

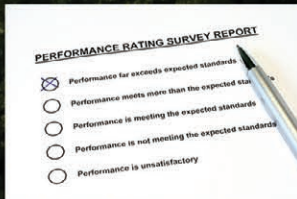
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What would your report card say after attending the School of Hard Knocks?

YAIY Beacon



Volume 7



Number 1

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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.

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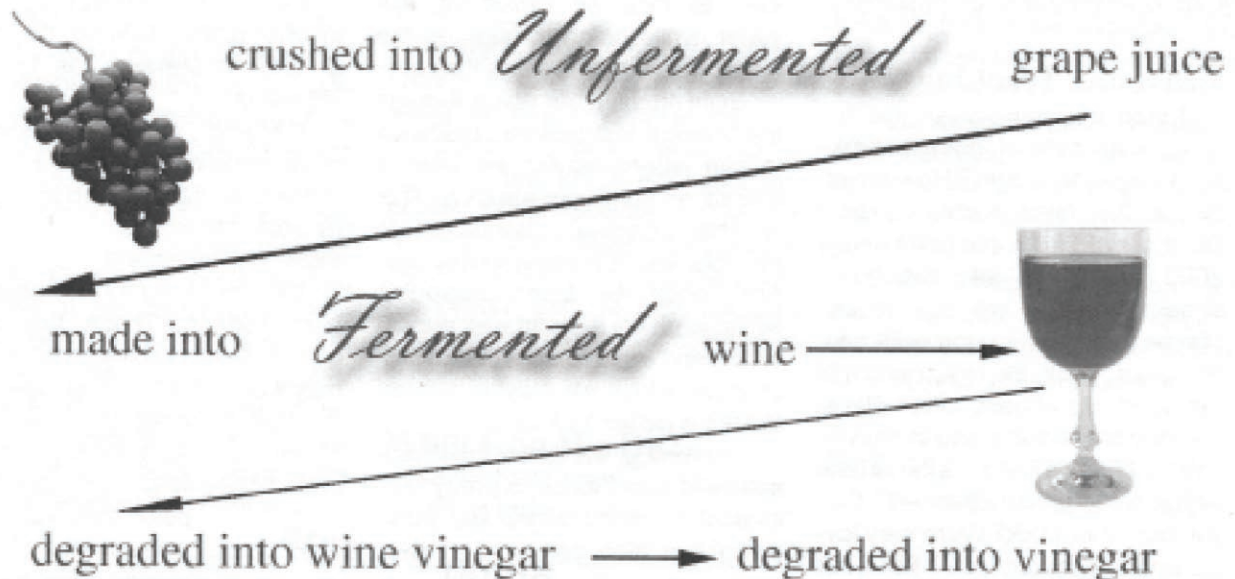
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Because of budget shortfalls, the Board of Directors have determined to publish YAIY Beacon on a quarterly basis.

Fruit of the Vine



Before addressing the main subject matter, we first need to take sufficient time to preface the importance of understanding what the “fruit of the vine” means, when speaking of the Passover emblem in the New Testament.

While it's close to the time of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, it's fitting to think about the following and about some of the symbolism, and what is happening in our own time, just as what has happened in times past.

Discerning Biblical Truth

The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and My people love it this way. But what will you do in the end? (Jeremiah 5:31 NIV.)

While this was said back in the time just prior to the Babylonian captivity of Judah, we find that similar false teachings and religions ruled by men, rather than by the hand of Yahweh, are the norm and not the exception, in our own time. It was also this way back in the Messiah's time with the Pharisees and Sadducees.

This is why we are busy trying to keep sound doctrine and are refuting false teachings. We also are trying to work as a body of leaders, not to do our own will, but the Father's will, through His Son, Yahshua. To be led by the Spirit of Yahweh, in Mes-

siah, and to have correct teachings for the brethren and others, is our goal, and is what is right in Yahweh's sight. Yahshua knew this. The Apostle Paul did, too:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further unrighteousness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some, 2 Timothy 2:15–18 NASB.

What else is like gangrene? How about cancer? Is either one something we want in the body of Messiah? How do you get rid of gangrene or cancer? If you can't cure it, it has to be cut out. This is why dis-fellowshipping someone is appropriate, if they are spreading false doctrine and won't stop.

Hymenaeus and Philetus, mentioned in a letter by Paul, were men who were doing what? These men could have been very loving, caring, outgoing, having many who loved them. Yet, they were teaching false doctrines.

They may have sounded like saints, but once you start speaking things that aren't truth, then what? In the body of Messiah, it has to be dealt with.

Paul identified these men, Hymenaeus and Philetus, probably already having debated with them, as

problem individuals in the assembly. This was done not because of the fact that they were harsh or not being friendly and caring, but because they simply were teaching a false doctrine, something that just was not true according to Scripture, nor to the reality of their day.

Leavened Teachings

Could this have been the first time the doctrine of “going to heaven” was being taught? How prevalent is this false doctrine today? Did it spread from this point nearly 2,000 years ago into the mainstream teaching we see today? Maybe they were saying, with gentle voices, “look, the resurrection of the dead has already taken place, but they are invisible and in heaven now.Hey, it’s just a matter of time before we are also changed.” Can you hear them talk? Were they loving and kind and gentle? But what they were teaching was cancerous, gangrenous, and leavenish, which continues to spread with seemingly no end in sight.

“Be careful,” Yahshua said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.” Aware of their discussion, Yahshua asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that He was not telling them

to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees, Matthew 16:6–12 NIV.

When we clean out the leavening and we’re doing our general spring cleaning, it’s sometimes easy to miss an ingredient, like yeast, while going through all the labels that we have to go through.

Bible study, while going through the various instructions, helps us to see where maybe we were a little off on our understanding. This is what personally happened to my wife and me some years ago. And, once we found leavening within what we thought was pure, it awakened us to take notice of other areas which we maybe needed to take a closer look at.

Leavening, like that of the Pharisees and Sadducees, is pretty self-evident in many ways. But leavening can also be

Bible study, while going through the various instructions, helps us to see where maybe we were a little off on our understanding.

very subtle, to the point where we really don’t see it as such a bad thing. Yet, it still is associated with sin, and sin causes death. So, it needs to be dealt with. We can’t compromise with anything like gangrene. It’s too dangerous.

Same Mind/Like-Minded

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Master Yahshua Messiah, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment, 1 Corinthians 1:10 ES.

Can we be of the same mind and judgment? Yes. Can we love one another? Yes.

While we can accept one another and love one another, we can’t partake in nor promote false teach-

ings.

We need Yahweh’s Spirit to guide us so that we are in line with His Word. We are to strive toward that end of being of the same mind and same judgment in order to teach that which is true according to the Word of Yahweh and living in His Spirit, walking on higher ground, in Messiah, as Titus 1:9 TS reads:

Clinging to the trustworthy word, according to the teaching, in order to be able both to encourage by sound teaching, and to reprove those who oppose it.

It’s encouraging to hear the truth spoken. Those that disregard it should be reprovved, so that they’ll be ashamed and repent. It’s not just to make them feel bad; it’s so they’ll turn back to the truth and not get further off track to the point they no longer have any of Yahweh’s Spirit working in them, but rather Satan’s spirit and influence.

