they will experience trials and tribulations and must resist temptations to sin. The Savior Himself said, "And you shall be hated of all [men] for My name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Mark 13:13)

A called-out Gentile must understand that sin is transgression of the law even in the New Covenant, I John 3:4. Deceitful misconceptions nourished by belief in false doctrines prevent understanding which laws were cancelled and which are written on the heart to be obeyed.

To accept Yahshua as Savior is easy, but we are admonished that living the narrow way prescribed by Scripture can be rough: "That you might walk worthy of Yahshua unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of Yahweh; strengthened with all might, ac-

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini Study



Why Biblical Law?

A lesson from the Potter

THE POTTER stretched his wetted hand over the lump of clay as he started rotating the large stone wheel. Turning it slowly with his feet, he formed the revolving mass until a rounded shape began rising from the miry clump.

Adding water from time to time, the potter skillfully smoothed out the softened clay, eliminating minor imperfections.

What was once a shapeless blob on the wheel soon became a sleek, pliant jar in the deft hands of the potter.

Next would come the firing of the kiln to bake permanently the shaped clay into a usable jar.

We in the Hands of the Maker

Have you ever considered looking at mankind through our Creator's eyes? He evidently sees humans as vessels of clay that can eventually be transformed into something wonderful and precious.

Paul addresses this concept in Romans 9:21, "Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?"

We are clay in the hands of the Master Potter. He can mold of us whatever He wills. We are all individuals, each different from all others. We are unique beings on this earth,

ording to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." (Col. 1:10-12)

Paul gave this same warning to the brethren in Thessalonica: "You [are] witnesses, and Elohim [also], how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: as you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father [does] his children, that you would walk worthy of Elohim, who has called you unto his kingdom and glory," 1 Thess. 2:10-12. And again:

"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our Elohim would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of

[His] goodness, and the work of faith with power," 2 Thess. 1:11.

It is not Yahweh Who makes His way tough. It is the world that hates people who live in a way that is pleasing to Yahweh and worthy of salvation. Through His Spirit He strengthens us and makes it possible for us to overcome Satan, the world, and our own carnal nature.

When Yahweh spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He referred to literal Egypt and appointed Moses to lead His people out of bondage to the Egyptians. Egypt typifies the world. In the Bible, Egyptians symbolize worldly people who hold Yahweh's people in spiritual bondage.

Ancient Egyptians were a very religious people whose religion was a conglomerate of beliefs about life, death, and nature incorporated into worship of many local and cosmic deities.

One pharaoh attempted to impose a monotheistic worship of a sun-god upon the Egyptians, but polytheism and magic remained dominant among the masses and monotheism died with the pharaoh.

By the time of Moses, Israel had become thoroughly corrupted by Egyptian idolatry.

Paul warns the believer that what happened to Israel during their wandering in the wilderness was written down as examples of sin to be avoided (1 Cor. 10:6-11).

If understanding is limited to the obvious of the sins listed: don't be an idolator, immoral, and don't test Yahweh, then the hidden wisdom and implications in the Exodus story—which begins with Yahweh speaking with Moses from the burning bush—will be overlooked and ignored.

My People Know My Name

The most significant implication for the called-out is the revelation of the Name of the Mighty One of

Israel.

All pagan deities had proper names whether Egyptian, Babylonian or Canaanite. Israel was so paganized by their long bondage that they would believe that the most powerful of the Egyptian deities was the Mighty One of their fathers.

This was probably the reason Moses asked, "What shall I tell them when they ask me, 'What is His Name?'"

Yahweh's answer was "ehYeh asher ehYeh," meaning "I am who I am" in the Old Testament. He continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'YHWH' has sent Me to you," Exodus 3:14-15.

The Hebrew Tetragram YHWH is mistranslated "the Lord" nearly 7,000 times in most English versions of the Old Testament. Most

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini Study



IS HIS NAME JEHOVAH OR YAHWEH?

The Christian translators of the Bible unknowingly followed the Jewish Scribes and disguised the Name of the Creator. Now learn the truth about the Heavenly Father's revealed, personal Name!

ASK MOST BIBLE BELIEVERS what the name of the Heavenly Father is and they probably will say Jehovah. Ask them for some proof of this and they will either point to traditional usage or refer you to some Old Testament English Bible version.

Surprisingly, the name of the Heavenly Father is not Jehovah, and never was. The history of "Jehovah," which some encyclopedias call erroneous and which many Bible scholars agree is not accurate, is quite eye-opening.

In the oldest text of the Bible, the ancient Hebrew script, the sacred Name is represented by four Hebrew letters, יהוה. These four letters are called the Tetragrammaton, appearing in English as YHWH.

The ancient Hebrew alphabet had no vowels. To indicate vowels, scribes or copyists used diacritical marks or points above or below the letters. Jewish law experts decided to hide this Name to make certain it would not be taken in vain or blasphemed. Therefore, when the four letters of the Tetragrammaton appeared in the text, scribes "pointed" it with substitution vowels for the Hebrew word *adonai* (meaning "lord") which was then read "adonai" instead of the sacred Name "Yahweh."

One of the most widely known words in the world is "halleluYah," an imperative meaning "Praise you Yah." Notice that the short or poetic

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini Study



YAHWEH'S NAME AT THE END OF THE AGE

His people will know His Name.