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves shall come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men shall arise, speaking distorted teachings, to draw away the taught ones after themselves. Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease to warn each one with tears, Acts 20:29–31 TS.

Paul could foresee what was coming. He was already dealing with problems and with attitudes of unrighteous men trying to have their own way and do their own thing, while disregarding Yahweh’s Word.

Having a form of righteousness, but denying the power thereof, 2 Tim. 3:5a AV.

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines

any longer, 1 Timothy 1:3 NIV.

Deal with falsehood, command those teaching such things to stop. This was Paul's instruction to Timothy. It's one thing to have a Bible study and consider how some interpret a verse, but it's another to hold on to a false interpretation and promote it as the truth.

For years, my wife and I were with a group that taught wine was what was to be taken with unleavened bread in the New Testament Passover memorial. It was the discovery, or rather the revelation, that this was not correct which opened up our eyes to the fact that we also needed to reexamine some other areas of doctrine which we had held for years as the absolute truth.

It may be that the following may now be of help to you and yours, to see something you may have missed before. The evidence about to be presented is not just one thing, but many things which conform to basic truths. But first, we have to start by asking a question: Is the Passover cup in the New Testament to contain fermented or unfermented fruit of the vine?

Unfermented or Fermented?

Moving beyond the preface, but having it as a foundation, let's now take a look at the "fruit of the vine," and discern if it is speaking of an unfermented or a fermented drink relative to the contents of the Passover cup.

Some subjects and additional questions we'll want to address are:

1. Storage: Could grape juice be stored for any length of time after grapes were harvested at the end of summer going into the fall Festivals? Could it last into the spring appointed times?

2. New Wine: Can new wine be placed in old wineskins? What is new wine? Fermented or not? After all, there is yeast on the skins of the grapes and getting mixed in

with the juice would just speed the process. Right?

3. Hebrew and Greek Words: What are the Hebrew and Greek words for wine and grape juice?

4. Symbolism: What symbolism is there in wine vs. grape juice? Can't "fruit of the vine" represent both? Which is more appropriate for the Savior?

5. Wine Vinegar: Can vinegar be a wine? And why is it important to know?

6. Worship and Wine: Is wine or any fermented drink allowed to be consumed by priests or members in any worship service to Yahweh?

Storage

The question that is often brought up is: "Could grape juice be stored for use throughout the year?" The reality is that we just need to answer if it could be pre-

served until the spring, from the time it is harvested just prior to the Fall Feasts arriving.

We'll spend some time on this as it really seems that people get on the kick that you just cannot store grape juice. In fact, one person wrote and said, "Grape juice becomes wine after 18 minutes from being crushed from the grapes." If that were true, they would have re-label all the grape juice containers in the stores to say wine. Essentially, what we are asking in this article about the "fruit of the vine" for Passover is, "Is it fermented or un-fermented?"

Let's get back to the question at hand, "Could grape juice be stored for any length of time after grapes were harvested at the end of summer going into the fall Festivals?" or "Could it last into the spring appointed times?"

The acting manager for an operational vineyard in Israel, in answering this type of question, wrote, "In my opinion the atmosphere 2,000 years ago was not as polluted as it is now and the number of yeasts and bacteria in it was far less. If this is true, then it could have been possible in ancient times (2,000 years ago) to avert fermentation by hermetic closure of the containers," said Alfred Steller, Acting Manager of Rishon-le-Zion Winery.

A chemist, Philip Herzog, Chief Chemist of the Royal Wine Corporation, wrote, in answering the question of preserving of grape juice, "...we believe that the grapes in Palestine at that time [New Testament times] were very sweet, about 35 brix. Since they were so sweet, it would have been difficult for them to ferment...if they were tightly sealed, they would not have fermented."

Besides storing just the juice, it could be stored by other means and then reconstituted. These techniques were already known by the Egyptians, and no doubt would have been learned by the Israelites

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Mini - Study



The Passover Cup Should it Contain Wine or Grape Juice?

Many assume from their experience with "communion" that wine is the proper liquid to represent the memorial shedding of the Savior's blood.

But is it? Have you ever really investigated the meaning of the cup and its symbolic contents?

Blood Atones for Sin

A basic principle in the Bible is that the only possible atonement for the act of sin is a giving up of life. And the ONLY way we can be free of sin's death penalty, which we have all earned because of our sins, is through blood, which contains life, Leviticus 17:11.

Israel's sins were covered under an elaborate system of sacrifices in which animal blood was shed. That system gave way to a better sacrifice in the New Testament. Yahshua shed His blood on the torture stake as the perfect sacrifice. His blood paid the death penalty for our sins, just as the blood of animals was shed under the Old Covenant merely to cover Israel's sins (but not take them away, Heb. 9:13-15).

Contrary to what many believe, the principle of sacrifice remains, only now it is the sacrifice of the Savior and the shedding of His blood that we trust in.

What Represents Blood?

Our Savior instituted a new symbol at that New Covenant Passover—the cup. This symbol represented the blood of the perfect Lamb, which was Himself.

The question is, what was the liquid in that Passover cup which represented His pure, sinless life? Wine? Grape juice? Water? Is there any way we can know? Yes, there is! Does it really matter? It certainly does!

when they were there.

"The Holy Land has rightly been called 'the land of grapes'... the grapes provided juice that was boiled down to the consistency of molasses," Nelson's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Bible Facts.

This would be like making grape jam. Before Passover, we will at times send individual grape jam packages to prisoners. They can take it and reconstitute it back into grape juice, simply by adding water and stirring it.

Raisins would have the same capacity to be dried, stored, and then used at a later date.

The Jewish Festivals History and Observance, by Hayyim Schauss, says, "Pesach is in the air. Housewives are already buying the raisins needed for the wine."

We find that if the conditions were right back 2000 years ago, just about any fruit could be stored and preserved. Grape juice, technically, didn't need to be stored, given the history Josephus presents:

"...it [Gennesareth, which is in the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee, about 70 miles from Jerusalem] not only nourishes different sorts of autumnal fruit beyond men's expectation, but preserves them a great while; it supplies men with the principal fruits, with grapes and figs continually during ten months of the year, and the rest of the fruit as they become ripe together, through the whole year."

This pretty well answers, in the affirmative, that grape juice indeed can be stored for some length of time, but exporters could have actually brought in fresh grape juice from other areas.

Jerusalem's trade went beyond its own borders. Trade routes were well established during King Solomon's time, reaching into other countries and other trade routes, some existing during the 1st century of the Common Era for Jerusalem.

Other questions arise, however,

so let's look at the subject of "New Wine."

New Wine

Can new wine be placed in old wineskins? What is new wine? Is it fermented or not? After all, there is yeast on the skins of the grapes and getting mixed in with the juice would just speed the process. Right?

Thus saith Yahweh, as the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for My servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all, Isaiah 65:8 KJV.

Saying new wine is in the cluster, one would make us think that grape juice is what new wine is, but this appears to be speaking of what the expectation of the cluster of grapes could be used for. This

is like calling a grape juice press a wine press, since ultimately grape juice can eventually be made into wine.

In studying this wording, "new wine," it looks like there are some situations in which new wine is used in the Old Testament as grape juice (for example, when it is described with other first fruits). But, in the New Testament, it appears to only be pointing to grape juice which has already started fermenting, and, hence, called new wine. Not one word as in Hebrew, but two words in Greek.

A change in the meanings of words is commonly known. This is how some counterfeiters are caught when they use current Hebrew words, which are not appropriate for the time period of the artifact they are trying to pawn off as authentic.

One such artifact was supposedly a document giving Hebrew workers the go-ahead to work on the Temple of Yahweh, but the word for "build" later meant the exact opposite. So, the document was noted as a forgery because it was saying that the workers were given the go-ahead to tear down the Temple.

Obviously, the person did not understand the Hebrew language for that particular time period.

Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved, Matthew 9:17 NASB.

Interesting, the new wine can be preserved in animal skins called wine skins. But were there not two ways of preservation? One in which they could be kept cool, say under water for unfermented fruit of the vine, and the other in which it would be placed in the natural warmth of the air to ferment into wine?

In thinking about and looking at this in context, Yahshua used the

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Why Passover is NOT a High Day

Perhaps because some Jews eventually and wrongfully combined the Passover with the first high day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, some believe that Passover on the fourteenth of Abib is also the high day, the first day of Unleavened Bread. But is it?

If these two observances don't stand on their own as distinct observances, why do they each have their own designation: "Passover" and "Feast of Unleavened Bread"? Similarly, the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles is separate from the last Great Day on the eighth, each having its own identification and meaning, even as one comes immediately after the other.

Overwhelming evidence in both Old and New Testaments shows that Passover was never considered a high day or kept as a Sabbath. The Passover was, however, a memorial of a certain event, and it was that particular event that was to be remembered in its own distinctive way separate from the Feast that follows.

Originally the Jews kept two separate observances, just as Yahweh had commanded in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. But at the time of their exile to Babylon the Jews began to keep the two as a combined observance. It is this later, unscriptural practice that has contributed to much of the confusion, especially for New Testament readers who are forced to follow translators who allowed later Jewish practice to influence their translations.

Noteworthy, however, are the more Scriptural Karaite Jews and Samaritans who still observe Passover on the 14th and the Feast of Unleavened Bread beginning the 15th (see *Which Day Is the Passover?* by Phinehas Ben Zadock).

This is what the *Encyclopedia Judaica* says: "The feast of Passover consists of two parts: The Passover

example of no one using a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment in the previous sentence, which tells us that He's using new wine in the sense of the fermentation process having started and is going to continue to stretch out the wineskin. Since it's a new wineskin, it will stretch. But old wineskin, already used to allow new wine to ferment, would only rupture because it had already been stretched out.

Hence, while unfermented grape juice could have been stored in a cool place, such as under water, this example of "new wine" was already in process and was fermenting. It may have had yeast already mixed in to help the process along which is a common practice today.

To store grape juice, they most likely would have known about boiling items to preserve them. This is a way to make sure the natural enzymes of the fruits would not destroy the juice and eventually make it rotten.

Brick ovens, by the way, were used in Sumer and also in Egypt, as early as 2500 BCE. The Exodus occurred some 1,000 years later. According to the archeological finds, the Sumerians were the first to have top ranges for boiling and frying.

Would the Israelites have learned any of the preservation techniques that the other cultures had? It's a given that they would have learned a few things. What can we learn if we examine the languages? Let's move on to the next subject and question.

Hebrew and Greek Words

What are the Hebrew and Greek words for wine and grape juice?

"New wine," in Hebrew, is one word, *tyrosh* (#8492), and in the Greek it is two words, *neos oinos* (literally, new wine). The scholars appear to agree that the wording indicates that it is a juice which is in "the beginning stage of fer-

mentation." As already mentioned, context has to be considered with some of these words, but it does appear that usually the term "new wine" (at least in the New Testament) is already in the fermenting process, though not too far past just plain good old grape juice.

In the Old Testament, we find the word for "grape" is *enab* (#6025).

Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to Elohim? Tell it to me, please." So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, there was a vine in front of me; and on the vine were three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand," Genesis 40:8–11 NASB.

The Hebrew word for "grape" is *enab*. For "grape juice" it is *enab mishrah*, but for "wine" it is *yayin* (#3196).

Speak to the Israelites and say to them: If a man or woman wants

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In-Depth Study

The Counterfeit Called Easter

Happy Easter

to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to Yahweh as a Nazirite, they must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins, Numbers 6:2–3 NIV.

"Grape juice" (*enab mishrah*) is a term not used in the New Testament. "Fruit of the vine" is a term, which apparently didn't show up until New Testament times, and should be able to mean anything from "grape juice" to "wine." In context of the Passover, it is the only term used. The term for "wine" in the New Testament, either "new wine" (*neos oinos*) or just "wine" (*oinos*), is not. This is very significant, as we find that the Bible we have is not put together haphazardly.

There are reasons why certain wording is the way it is. It's for us to discern right from wrong, truth from tradition. The words and their meanings help us to do so, and as mentioned before, my wife and I could hardly believe how easy it was to discern that we had been taking the wrong emblem of wine for the Passover cup. It was a real eye opener, as "wine" (*oinos*) is never used in combination with the Passover, and there are very good reasons why, as we'll find out, when we get into the symbolism of it.

First, let's get into some of the Greek words.

Ephesians 5:18 ESV says, *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.*

This states that one can get drunk from *oinos* (wine), a Greek word that never means just "grape juice."

The word "drunk" is *methusko* and it definitely has the meaning of "getting intoxicated" here. It stems from the word *methuo*, which is one of the few Greek words that can essentially have two meanings, depending on context.

For when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk, 1 Corinthians 11:21 NIV.

The word "drunk" is the translation of the Hebrew *methuo*, and not *methusko*. This word *methuo* has the meaning here of filled up, but not drunk as in intoxicated. So the same thing could have been worded like this: "one person remains hungry and another gets full." Or, "one person remains hungry and another gets saturated." But, saturated does not necessarily mean intoxicated. The evidence is in the first recorded miracle of Yahshua at the wedding in Cana.

When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now," John 2:9-10 ESV.

Oinos is what Yahshua made. However, what He didn't do, because of His righteous character, was give intoxicated people more intoxicating drink to further get smashed.

Some may say it was grape juice that Yahshua made, not wine. However, the Greek word *oinos* specifies fermented wine. So the confusion stems from the word *methuo* being translated as drunk (as in intoxicated drunk) rather than filled up or having had plenty.

One can have a glass of wine and drink plenty, and be full from that, but not be intoxicated as in one who is drunk.

"Fruit of the vine," in Greek, is "genema ho ampelos." When we consider the question of "genema ho ampelos" and whether or not it is fermented, we are to consider it in context. We'll do this, but first let's look at the symbolism of wine

vs. grape juice.

Symbolism

What symbolism is there in wine vs. grape juice? Can't "fruit of the vine" represent both? Which is more appropriate for the Savior?

As a so-called wine press is squeezing grapes, what is the first thing to appear? Grape juice, right? It's not wine. We can all agree, in the affirmative, that the very first juice from a winepress is actually fresh, squeezed, and unfermented grape juice, and not fermented wine which can ultimately be produced.