SINCE THE EARLY 1930s the sacred Name of the Heavenly Father, Yahweh, has been proclaimed in earnest. The earliest Sacred Name pioneers realized that most readers of the Bible were ignorant of Yahweh's great Name. The omission of His Name and substitutes for it can be traced to early Bible translators who followed superstitious Jewish traditions against using the sacred Name Yahweh.

Few translators were conversant in Hebrew, and detested anything Hebrew or Jewish, just as many do today. They could neither read nor speak Hebrew fluently and resorted to the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint, bypassing the original Hebrew texts.

From the Greek Septuagint was made the Latin version of the Old Testament. From the Latin came our English Bibles.

Septuagint Had Yahweh's Name

The original Greek Septuagint of the Old Testament had Yahweh's Name (known as the Tetragrammaton—meaning four letters) inscribed in gold letters in Hebrew: יהוה. Later copyists, being ignorant of Hebrew, substituted the Greek words *Kyrios* and *Theos* with the excuse that if the Tetragrammaton were sacred in the Hebrew, *Kyrios* and *Theos* were sacred in the Greek.

The translators of the 1611 English Bible, the highly revered King James "authorized" version, followed the custom of earlier Bible translators in supplanting the sacred Name Yahweh with the

scholars now agree that the most accurate pronunciation of YHWH is YAHWEH.

The mistranslation "Lord" is the reason many called-out have forgotten Yahweh's Name, just as the Israelites had during their bondage in Egypt.

Another significant implication is that even though Israel had forgotten the Mighty One of their fathers, He had not forgotten them and still called them "My people."

Plagues = Yahweh's Wrath on Sin

Yahweh gave Moses a two-part mission. The first was to reveal Yahweh's Name to Israel before the Exodus. The second was to persuade Pharaoh to allow Israel to leave Egypt. The release from bondage was not granted until after the plagues had demonstrated Yahweh's power. Many scholarly attempts have been made to explain the plagues as the result of natural phenomena. These attempts always ignore two important facts.

First, Moses was given supernatural powers before being sent to Egypt, Exodus 4:1-9. Second, the precise timing of the plagues with Moses' confrontations with Pharaoh had to be supernaturally designed.

Bible students recognize that the plagues upon Egypt typify Yahweh's wrath upon sinners at the end of the age. Today, noted scientists and sociologists are busy explaining the similarities of present events with natural events of the past. Isn't such activity a denial of Yahweh's power and the prophetic implications of Yahweh's Word?

The fact that the Egyptians were a very religious people implies that the sinners at the end of the age will also be a very pious people who, by their idolatries and transgressions, will be denying Yahweh's Name and His power.

The implication is that just as the Egyptians refused to believe

the plagues were from Yahweh, so will pious sinners at the end of the age refuse to believe the plagues that come upon them are evidence of Yahweh's wrath.

Is it mere coincidence that Yahweh's Name is being revealed again to His people as it was revealed to Israel just before their release from bondage of Egypt and its sin? Add the present natural catastrophes and does it not imply that release of His called-out from the bondage of the world is imminent, as the plagues preceded Israel's release?

Singular Covenant Message

No expressions exist in the Bible as "Covenant of Grace" and "Covenant of Law." The called-out fail to discern that grace and law are two inseparable elements of Yahweh's covenant. They go together.

Read Galatians 3:6-14 and ponder the relationship between the singleness of the covenant and promise to Abraham and what appears to be a plurality of covenants and promises in Romans and Hebrews.

Why is the covenant with Abraham's descendants called the first covenant in Hebrews 8:7 when it is really only a reaffirmation of Yahweh's covenant with Abraham?

Why is the covenant mediated by Yahshua the Messiah called the new covenant and said to be founded on better promises, verses 6 and 8, when we are told that those who belong to Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile, are Abraham's seed and heirs to the promise (singular), Galatians 3:29?

There is really only one covenant principle that promises salvation and eternal life! It is given first in the covenant Yahweh made with Abraham. That covenant was changed by the addition of the ceremonial law and conditions of fulfillment of blessings for obedience when Moses mediated the reaffirmation with

Abraham's descendants.

The added law was changed and better promises were given when Yahshua the Messiah's mediation opened the covenant to Gentile as well as Jew.

The better promises are that Yahweh will put His law in the minds and hearts of people who answer Yahshua's call and that He will give them His Holy Spirit to strengthen them in obedience and guide them into all truth.

Galatians 3:19 tells us the law was added to the covenant because of transgressions. Paul tells us the Jews were under the law because they were controlled by their sinful natures and bore the fruit of death (the wages of sin), Romans 6:23 and 7:5.

Grace AND Law Operative

Those who answer Yahshua's call and obey the law in their minds and on their hearts are not under the law (law's penalty) because they are under the control of Yahweh's indwelling Holy Spirit. They live by the Spirit and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. They are not under the law but under grace, Romans 6:14-15, Galatians 5:16-25.

It was because of His grace that Yahweh made a covenant of promise with Abraham, Galatians 3:18. Genesis 26:5 indicates the covenant with Abraham was not without law. Inheritance of the promise is not contingent upon faithless obedience to law, but dependent upon faithful obedience and Yahweh's grace, Galatians 3:29.

Scriptures make it very plain that it was Abraham's faith and obedience that pleased Yahweh and moved Him to extend His grace to Abraham's descendants.