But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, and has become the first-fruit of those having fallen asleep. For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a Man. For as all die in Adam, so also all shall be

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Mini Study



Our Savior's Resurrection

Try as you may, you simply cannot fit three days and three nights into a Friday afternoon impalement to Sunday morning resurrection. Yet, the three days and nights are the only sign given that the Savior was the true Messiah (Matt. 12:40). Here's the answer to this paradox!

One of the most perplexing problems faced by many Bible students is the question of how Friday could be the day our Savior was put to death. Let us check carefully what the Bible teaches. Note the following Bible passage:

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master, we would see a sign from You.

"But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the fish's belly; so shall the Son of man be three day and three nights in the heart of the earth," Matthew 12:38-40.

Note carefully the "as" and "so" in verse 40. Yahshua definitely states, "Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." In no way can three full days and three full nights be squeezed into a period from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. (Yahshua was quoting Jonah 1:17.)

Yet, the argument by those contending for a Friday-Sunday teaching is that the Jews counted a part of a day as a whole day. This supposedly allows "three days and three nights" to somehow be sandwiched into the time period from Friday to Sunday.

Those arguing the point show certain examples in the Old Testament where parts of days are counted as whole days. In Hebrew idiom this may be true. But in Hebrew, when the word "nights" is

made alive in Messiah. And each in his own order: Messiah the first-fruits, then those who are of Messiah at His coming, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 TS.

Young's Literal Translation translated the last first fruits as singular, first fruit, which is fitting. Messiah is the First Fruit. Symbolic of fresh squeezed grape juice, which produces a symbolic blood.

There is reference to the "blood of grapes" in Scripture, Gen. 49:11 and Deut. 32:14. Yahshua was pure. The very first pressing produces the "blood of grapes" in its purist form, before progression and degradation occurs.

In thinking about the Passover Memorial and what Yahshua represents during that time, wine just doesn't fit. For example:

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise, Proverbs 20:1 KJV.

Do we think of Yahshua as a mocker or as a deceiver? Absolutely not.

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, Revelation 14:8 KJV.

Wine of the wrath of fornication? Is this in any way fitting for our Passover Lamb? What is the "fruit of the vine" speaking of in the New Testament and in context of the Passover cup?

Let's consider the next product inline from the pressing to get grape juice, the fruit of the vine, which in turn led to new wine, which then ended up as wine. After this is wine vinegar.

Wine Vinegar

Can vinegar be a wine? And why is it important to know? Vinegar is essentially the end of the process of wine going bad, eventually getting to pure vinegar. Not something you want to drink. But, before it gets to pure vinegar, it is,

in essence, wine vinegar.

No one would serve wine going bad at a wedding. However, soldiers, or anyone poor, would more readily be able to get hold of any wine that was already going bad by those wanting to get rid of it.

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible says of vinegar:

“Roman soldiers commonly kept vinegary wine on hand to quench their thirst, and this could be an act of kindness or an attempt to revive [Yahshua].”

The Greek terms for “wine” (*oinos*), “vinegar” (*oxos*), or even a type of intoxicating phrase such as “full of new wine,” used once in Acts 2:13, were never used by Yahshua to describe the “fruit of the vine” (*genemma ho ampelos*) for the Passover cup. “Fruit of the vine” is “pure grape juice.” It’s not the by-product called wine.

Yahshua never lied and will not lie, and just like His Father, He doesn’t change. His righteous character stays righteous.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom, Matthew 26:29 KJV.

What is Yahshua referring to? *Oinos* (wine), *neos oinos* (new wine)? No, simply *genemma ho ampelos* (fruit of the vine). He is making a distinction and we are also to make the distinction.

After this, Yahshua, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. Therefore when Yahshua had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, John 19:28–30 NASB.

What did Yahshua accept before He died? Wine vinegar. Did He lie to His disciples? No, because it was not wine in the Passover cup,

but grape juice. Plain, simple, and easy to prove.

Yahshua is not a liar, He will drink the fruit of the vine, anew, in the Kingdom with His taught ones. That is, in context of what we’ve been looking at, unadulterated grape juice.

If all of this isn’t enough evidence, we’re going to now consider what we find in the law.

Worship and Wine

Is wine or any fermented drink allowed to be consumed by priests or members in any worship service to Yahweh?

Leviticus 10:9–10 ESV says,

Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. You are to distinguish between the holy

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Mini - Study

Yahweh’s Appointed Feast Days

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The Bible reveals as far back as the days of creation that Almighty Yahweh established certain appointed times that were specially chosen by Him for His called-out people. These are unique times when He would meet with His True Worshipers:

“And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years” (Gen. 1:14). The word *seasons* is Strong’s Hebrew No. 4150 *mowed*, and literally means “appointed times.” It is a term used for the annual gatherings of Yahweh and His people.

A number of scholars understand that the first *mowed* took place in Genesis 4:3-7, where Abel correctly kept the Passover by offering a lamb, and Cain brought an offering more suitable for the Feast of Tabernacles, the work of His hands. Abel’s offering was accepted, Cain’s was not.

Tradition has it that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees on Passover, and the Feast days can be traced through his journeys and stopping places in Genesis 12. Certainly the appearance of the three celestial beings in Genesis 18 took place in the spring as Abraham fed his guests unleavened cakes (v. 7, margin); and later Lot did likewise, Genesis 19:3. Likely this was also a special time of *mowed*.

It is apparent that Abraham kept all Yahweh’s Sabbaths and Feast days: *“Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws”* (Gen. 26:5). The Feast days were again given to Israel after they came out of Egypt, when they agreed to the Covenant. These are

and the common, and between the unclean and the clean.

O.K. What is the purpose of the law? The purpose of the law is to tell us what is holy and what is common. Right?

It could be argued that this law was instituted due to the priests, at that time, getting drunk and doing things they shouldn’t.

And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; they reel while having visions, they totter when rendering judgment, Isaiah 28:7 NASB.

If this was the only reason, then why would we also find the same law in the coming Kingdom that it will also be forbidden? Not only that, but the statute is said to be forever, just like the appointed times of Yahweh are forever. There is no time in between. If there were time in between, then forever loses its meaning.

No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court, Ezekiel 44:21 ESV.

This is a second witness, and we can’t ignore it.

Those of us in Messiah are actually referred to in the New Testament as a symbolic kingdom of priests. One of the appointed times, which is a memorial of our High Priest, Yahshua, is the Passover in which the holy emblems are to be used before Yahweh’s presence.

Symbolically, we are coming before Yahweh, though Yahshua, into the inner court and Holy of Holies at a time of worship; a time of reflection; a time in which no fermented drink is to be drunk.

The fruit of the vine, which we accept as Yahshua’s symbolic blood, and which is holy for us at the Passover time, is none other than unfermented grape juice. Yahshua called it the “Fruit of the Vine.”

Elder David Brett



Please Be My Valentine

Sweethearts trading heart-shaped cards. Chubby, cuddly cupids carrying bows and arrows. They have nothing to do with celebrating love. Or do they?

In the month of February, candy makers unload tons of heart-shaped boxes full of candy. This candy is then purchased by individuals for the people they love. Millions of innocent school children are indoctrinated to exchange Valentine cards with each other. Florists consider February 14th, St. Valentine's Day, as one of their best business days. All who celebrate this ritual have love in their hearts. Is this simply a harmless, innocent ritual? Yahweh surely doesn't mind, does He? Let's explore this!

Origin

It will probably surprise you, but Valentine's Day, though relatively unimportant, is not an innocent secular holiday. Far from secular, the origin of Valentine's Day comes from the same source as many other non-Biblical, pre-Christian observances, such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, and Halloween. It can be traced directly to earliest pagan history.

The "universal church," as she did with all these other observances, selected a popular pagan holiday, adopted it, and dressed it up with a "Christian name." Paganism was Christianity's name for the official religion of the Roman Empire, which involved worshipping an array of deities and occasionally participating in orgiastic festivals. In an attempt to give Christians an alternative to those festivals (and to take their minds off the revelry they were missing out on) the church sometimes created holidays to coincide with the pagan calendar.

Lupercalia

What was it originally? The original name for Valentine's Day was the holiday called Lupercalia.

It was celebrated thousands of years before there were ever such people known as Christians or saints.

Lupercalia was a holiday celebrated by ancient Romans on the ides of February (February 15). The celebration honored the deities Lupercus and Faunus, as well as the twin brothers, Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome.

According to the myth, Romulus and Remus were suckled by wolves at a cave on the Palatine Hill, in the city of Rome. The Romans appropriately named this cave the Lupercal, and used it as the center of Lupercalia ceremonies.

Luperci (priests of Lupercus), dressed in goat-skins for the ceremony, sacrificed goats and a dog, smeared themselves with sacrificial blood, and would run around the hill carrying a goatskin thong called a februa ("means of purification"). Women in the city placed themselves in positions around the hill so that the priests could strike them with the februa. This was thought to assure the women of fertility and easy childbirth.

In another part of the ceremony, 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 girls' names from the box, and became paired with them until the following Lupercalia.

During the festival, the pairs of children danced and played together. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the coming year. Often, they might fall in love and later marry.

A Change Is Made

In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the

box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year.

Although the lottery for women had been banned from the church, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It became tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection containing Valentine's name. This may have been the festival that was later named after the former saint—Valentine's Day.

Legends

One of the legends about Valentine's Day says that a Roman Emperor, Claudius the Second, had forbidden his men to marry. He wanted them to be heartless and fearless soldiers free of wives and girlfriends. Claudius apparently decreed that no marriages should be celebrated and that all engagements be broken off immediately. But one of the Christian priests didn't obey the Emperor's edict. This priest (whose name was Father Valentine) secretly performed marriages in and around the city of Rome. Found out not too long later, Valentine was imprisoned where he languished and died. Legend has it devoted friends buried him in the church of St. Praxedes on the fourteenth of February, 270 AD.

Father Valentine was a kind and wise person who had a lot of friends. They begged the Emperor to free him and sent flowers to jailed Valentine. Many experts think that these were the first letters and flowers sent on Valentine's Day.

Another story says that Valentine was an early Christian in the time when Rome was unfriendly to this upstart religion. For helping some Christian martyrs he was seized, dragged before the prefect

of Rome and cast into jail. There he was said to have fallen in love with, and cured the keeper's daughter, Julia, of blindness. When the news of this miracle spread, Rome's leaders gave orders that Valentine should be beheaded. The morning of his execution, he is said to have sent Julia a farewell message signed, "From your Valentine."

Syncretism

These are nice stories! However, they are examples of the ongoing efforts of the religious leaders of the Christian church to appease their members and new converts through syncretism. According to the dictionary, syncretism is "a combination, reconciliation or coalescence of varying, often mutually opposed beliefs, principles of practices into the new conglomerate whole typically marked by internal inconsistencies."

This is a form of compromise that allows one to side-step a difficult issue. This is a way to avoid taking a stand for your beliefs and having to defend the basis of that belief.

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.

Mythology

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 veneer them with Christian respectability.

Lupus is the Latin word for wolf. The wolf is the symbol for valor. Valorentine 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, presiding over rural occupations, was patron of fisherman, 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. Valens is a Latin word and is the root for valiant.

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.

Christianity Embraces Pagan Customs

It is a documented fact that pagan customs were grafted into Christian religion. Although Christianity swept the world in a relatively short time as histories of great religions go, the early missionaries faced an uphill task. The pagans were reluctant to give up their false deities and ancient practices. So, missionaries, unable to convert them

easily to an entirely new code of worship, did the next best thing. They took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith onto these festivals and the rites and customs surrounding them.

Yes, the 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, whether 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 this; and that thou inquire not after their deities, saying, How did these na-

tions 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.

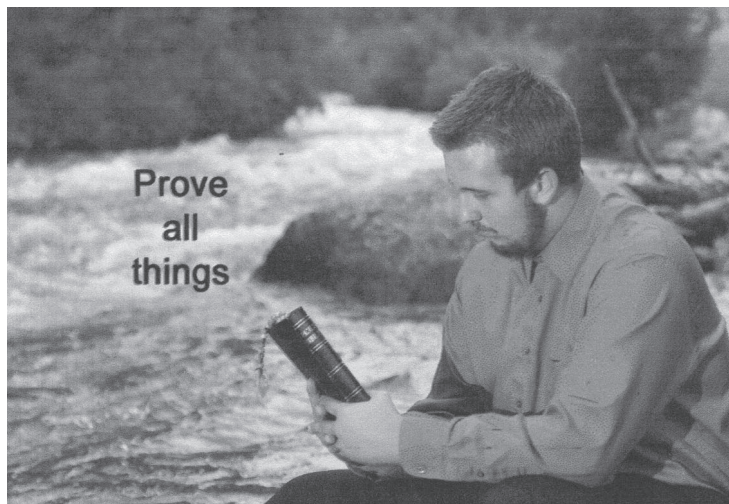
Does Yahweh have something to say about religious leaders who took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith into these festivals and the customs and the rites surrounding them? Yes, He does. Let's look at what 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, 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 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.

Its Roots

Valentine's Day has its roots in pagan fertility celebrations. They were not acceptable in their original forms and even if we are using a "modern" approach,



we are still practicing pagan celebrations which honor the pagan deities. Do not fool yourself. We are not honoring Yahweh in any way by associating ourselves with this type of holiday.

It is a Scriptural fact that we cannot serve Yahweh while serving in this world's style of pagan worship. Let's see what 1 Corinthians 10:20-22 says:

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to Yahweh; and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of Yahweh, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of Yahweh's table, and the table of devils. Do we provoke Yahweh to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

In other words, we can't have it both ways. We have to choose whom we serve. In Romans 6:16, we are emphatically told that we are servants to whom we obey:

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

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 syncretic 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 as the wrong ones to be associated with, what does Yahweh prefer?

Yahweh's Feasts

Yahweh established seven annual Sabbaths in addition to the weekly, seventh-day Sabbath and the Sabbatical Year and the Jubilee Year. These seven annual Sabbaths He set according to the harvest of crops throughout the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The annual Sabbaths or Feast Days are found in Leviticus 23 and form the foundation of Yahweh's calendar. Israel was an agrarian society, and the grain harvests are symbolic of Yahweh's harvest of human souls—the spiritual harvest.