The word grace in the Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew *chen* (khane, Strong's No. 2580), which means kindness or favor. In the New Testament the unmerited forgiveness of sin at baptism

is a *chen*, a kindness or favor. The Greek word translated grace in the New Testament, however, is *charis* (khar'ece, Strong's No. 5485), which means "the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life."

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon says *charis* contains the idea of a kindness bestowed upon one who does not deserve it, but the word *charis* is used in the New Testament to denote the influence of Yahweh's Spirit upon souls to strengthen them in faith and obedience to the Messiah.

Intense Admiration is Idolatry

It is evident from Exodus 32:1-6 that the golden calf Aaron made and the people sacrificed before was a symbol of a mighty one. In spite of Paul's warning not to be idolaters, the called-out fail to understand the implication of this evil to be shunned.

Idolaters are defined as people who blindly and intensely admire another, not always in worship. By this definition even veneration of celebrities is idolatry.

In their ignorance, most of the called-out are as idolatrous as the Israelites after being led out of Egypt. The truth of this statement will no doubt be protested by some, saying that they don't make idols and sacrifice or worship before them as Israel did.

Their declaration of innocence rests upon obedience on an elementary level of understanding and a failure to discern the implications of the similarity between their reaction to the prolonged absence of Yahshua the Messiah and Israel's reaction to the prolonged absence of Moses.

Study Bibles aren't much help in understanding the implications. The margin note in the Companion Bible for Exodus 34:4 says this about the golden calf: "The chief Egyptian god, with which they were

familiar in Egypt." The NIV Study Bible says, "The calf was probably similar to representations of the Egyptian bull-god Apis."

Obviously, the molten calf was a pagan image, but the footnotes do not explain why the Israelites exchanged their glory for an image of a bull that eats grass, Psalm 106:20.

An Idol Image of Yahweh

Surely Israelites would not believe an Egyptian deity was responsible for their release from bondage to Egypt. They had seen the demonstration of Yahweh's power. They had seen the parting of the sea and must have understood that no Egyptian deity would deliver them from Pharaoh's army.

The name of the Mighty One of their fathers had been revealed to them before leaving Egypt. They had received and promised to obey the law at Sinai where the blood of the covenant had been sprinkled upon them, Exodus 24. For these reasons it is unreasonable to assume that Israelites would believe that an image of a bull calf represented a pagan Egyptian deity named Apis. The Egyptians represented Apis by an image of a bull.

None of this explains why Aaron told the people this is the Elohim who brought you out of Egypt and declare that the next day would be a feast to Yahweh, Exodus 32:4-5. The reason must be the equating of pagan imagery and religious practices with Yahweh!

This is exactly what the called-out have been doing for centuries. In Egyptian religion a bull symbolized an almighty, life-giving father deity. Osiris was the name of such an Egyptian deity.

The most popular imagination-stimulating triad of deities in the Egyptian pantheon was Isis, Osiris, and Horus. In this triad, Osiris was the all-powerful, life-giving father deity. Isis, his sister and wife, was the mother of the sun-god Horus.

As scattered localities were gradually united by conquest or amalgamation, their local deities were either supplanted or fused with the deities of other territories.

Thus, Osiris became associated with the bull-god Apis. The name of this deity was Osiris-Apis, and he became so popular and so widely worshiped by the name Osiris that the Apis addition was dropped from the name.

Isis was worshiped as the goddess queen of heaven and represented by an image of a mother with a child in her arms.

Sound familiar? The son, though represented as a child in his mother's arms, was worshiped as an adult deity possessing supernatural powers. In Babylon the child's name was Tammuz and his symbol was the sun. In Egypt the child's name was Horus and he was worshiped as the sun.

This brief sketch of the Egyptian triad may be superfluous except for the information about Osiris, whom Egyptians represented by a bull because they believed him to be an all-powerful, life-giving heavenly father.

Pagan Title Dominates

The information about the mother and son can lead to insights into other errors of worship perpetuated by the called-out, along with representing Yahweh by a pagan image.

Aaron must have become worried that the image of a bull he had made would be regarded as a symbol of Osiris. By announcing a feast to Yahweh the next day, he probably intended to remind the people that it was not an Egyptian deity that had brought them out of Egypt.

Even though the Israelites regarded the molten calf to be a symbol of the Mighty One of their fathers, making an image of anything as a representation of Yahweh is a violation of the Second Command-

ment, Exodus 20:4-6. Singing and dancing after sacrificing and eating before the image was a violation of the command: "You must not do as they do in Egypt," as well as, "Do not turn to idols and make Elohim of cast metal for yourselves," Leviticus 18:3 and 19:4.

The called-out don't claim that they worship images, but they do worship in pagan ways on pagan days and believe that a pagan title refers to Yahweh.

The implication of the account of the golden calf is that Yahweh is not pleased with paganistic worship and when Yahshua the Messiah comes down from heaven they will learn, as Israel did when Moses came down from the mountain, how displeased the Heavenly Father is by ignoring His commandment:

"You must not worship Yahweh your Elohim in their way, because in worshiping their elohim, they do all kinds of detestable things that Yahweh hates," Deuteronomy 12:31.

L-rd Title Soon to Pass

The fact that Yahweh is displeased with the title "L-rd" is hidden by the mistranslation of the Hebrew Tetragram YHWH in Hosea 2:16-17. The NIV of these verses reads, "In that day declares the L-rd, you will call Me 'my husband'; you will no longer call Me 'my master.' I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked."