The annual Feasts or Holy Days are as follows: the first day and last day of Unleavened Bread (the 15th and 21st of the first Scrip-

tural month), Pentecost or Day of Firstfruits (50 days from the weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread), Feast of Trumpets (first day of the seventh Scriptural month), Day of Atonement (tenth day of the seventh Scriptural month), Feast of Tabernacles (15th day of the seventh Scriptural month), and the Last Great Day (22nd day of the seventh Scriptural month).

The first annual Sabbath follows the Passover and occurs on the fifteenth day of Yahweh's first month of the year. It is known as the First Day of the seven days of Unleavened Bread. The second annual Sabbath is the twenty-first day of the Scriptural first month and is the seventh and final day of Unleavened Bread.

Passover and Unleavened Bread take place in the spring, in the beginning of the Scriptural year, in our March or April.

Pentecost, meaning to count fifty, is the third annual Sabbath and must be counted to determine when it is observed. Known as the "Feast of Weeks" or Shavuoth in Hebrew, Pentecost is a one-day celebration that comes 50 days after the weekly Sabbath during Unleavened Bread.

The four remaining annual Sabbaths occur in the seventh Scriptural month in the fall of the year, September or October.

Trumpets is the fourth annual Sabbath and falls on the new moon day or first day of the seventh Scriptural month.

The Day of Atonement falls on the tenth day of the seventh Scriptural month. It is a holy day of fasting.

The sixth annual Sabbath comes on the fifteenth day of the seventh Scriptural month and is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The first

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day following the Feast of Tabernacles is Yahweh's seventh annual Sabbath known as the Last Great Day.

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread have been fulfilled twice. The first occurred when the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians. They were "passed over" and spared by the destroying angel because they had obediently smeared blood on the doorposts and lintels of their dwellings. In the New Testament, our Savior was our "Passover" (1 Cor. 5:7) Who was put to death on Passover day. He spoke of yet a later fulfillment of Passover when we will observe it with Him in His Kingdom, Luke 22:15-18.

Pentecost or Feast of Weeks took place when the Covenant was made with Israel and His law was codified. It is a memorial of events at Mount Sinai. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost (Acts 2) to empower Yahweh's people to keep Yahweh's law.

Prophecies connected to the four annual Sabbaths of the seventh Scriptural month have yet to be fulfilled.

It is important that we understand the historical meaning of Yahweh's Feast Days so we can comprehend the purpose He is working out on earth and how He is sanctifying His people.

These special days are a shadow of things yet to come - a future prophecy of events yet to unfold. Paul writes for us:

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a Sabbath Day, which are a shadow of things to come, Col. 2:16-17.

They foreshadow future events meaning they are prophetic, Col. 2:17.

Anyone who seeks to know prophecy must understand the annual

Feast days thoroughly. The significant acts of man's salvation happened at feast times.

Understanding the Feasts means we understand Yahweh's plan of salvation which necessitates that we obey Him and keep His feasts.

He that says I know Him and keeps not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 1 John 2:4.

Prophecy Yet To Be Fulfilled

The fall annual Sabbaths are entirely prophetic and await a future fulfillment. These show us a work that Yahweh will yet accomplish for His people. His Sabbaths are the sign He has given between Himself and His people by which we are sanctified.

The Sabbaths were given to us so that we might better know Yahweh. They were not given as a meaningless burden to be thrown off and discarded at the Saviors' impalement. They have great meaning and purpose behind them. They fit into Yahweh's overall plan anciently, through our day and into the Kingdom.

Yahweh's feasts are not done away at the death and resurrection of the Messiah. The feasts were given to ancient Israel to keep; they were observed by the Savior and

the Apostles, and are to be kept by us today.

They are still in effect today and will be kept in the Kingdom, according to Isaiah 66:23, Zechariah 14:16-18, and others. If they were commanded for Israel, kept by the Savior and by the New Testament Assembly after His resurrection, and will be kept as statutes in the coming Kingdom, why would they be suspended now? Doesn't it seem as if they are very significant?

It is only by deliberate misinterpretation of Scripture that most of today's ministers teach that these perpetual Sabbaths are done away.

Prove All Things

How does it happen that we are unable to correctly discern what is true and what is false? How do we 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:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worlds 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 this is Yahweh's world or Yahshua's world. But that is not true. This world was given to Satan to rule. He has twisted this world and spoiled 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 of a valentine is just another example of their work.

Cupid

Look how cleverly Satan has manipulated the symbols of Cupid, the rose and love. Margaret Ickis in her book, *The Book of Festival Holidays*, sheds light on this.

“Cupid was one of the gods of mythology, whose name in Latin means ‘desire.’ He is usually represented as a chubby, naked, winged boy with a quiver of arrows by which he transfixed the hearts

of youths and maidens. His darts, some of which were poisonous at the tip, could pierce anywhere.

“The rose, which speaks of love, is undoubtedly the most popular flower in the world. By rearranging the letters in the word ‘rose,’ we get Eros - the god of love. This may explain why it has always been called the flower of romance, the choice of lovers in every century.”

The first criterion in this fertility hunt is erotic desire, which cupid and Eros represent! In mythology, it is said when Nimrod's mother saw him as a young boy, she desired him. Nimrod became her cupid, her desired one and later her deity of valor-her hunter.

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.”



The Heart

Finally, 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 marrying, 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 thus furthered the Church with Pagan practices.”

We are warned “*learn not the way of the heathen,*” Jeremiah 10:2.

Elder Ralph Henrie (deceased)



Courageous Acts

We have all heard of Samson taking care of a lion with his bare hands, but what about the courageous acts of other people?

“Courage consists, not in blindly overlooking danger, but in seeing and conquering it.” This saying shows us that in examining all odds there is a time and place that one must not think of taking the easy way out but of forging in one’s mind the fact that when a bad situation looks us in the face that we should do more than stand firm in our beliefs.

Courage implies having a firmness of mind and the will to overcome a difficult task in the face of danger. We must conquer the odds and forge on to greater heights. We must have the mental or moral strength to resist opposition.

But sometimes this may be easier said than done. What may look easy on the surface may be difficult when a task must be performed.

Abraham

Many of us have changed jobs in our life. In doing so, we usually had another job waiting for us in a place we have previously visited. But Abraham was told in Genesis, chapter 12, to leave his abode and go to a new land, a place he never visited, a place he knew nothing about. In verse 4 we read that he departed without questioning why. We also read of this in Heb. 11:8:

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Again Abraham illustrates obedience and courage in Genesis, chapter 22. We read that Elohim required that Abraham take Isaac, his son, to a place to offer him for a burnt offering. Abraham did not question such a request but obeyed. Because of Abraham’s obedience, Yahweh provided a ram to be used in place of his son, verses 11 through verse 13:

And the angel of Yahweh called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And He said, lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest Elohim, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me. And

Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Abraham’s example of obedience and courage should show us that when we are in need that Yahweh will provide, just as the name Abraham gave to the place of this sacrifice, Yahweh-jireh, meaning Yahweh will provide, verse 14.

Moses

When the Israelites bordered the land of Canaan preparing to enter the promised land, Moses sent 12 men, one from each of the 12 tribes, to spy. They were commissioned to determine the strength of the people and whether the land was good or bad.