The KJV reads, "And it shall be at that day, saith the L-rd, that thou shalt call Me Ishi; and shall call Me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name."

A margin note in the Companion Bible states that Ishi means "my husband" and Baali means "my master." L-rd is a title that means the master. What is hidden by the mistranslation of the Hebrew Tetragram YHWH is the fact that English

versions are in effect saying, "The Master says you will no longer call me my Master."

If "YHWH" were correctly translated and the title "the L-rd" interchanged with its meaning "master," verse 16 would clearly say what must have been meant by the original Hebrew: "Yahweh says you will no longer call Me the L-rd."

"Baal" is the name of the Babylonian deity. That is why verse 17 equates "my master" with the names of the Baals. In these latter days not many of the called-out realize that they are the people Yahweh is referring to in Hosea's prophecy.

The called-out should understand the significance of the statement: "It took only forty hours to get Israel out of Egypt; but it took forty years to get Egypt out of Israel" (*Explore the Book* by J. Sidlow Baxter, vol. 1, p. 179).

The fact that Yahweh allowed the generation called out of Egypt to die in the wilderness indicates that that generation never really did get spiritually free of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:10-26, Amos 5:25, and Joshua 5:4-8 inform us that the people rebelled against Yahweh and continued in idolatry. They ignored His Sabbaths, broke His laws, and did not even give their male children the covenant sign of circumcision.

Yahweh didn't abandon Israel after the rebellion. He continued to provide manna, water, and clothing and to speak to the people through Moses. But He did not allow them to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey. Fulfillment of that promise was conditional to obedience, Deuteronomy 4:1.

Parallels With Today's Called Out

The manna and water that Yahweh provided Israel in the wilderness are a type of Yahshua, John 4:10-14, 6:32-35, and Corinthians 10:4.

Israel's experience in the wilderness proves that though Yahweh provides the necessities of life, even His own people must work to gather and prepare what is provided for consumption.

Israel was so concerned about their physical well-being in a strange land that they spurned and ignored Yahweh's provisions for life in the Promised Land. Consequently, the people never prepared themselves to enter the Promised Land by becoming obedient to Yahweh and casting off their idolatry.

New Testament worshipers have allowed "no-law" and "faith-only" doctrines, coupled with the belief that "grace" means "unmerited forgiveness of sin" to spiritually blind them. They don't seem to be aware of the implications of Yahweh's rejection of the generation of Israelites led out of Egypt.

Through His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, and His Holy Spirit in the heart, Yahweh has provided everything needed for New Covenant, called-out people to work out their salvation, Philippians 2:12-13. Note the association of work and obedience in these verses.

Compare this with Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. Verse 11 in the NIV reads, "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come."

This warning applies to everything written in the Old Testament Scriptures about Israel's experience in the wilderness; not just the few examples explicitly mentioned by Paul.

Israel probably continued in idolatry and disobedience because they lacked faith and didn't really believe. Yet, the New Covenant called-out who believe and have faith only may not be denied entry into Yahshua's millennial Kingdom on earth if they are willing to learn

<see **Called Out** page 22>



Valentine's Day

How did it first come about and who was St. Valentine?

"Will you be my valentine?" Again, it is that time of the year when businesses popularize that one day a year when people are to show some special person that they are very special. People do this in many different ways. Retail businesses reduce some of their prices in hopes to gain more sales. Theaters reduce prices so one can take their loved one to a movie. Restaurants reduce meal prices so one can treat their spouse or loved one to a special meal. Liquor is sold at reduced prices to encourage their sales. Florists give special prices on flowers. Card and gift shops advertise special prices to encourage the sale of their goods. Commercial establishments use this day to increase their sales so they can increase their profits.

Advertisers Also Target Young People

The above scenarios are for the not so young. But retail stores also target children. They encourage school children to purchase a card for each child in their class. If a class has 30 pupils and each buys a card for the other children, that totals 870 cards. Multiply this by a small amount for each card and this will total in the hundreds of dollars. Then, multiply this by the number of classrooms in the country doing the same thing and what do we have? A business venture not left alone.

The Beginning

A number of stories concerning this day have circulated through time to give some credence to its origin. One story has a Roman priest named Valentine who favored young people. At the time when the Roman Empire needed soldiers and the Emperor forbade anyone becoming engaged, much less getting married, this priest defied the Emperor and married a young couple, and he was arrested and sentenced to die.

Another legend has Valentine being jailed for helping persecuted Christians. For this, he was imprisoned, and while there he seemingly helped the jailer's blind daughter regain her sight. Just before he was executed, he sent her a farewell message and signed it "from your Valentine."

There is a Roman festival named Lupercalia, which

was celebrated to honor Lupercus, protector of flocks against wolves. One story attached to this festival was that Roman youths would draw names of young girls to be their partner for this pagan fertility festival. Another story concerning this February 15th day dealt with Luperci priests who, after a sacrifice, would choose two youths of noble birth to run through the streets of Rome and lash out at the crowd with goat-skin thongs. If a person were struck by the thongs, it was believed to increase their fertility. It was also believed that birds, especially love birds, would begin their mating on February 14th.

Its Meaning Is Lost

The Adversary has once again shown his ability to shadow the true meaning of this pagan celebration. As with other pagan days which society chooses to celebrate, as Halloween and Christmas, Satan has convinced mankind that nothing is wrong with doing something good on this day. Mankind really has had the wool pulled over their eyes. By merely looking in a dictionary or an encyclopedia one can find out for himself the origin of this day. You will be surprised what those reference books will say.

Don't let Satan beguile us. It is of utmost importance you recognize the true meaning of this and all pagan celebrations. Yahweh is most assuredly not for them. He hates man-made festivals. We must turn from them if we want to have a position of rulership in His Kingdom when our Savior, Yahshua, returns to set up that Kingdom.

What was Valentine's Day first called long ago? Its original name was Lupercalia. It was celebrated thousands of years before there were such people known as Christians or saints. Lupercalia was known in Roman mythology as an ancient Roman fertility rite or Feast of Lupercus, which took place on February 15th. This rite was named after a Roman god named Lupercus, who was said to watch over the shepherds and their flocks and keep them from the wolves. This feast was celebrated every February to honor Lupercus so that no harm would come to the shepherds and their flocks.

Priests (called Luperci), dressed in goatskins, would sacrifice a goat (symbol of fertility) and a dog (symbol of protection) to the gods, anoint themselves with the blood of the sacrifices, and then run through the streets whipping onlookers with a thong made from the goat's skin. These thongs were called februa and the lashing the februatio, both stemming from a Latin word Februarius (February), meaning to purify through sacrificial offerings. Women in the city placed themselves in positions around the streets so that the priests could strike them with the februa to assure these women of fertility and easy childbirth.

In another part of the celebration, priests would pair up the young men and women in the city by writing down the names of the girls and collecting them in a box. Boys then individually drew the girls' names from the box, and became paired with them until the next year's Lupercalia celebration.

This same festival was also used to honor Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and Faunus (associated with Pan), the god of nature. On the eve of this festival a lottery was held.

A Latin word for wolf is lupus and someone once wrote, "Today we still refer to one who fancies himself as the ladies' man as something of a 'wolf,' and when a pretty girl walks down the street, young men give a 'wolf whistle,' which shows that the spirit of the Lupercalia is still with us."

St. Valentine

The story which evolved was about a Roman Catholic priest, Bishop of Interamma, who lived during the third century under the reign of Emperor Claudius II. During his reign, Claudius was involved in many wars. Recognizing his need for young men to serve in his army, Claudius forbade men to marry. The reason for this was the fact that the men would refuse to join the army

because of being married.

Valentine thought this to be totally unfair, and he began to secretly marry couples in spite of the emperor's orders. When Valentine was found out, he was arrested, placed in prison and sentenced to die. During his imprisonment he wrote letters to those of his parish and signed them "From your Valentine." Is this not being carried on today – sending cards on Valentine's Day?

During the third century the Roman Emperor Claudius II was a warmonger. He enjoyed winning and the power that was associated with winning. Because of this he was continually recruiting soldiers for his wars. Soon the men refused to join his army and preferred to stay at home with their families. Because of this the emperor declared that all engagements were

cancelled and that no more marriages could be performed.

This didn't sit too lightly with the populace. They began secretly getting married behind the emperor's back. How did they accomplish this? There was a Roman priest, bishop of Interamma, by the name of Valentine. He thought the emperor's orders were unrealistic so he secretly began marrying people. As one might expect Valentine was soon found out, arrested, put in jail, and sentenced to die.


It seems that while he was in jail that he fell in love with the jailer's daughter who was blind. During his imprisonment he wrote letters to those in his parish and is said to have always signed them "From your Valentine." Valentine was eventually beheaded on Palatine Hill at the site of the ancient altar to Juno. Since this time Valentine was considered a martyr who sacrificed himself in the name of true love.

Over time, the lottery, as associated with Lupercalia, was replaced with a lottery where both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and now this box contained the names of saints. When a saint's name was drawn, the person was expected to imitate the life of the saint whose name they had drawn. Over time, this new lottery lost favor with the populace. In its place the young men began a custom of offering women they admired and wished to court handwritten greetings of affection on February 14th. Thus began the idea of Valentine's Day cards.

Mythology of Valentine's Day

In the fifth century, the reigning pope declared February 14th as Valentine's Day in honor of St. Valentine. The tradition of drawing names on St. Valentine's Day continues in England and other places. Also, the Europeans believe that on February 14th the birds began

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini - Study 

To the Heart of Valentine's Day

*E*very February 14 we see an "angelic" infant with a bow and arrow aiming for the heart of his "valentine." Cupids are everywhere with bows and arrows, heart shapes, paper lace, birds and flowers. All these are associated with St.Valentine's Day. But just where did these symbols and the celebration of the 14th of February come from? Most of all, should we be celebrating this seemingly innocent day on which so many remember sweethearts and lovers?

A Priest with a Heart
The origin of this day is not clear, as there seems to be more than one explanation. The most accepted legend is that a Roman priest named Valentine had a special feeling for young people. When the Roman Empire needed soldiers, Emperor Claudius II decreed that no one could marry or become engaged. Claudius believed that marriage made men want to stay home instead of fighting wars. The kindly Valentine defied the Emperor's decree and secretly performed weddings for a number of young couples. He was arrested, imprisoned, and put to death. Another legend holds that Valentine was aiding persecuted Christians and was imprisoned. A jailer and his family were so impressed by his sincerity that they became Christians themselves. Valentine was fond of the jailer's blind daughter and by a miracle restored her sight. On the morning of his execution he sent her a farewell message signed "From your Valentine." St. Valentine was beheaded on February 14. When he was buried, the story goes, a pink almond tree near his grave burst into bloom as a symbol of lasting love.