In Numbers 13:20 Moses tells them to “be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.”

When the spies returned, all but Joshua and Caleb said that the people of this land were strong. Joshua and Caleb tried their best to persuade the Israelites that the land was good and not to worry about the people because Yahweh would be with them,

Only rebel not ye against Yahweh, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and Yahweh is with us: fear them not, Numbers 14:9.

We may well remember the story. Because the people would not believe Joshua and Caleb, Numbers 14:10, that Yahweh would cause the Israelites to continue their forty year journey through the wilderness and that of all the people, 20 years old and older, except for Joshua and Caleb, would die in the wilderness.

Joshua

When Moses’ days were coming to a close, in Deut. 31:6 we read of Moses telling the Israelites to have courage as they were getting ready to go over the river Jordan:

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor

be afraid of them: for Yahweh thy Elohim, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

In verse 7, Moses spake similarly to Joshua:

Be strong and of a good courage.

In each case the Hebrew word *amats*, translated courage, means to be alert, be strong, to become steadfast and to remain confident.

In verse 23, Yahweh charged Joshua,

To be strong and of a good courage.

Yahweh promised to be with him as he brought the children of Israel into the promised land. In Joshua 1:5-7, Yahweh again charges Joshua:

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

What we should take heed from these verses is to remain steadfast in all that we do. We must not waiver from the truth. By doing so Yahweh will remain with us.

Solomon

As Moses told Israel to be of good courage when Israel was preparing to cross the river Jordan, David spoke to Solomon, his son, when David was old, concerning the building of a house unto the name of Yahweh. In 1 Chron. 22:11-13 we read what David told Solomon:

Now, my son, Yahweh be with thee: and prosper thou, and build the house of Yahweh thy Elohim, as He hath said of thee. Only Yahweh give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge

concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of Yahweh thy Elohim. Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfill the statutes and judgments which Yahweh charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

David reiterates this charge to his son Solomon in 1 Chron. 28: 20:

And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for Yahweh Elohim even my Elohim, will be with thee; He will not fail nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of Yahweh.

Yes, if we wish to remain and be on the good side of Yahweh, then we, too, must abide by His laws.

Asa

Asa was king of Judah for some forty one years. The prophet Obed told Asa, in 2 Chron. 15:2:

Yahweh is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.

Obed further tells Asa, in verse 7, to be strong and by being strong his work shall be rewarded. In verse 8 we read that Asa

Took courage, put away all the abominations out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and renewed the altar of Yahweh.

Jehoshaphat

Jehosaphat was the son of Asa. He sought after Yahweh, 2 Chron.17:1-5:

And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. And Yahweh was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; but

sought to Yahweh Elohim of his father, and walked in His commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore Yahweh stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

As a result he prospered,

Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab, 2 Chron. 18:1.

During his reign he set judges in all the fenced cities in Judah, 2 Chron. 19:5. In verse 11 he charged these judges to “deal courageously, and Yahweh shall be with the good.”

The lesson to learn from these words is to be strong and act. By remaining true to Yahweh He shall be on our side. He will be there when our need is great.

Hezekiah

In 2 Chron. 32, we find that Sennacherib, king of Assyria, along with his armies, came upon Jerusalem to besiege the city. In verses 7 and 8 we read what Hezekiah told the people:

Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: with him is an arm of flesh: but with us is Yahweh our Elohim to help us, and to fight our battles.

What Hezekiah told the people was exactly what Yahweh told Joshua. Yahweh promises to be at our side if we remain true to Him.

Because Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed and cried unto heaven, Yahweh saved the inhabitants of Jerusalem from king Sennacherib, verse 20-22:

And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. And Yahweh sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and cap-

tains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his mighty one, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword. Thus Yahweh saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side.

In verse 26, we further read that Hezekiah humbled himself before Yahweh because pride momentarily got the better part of him. Because he did so we read in verse 30 that Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

Yes, no matter what danger comes upon us, if we remember that Yahweh is our protector, defender and supplier, then Yahweh promises to be with us to give us those things we need.

David

We read in I Samuel, chapter 17, at a time when the Israelites were battling the Philistines, the champion of the Philistines, Goliath, spoke to the Israelites to send out their champion to make battle. Whoever won the battle, the Philistines's champion or the Israelites' champion, would indicate which side won the battle between the Israelites or the Philistines.

This pronouncement dismayed and caused great fear among the Israelites because of Goliath's stature, verse 11:

Then Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

But David proved otherwise. He volunteered to go. He even refused to wear Saul's protective armor as it was not "proved,"

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him,

1 Sam. 17:39.

So David took his sling along with 5 smooth rocks to meet Goliath. For a fact David knew that Yahweh was his protector and provider. David had sure confidence in Yahweh when he told Goliath, in verse 47, that:

The battle is Yahweh's, and He will give you into our hands.

With one stone thrown with his sling David felled Goliath and went and cut off Goliath's head with Goliath's own sword and the battle was over.

The courage David shown here further exemplifies the faith we should have in Yahweh keeping His word that He will be on our side if we remain true to Him.

Esther

Esther, whose Hebrew name was Hadassah, Est. 2:5-7, was the cousin of Mordecai, a Jewish captive, who held an office at Shushan and was the foster father of Esther. During the captivity, Esther was placed in the custody of Hegai, the keeper of the women under king Ahasuerus.

When the king's wife, Vashti, refused to comply with the king's request to have her come to him, he became very angry with her. He requested his wise men to help him to determine what to do with the queen. The king feared that if the queen's behavior went unpunished that contempt and wrath would bear fruit amongst the princesses of the kingdom against their husbands.

The advice of the wise men, to which the king agreed, was to give the queen's estate to another and then "all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both small and great," Est. 1:20.

The method which the king chose to select a new queen was to select officers to search the provinces for women to be brought to Shushan for a period of twelve months for purification. After that they were presented to the king,

one at a time, to receive whatever she wanted.

When it was Esther's turn to go before the king she requested nothing new. Because she won grace and favor in the king's sight, she was made queen.

Even at this time Esther had not revealed who she really was, as Mordecai, her foster father, had charged her:

Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him, Est. 2:20.

So the king did not know that he had made a Jewish woman to be queen.

Soon a new person came to power under the king. He must have influenced the king very much because all the king's servants bowed and held this man, whose name was Haman, in very high reverence. The Hebrew word used for "bow" was the same one used in relation to idols. It is a different word than that used to indicate bowing to a king. So Haman must have been a very important person in the king's court.

Problems soon arose when Mordecai did not bow to Haman. Haman was full of wrath, Est. 3:5, and conceived a plan to destroy all of Yahweh's people. What he told the king was that there was a group of people who lived in his kingdom who would not obey the king's decrees. He thus persuaded the king to allow him to have all these people destroyed:

And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee, Est. 3:10-11.

The king agreed to this, not realizing that his queen, Esther, was part of this group.

Haman commanded, in the name of the king, all of the king's lieutenants, governors and rulers of every province in the kingdom, that on a certain date that they were:

To destroy, to kill, to cause to perish, all Jews, Est. 3:13.

There existed a standing king's decree that if a person came in to the presence of the king, and was not called to do so, that the king could have the person put to death, Est. 4:11. Esther was aware of this decree, but she also knew, and was persuaded by Mordecai, that if she did nothing that she and her house would be destroyed.