February 14 Fertility Festival
February 14, when Valentine is supposed to have died, was also the eve of an important Roman festival, the Lupercalia. On this evening, Roman youths drew names of girls who would be their partners during this spring

to choose their mates. This tradition of birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day led to the idea that boys and girls should do the same.

Most people today could remember the story of St. Valentine, but Lupercalia and associated deities of classified mythology are forgotten. We rarely study them or see any significance in our lives. The St. Valentine story motif has the elements of a good story: love, honor, courage, and sacrifice. But, let's go deeper into the significance of Lupercalia and the mythology behind this.

Ancient pagan fertility rituals have come down to our present time almost intact. The only difference in the ancient pagan rituals and their modern counterparts, is the fact that their names have changed in order to venerate them with Christian respectability.

Lupus is the Latin word for wolf. The wolf is the symbol for valor. Valerine was a common Roman name, which Roman parents often gave to their children in honor of the famous man who was first called valiant: Valentine, in antiquity, Lupercus, The Hunter.

The Romans identified Lupercus with Faunus, a deity of nature. The Greeks called this deity of nature--Pan. Pan, the chief of the satyrs, presided over rural occupations, was patron of fishermen, hunters and shepherds.

Faun was the Roman mythological name. It corresponded with the satyrs of mythology. They had pointed ears, short horns and a tail.

Pan was an Arcadian deity of light and, as evil, was equivalent to the Sun deity: Baal, also spelled B-A-L or B-E-L. Baal is any of the numerous local deities among Semitic peoples, typifying the productive forces of nature and worshipped with orgiastic rites. Baal simply meant lord.

Baal, which is mentioned often

in the Holy Scriptures, was a title of Nimrod, the hunter who was against Yahweh. We read in the King James version Genesis 10:9,

He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before Yahweh.

The hunter, Nimrod, it is said, pursued wolves in the Apennine Mountains of Italy, and acquired the title of Lupercus - wolf hunter or hunter of valor. Remember, valens means to be strong, powerful, mighty.

Nimrod not only was strong, powerful and mighty in a political sense, but he was also strong, powerful, and mighty in a sexual sense. The worship of the pagan people was centered on sexual activity to insure fertility.

Nimrod, Baal-Lord-Sun God of the ancients, is the basis for all mythology worldwide. His exploits and those of his wife Semiramis and their foundation of the satan-centered system of mythology are explained in great detail in the excellent book titled "The Two Babylons," written by Alexander Hislop.

If you study the origin and symbols of Valentine's Day, they are not simple and meaningless. They refer you to a pagan ruler Nimrod who rebelled against Yahweh. Perhaps to continue recognizing these holidays, we are giving support to that rebellion by Nimrod. Nimrod was not the first to rebel, however. The first was Satan. We do not wish to associate ourselves in any way to that great rebel.

Mythology Embraced by Christianity

Ancient pagan fertility rituals have come down to our present time almost intact. The only difference in the ancient pagan rituals and their modern counterparts, is the fact that their names have changed in order to venerate them with Christian respectability.

It is a documented fact that pa-

gan customs were grafted into Christian religion. Christian missionaries took each of these pagan festivals and venerated them with Christian respectability by changing their names. That is why today we have Christmas rather than Saturnalia, Easter rather than the Festival of the Goddess of the Dawn, and Valentine's Day rather than the Lupercalia.

Even though Christian missionaries took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observance of the new faith onto their festivals, with their rites and customs, they are still abominations in the sight of Yahweh.

In fact, Yahweh has given us a direct command not to serve Him in the way that the pagans served their deities! In Deuteronomy, 12:29-32, we read:

When Yahweh thy Elohim shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their deities, saying, How did these nations serve their deities? Even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which He hateth, have they done unto their deities; for even their sons and daughters they have burnt in the fire to their deities. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it; thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Does Yahweh have something to say about religious leaders who took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith into these festivals and the customs and the rites surrounding them? Yes, he does. Let's look at what 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workes, transforming

themselves into the apostles of the Messiah. And no marvel; for Satan is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Although these ancient fertility rituals have come down to us through Satan's ministers in forms of beauty, we are still creating, maintaining and renewing fertility to the same ancient pagan deities that Yahweh says are an abomination to Him. As described earlier, we are using new terms and stories, but they all have the same roots. The roots are found in the Old Testament Scripture. Yahweh was concerned with them and still is today.

During the fourth century, the church seemingly swallowed up many people for the sake of religion. In doing so, the people, swallowed up brought along their own version of religion. This meant many pagan practices were incorporated into the practicing religious celebrations. Even though they tried to rid themselves of these pagan practices, a book, "The Story of Valentine Symbols," says,

"Unable to abolish some of the pagan festivals that the people loved, they accepted them and gave them Christian names. So it was with the Lupercalia, which survived late into the fifth century. St. Valentine's name was given to a festival that was celebrated in springtime and dealt with the fertility in human beings and other animals. And, doing what the church might, the ancient

meaning never quite left it. Memories of the Lupercalia as a celebration of mating were handed down, attaching themselves to the saint's name."

The ideas connected to St. Valentine's Day were brought to the United States, and that day was first celebrated in the United States during the Civil War.

Symbols Connected With Valentine's Day

Cupid

That symbol which is almost a Valentine entity in itself, Cupid, is the Roman mythological son of Venus, the goddess of love. In Greek, he is called Eros, the god of love, and son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Cupid has always played a role in the celebrations of love and lovers. He is known as a mischievous, naked, winged child carrying a bow and a quiver of arrows. There is more to the stories of Cupid, but suffice it to say that Cupid has pagan origins.



Cupid getting ready to shoot an arrow at someone's heart

The Heart

Along with Cupid, another symbol used over and over again during the season of Valentine's Day is the heart. In the book, "The Two Babylons," the author, Alexander Hislop, writes on pages 188-189,

"The 'heart' was one of the sacred symbols of Osiris (Egyptian deity of the underworld) when he was born again, and appeared as Harpocrates, or the infant divinity, borne in the arms of his mother Isis. Therefore, the fruit of the Egyptian Persea was peculiarly sacred to him, from its resemblance to the human heart. Hence, this infant divinity was frequently represented with a heart, or the heart-shaped fruit of the Persea in one of his hands...Thus the boy-god came to be regarded as the 'god of the heart,' or, in other words, as Cupid, the god of love. To identify this infant divinity with his father, 'the mighty hunter (Nimrod),' he was equipped with 'bows and arrows;' and in the hands of the poets, for the amusement of the profane vulgar, this sportive boy-god was celebrated as taking aim

with his gold-tipped shafts at the heart of mankind. His real character, however, as the above statement shows, and as we have reason already to conclude, was far higher and of very different kind. He was the woman's seed. Venus and her son, Cupid, were none other than the Madonna and the Child."

There's more.

"How came it that the 'Heart' became the recognized symbol of the Child of the great Mother? The answer is, 'The Heart' in Chaldee

is 'Bel;' and as, at first, after the check given to idolatry, almost all the most important elements of the Chaldean system were introduced under a veil, so under that veil they continued to be shrouded from the gaze of the initiated...Now, the worship of the 'Sacred Heart' was just, under a symbol, the worship of the 'Sacred Bel,' that mighty one of Babylon, who had died a martyr for idolatry; for Harpo-crates, of Horus, the infant god, was regarded as Bel, born again."

The most predominant symbol of the fertility rite of Valentine's Day is the heart. In our country, the heart symbol has the same meaning as love. Almost everywhere one looks you can see examples of this symbolic representation of love. The heart is also a popular design for costume jewelry, saying love without saying it.

This symbol was also familiar in ancient Babylon where it symbolized the deity who was worshipped. This symbol did not come down to our day untainted and pure, despite what the world has been deceived to think.

Let us read a very revealing and astounding excerpt from Halley's Bible handbook. This will certainly put "the heart" of truth into proper context:

"The Imperial Church of the 4th and 5th centuries had become an entirely different institution from the persecuted church of the first three centuries. In its ambition to rule it lost and forgot the spirit of [Messiah].

"Worship, at first very simple, was developed into elaborate, stately, imposing ceremonies having all the outward splendor that had belonged to heathen temples.

"Ministers became priests. The term 'priest' was not applied to Christian ministers before A.D. 200. It was borrowed from the Jewish system, and from the example of heathen priesthood. Leo I (440-61) prohibited priests from marry-

ing, and celibacy of priests became a law of the Roman Church.

"Conversion of the Barbarians: The Goths, Vandals, and Huns who overthrew the Roman Empire accepted Christianity; but to a large extent their conversion was nominal and this furthered the Church with pagan practices."

We are warned "learn not the way of the heathen," Jeremiah 10:2.

Arrows

What about the significance of "arrows." J.E. Cirlot offers this in his Dictionary of Symbols:

"It was used to designate the sun's rays. But, because of its shape, it has undeniable phallic significance, especially when it is shown in emblems balanced against the symbol of the 'mystic center,' feminine in character, such as the heart. The heart is pierced with an arrow of conjunction."

Serve Yahweh, Not Man

If we obey Yahweh by practicing every Word that proceeds from His mouth without adding to his Word or taking from His Word, we are servants of Yahweh. However, if we follow after the servants or ministers of Satan, who are deceived into grafting pagan customs into Christianity, then we are servants of Satan.

Servants of Satan! Now that is the truth without veneer or syncretistic manipulation. That is a frank description of whom we obey when we acknowledge and honor Valentine's Day. It seems harsh and certainly not politically correct, but truth feels that way sometimes.

Yahweh warns us to come out of this pagan system. If we choose not to do this, we have made our choice and will be identified with it. Consider what Revelation 18:4 has to say:

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers

of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Now that we have identified this world's holidays, the wrong ones to be associated with, what does Yahweh prefer?

Prove All Things

How does it happen that we are unable to correctly discern what is true and what is false? How does the world innocently accept a holiday like Valentine's Day, which in fact has a history that leads you back to the deity of this world, satan?

Remember what we are told in Ephesians 6:12 NASB:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We learn more about the attributes of Satan in Ezekiel 28:12-13,

You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of Yahweh; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond.

Satan's demons are very intelligent and aware of reality. We find this in Mark 3:11:

Whenever the unclean spirit saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of Yahweh."

In Ephesians 2:2, Satan is described as having a special power over us:

In which you formerly walked according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Most people believe that is Yahweh's world or certainly Yahshua's world. But that is not true. This world was given to Satan to rule. He has twisted that opportunity and despoiled it.

These Scriptures confirm who

the real ruler of this world is:

Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out, John 12:31.

I will not speak with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in me, John 14:30.

In whose care the mighty one of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah who is the image of Yahweh, 2 Corinthians 4:4.

We know that we are of Yahweh, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, 1 John 5:19.

These Scriptures confirm that this whole world is under the influence of Satan and his demons, who are able to manipulate, deceive, and confuse at will. They construct history and culture to meet their needs. The symbolism used during the Valentine's Day celebration is just another example of their work.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

<Called Out from page 16>

obedience.

The millennial Kingdom will become a paradise when Yahweh comes down from heaven to dwell with His people. Nothing unclean or impure will be allowed to enter paradise, Revelation 21:3, 27.

The bride must make herself ready.

Elder Ralph Henrie (deceased)

<Paul from page 8>

keeping remnant that the Adversary will persecute at the end of the age: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of Yahweh and have the testimony of Yahshua the Messiah."

Paul commended the Philippians for their obedience in allowing

Yahweh to exercise His will to work in them, Philippians 2:13. It is in verse 12 Paul says, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Do not wrest Paul's writings as do the unlearned and unstable unto your own destruction.

After being called of Yahshua on the Damascus road, Paul no longer offered animal sacrifices. But he continued to obey. Notice his words to Felix, the governor, "But this I confess unto you, that after the way they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets," Acts 24:14.

May you also believe all things that are written in the Law and in the Prophets (Old Testament) and preserve Yahweh's truth in your heart and mind.

Elder Donald R. Mansager

2010 YAIY Beacon Index

January-February Background of Sabbath Fire /3 Comparisons /7 Eternally Secure /10 Discovering the Sabbath /16 Questions and Answers /20 2009 YAIY Beacon Index /22 Revealing the Truth /23

March-April The Determination of Yahweh's Appointed Times /3 Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread /8 Beware of Pagan Calendars /14 Revealing the Truth Schedule /23

May-June The Coming of the Spirit /3 Keep the Flame Ablaze /6 Truth versus Evolution /13 Canaan /18 Letters /21 Revealing the Truth /23

July-August The Seed /3 The Heritage of Jacob /7 Except Ye See Signs and Wonders /13 Food for Thought /16 Question and Answer /21 Revealing the Truth TV Schedule /23

September-October The Tree That Yields Fruit /3 Playing Blind Isn't Smart /9 Halloween is NOT Hallowed /13 End Time Prophecy /17

November-December The Christmas Story /3 The Faith of Yahshua /7 The Real Truth About Christmas /11 Lessons and Truth from the Past /17 Letters /21 Revealing the Truth /23



Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua's Weekly Television Program

Revealing the Truth

On the Air in These Cities. Check Listings or www.yaiy.org for Latest Information

USA, California, San Diego
Cox Cable Community Access, Channel 23
Saturdays (Sabbath) 1:00 pm

USA, Illinois, Urbana
Urbana Public Television, UPT, Channel 6
Check Local Listings

USA, Hawaii, Honolulu
Olelo Community Television, Channel 49
Check Local Listings

USA, Kentucky, Highland Heights,
Campbell County Community Media, Ch. 17
Wednesdays 5:30 pm, Fridays 10:00 am

USA, Massachusetts, Cape Cod
Cape Cod Community Media Center, Ch. 17
Saturdays (Sabbath) 9:30 am

USA Massachusetts, Mashpee
Mashpee Public Access, Channel 17
Fridays - Sundays 2:00 pm

USA, Massachusetts, Sandwich
Sandwich Public Broadcasting, Channel 13
Saturdays (Sabbath) 3:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Columbia
Columbia Access Television, Channel 3
Sundays 8:30 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays 2:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Jefferson City
Jefferson City Access Television, Channel 3
Mondays 11:30 am, Fridays 8:30 pm

USA, New Mexico, Albuquerque
Quote...Unquote, Inc., Channel 27
Sundays 5:00 pm

USA, New Mexico, Los Alamos
Public Access Channel, Channel 8
Check Local Listings

USA, New York, Fairport
Fairport Area Community Television, Channel 15
Sundays 10:00 pm

USA, New York, Rotterdam (Upstate New York)
Time Warner Cable, Channel 18
Mondays 7:30 pm

USA, New York, Schenectady
Schenectady Public Access, Channel 16
Tuesdays 7:00 am

USA, Oregon, Portland
Portland Community Media
Check Local Listings

USA, Oregon, Salem
CCTV, Channel 23 - Thursdays 5:00 pm;
Fridays 1:30 pm; Sundays 2:30 pm

New locations are added regularly. Become a local sponsor to get Revealing the Truth on the air in areas not listed.

Call toll free: 1-877-642-4101

"Love one another..."
"Truth came through Yahshua the Messiah..."
"What is His Name?"

"I will walk in Your truth..."

YAHWEH'S ASSEMBLY IN YAHSHUA
2963 CO. RD. 233
KINGDOM CITY, MO 65262

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KINGDOM CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 7

MOVING?

Help us save 75¢ per issue by
sending us your new address!



*Springtime -
A Time
For Renewal*