Esther requested that Mordecai have all the Jews in Shushan, along with her maidens, to fast for three days and nights. After the three complete days and nights were completed, she went before the king, not knowing what to expect.

When the king saw her he extended his scepter to her indicating he would not have her put to death. The king asked her what her request was. Knowing Haman's plans but not wanting to tell the king at this time, she requested that Haman and the king join her at a banquet.

When Haman was told of the queen's request he was delighted, Est. 5:9, and he told his family and friends of what was to be done. About this same time Haman saw Mordecai once again and his indignation towards Mordecai was rekindled. On the advice of his friends and family Haman had gallows built in order to hang Mordecai.

The banquet was scheduled before that time when the Jews were to be killed. The night before the banquet the king could not sleep and he had the chronicles read to him. In the chronicles it was written of the help that Mordecai had given to the king to prevent a rebellion against the king.

The king asked what had been done for Mordecai as a reward.

When no one knew of anything he requested that whoever was in the king's court at that time to come to him to give advice. The only person in the court at that time was Haman.

When the king asked Haman what should be done to a man in whom the king delighted to honor, Haman thought the king was talking about him. His answer was to have this man arrayed in royal clothes, placed upon the king's horse and paraded through the streets proclaiming:

Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighted to honor, Est. 6:9.

Haman's ego was put down when the king told him that the person he wanted to honor was Mordecai. When the king told Haman to do so to Mordecai, Haman fulfilled the wishes of the king. After he completed the task, Haman quickly went to his house to be consoled by his family and friends. While being consoled the king's chamberlains came to bring Haman to the banquet.

Chapter 7 of Esther tells us that at the banquet Esther told the king that she was a Jewess and that Haman had planned to eradicate the Jews. This irritated the king to no end so that he had Haman hanged on the gallows which had been prepared for Mordecai.

The last two chapters of Esther tell us how Mordecai rose to be second in power under the king, the position which Haman held.

The story presented here concerning Esther again shows us that when we are presented with a situation involving our beliefs that we should not be afraid to express them. Yahweh has shown us that He is beside us, that He will provide us with the help we need if we remain true to Him.

Shadrach, Meshach And Abed-nego

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-

nego were the Babylonian names of the three Hebrews (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) given to them by Ashpenaz, master of the eunuchs, under king Nebuchadnezzar, Dan. 1: 3, 6 and 7.

In all matters of wisdom and understanding the king found them, along with Daniel, to be much better than all the magicians and astrologers in the kingdom,

And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm, Dan. 1:19-20.

Thus, the king set Daniel to be the "chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon" and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to govern the affairs of the province of Babylon, Dan. 2:48 and 49.

Ezra 1:7 and 5:14 tell us that Nebuchadnezzar had taken the religious vessels from the house of Yahweh and placed them into the temples of false mighty ones. Perhaps he had done this because he was religious.

In Dan. 3 we read that this king made an image which was to be worshipped by all people whenever the sound of certain musical instruments were played. The penalty for not doing so was to be cast into a fiery furnace, verse 6,

And whosoever falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

When the king found out that these three men, whom he had set up to govern the affairs of Babylon, would not bow down and worship the image, the king had them brought forth to ask them why.

Verse 18 states their reason that they "will not serve thy mighty

ones, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up.”

This infuriated Nebuchadnezzar so that he commanded the furnace be fired up seven times greater than normal and had these three men placed in the midst of the fire.

The rest of Dan. 3 tells us that an angel of Yahweh protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and when Nebuchadnezzar saw that they were not hurt he promoted them in the province of Babylon and made a decree saying that anyone speaking amiss against Yahweh to be killed, verses 29 and 30:

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the Elohim of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other Elohim that can deliver after this sort.

This is another example of showing courage when confronted even with the difficult choice of life and death. It is much better to make the choice of following Yahweh's ways which lead to a better life ahead than to go against Yahweh in order to improve one's physical life in the present.

Daniel

Daniel was a Jewish captive who was educated in the king's court. Because Daniel interpreted the king's dream in chapters 2, 4 and 5, he was promoted to chief president, or minister, over the entire kingdom, Dan. 6:1-3.

The other men whom the king set over the providences sought to find fault in Daniel, but they could not, except if it had something to do with Daniel's religious beliefs, Dan. 6:5.

So these rulers conspired against Daniel by meeting with the king and persuading the king to make a decree that if anyone, except the king, prayed to anyone

in the next thirty days, that they be cast into the den of lions, Dan. 6:7,

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any Elohim or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Hearing of this decree did not faze Daniel one bit. As was his custom, he continued to pray to Yahweh three times a day, Dan. 6:10,

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his Elohim, as he did aforesaid.

When these men found out that Daniel prayed to Yahweh and did not according to the king's decree, they went and told the king.

The king tried his best to deliver Daniel from being put in the lion's den. In the end the men convinced the king that the king's decree was law and Daniel was put in the lion's den, Dan. 6:16,

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy Elohim Whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee.

We should remember well the outcome that Yahweh sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths so that Daniel was not harmed. Because Daniel was favored by the king, when the king found out that Daniel was spared he had Daniel replaced by his accusers and their families.

The lesson to learn from this example in the life of Daniel is to remain steadfast in our faith no matter what is placed in front of us.

Joseph Of Arimathaea

Joseph of Arimathaea was a secret follower of Yahshua, John 19:38. Disregarding what the Pharisaical Jews may do to him, he went to Pilate and requested Yahshua's body after Yahshua died.

Another secret follower of Yahshua, Nicodemus, prepared Yahshua's body for burial in the tomb which had been prepared for Joseph, John 19:39.

Peter and John

Peter openly criticized the Jews for requesting that a murderer be released in Yahshua's place, Acts 3:1-15.

This story continues when the family members of the high priest confronted Peter and John concerning the healing of the lame man. Acts 4:16-21 tells us that these people threatened Peter and John not to speak in Yahshua's name.

Acts 4:19-20 indicates their reply:

Whether it be right in the sight of Yahweh to hearken unto you more than unto Yahweh, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

These verses again show us that we should have no fear of mankind when speaking of Yahweh and Yahshua.

Later when the high priest confronted Peter and John about not speaking in Yahshua's Name they told the gathered people that it is better to "obey Yahweh than man," Acts 5:29.

The people wanted to slay Peter and John, but a doctor of the law, Gamaliel, persuaded them not to. Instead, the people beat Peter and John and again told them not to preach in Yahshua's name, Acts 5:33-40.

Did this beating persuade Peter and John to stop their preaching? No, quite the opposite.

They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for

His Name and daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Yahshua the Messiah, Acts 5:41b-42.

Paul

In Acts, chapter 9, we read that soon after his conversion, Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Yahshua was the Son of Yahweh, verse 20. This the Jews of his day did not like and they plotted to kill him, verse 23.

Fearing for Paul's safety, the disciples of Damascus secretly brought Paul to Jerusalem. The disciples at Jerusalem were hesitant to believe that Paul's conversion was authentic. It was only after Barnabas told the disciples at Jerusalem of how he had witnessed Paul preaching courageously in the name of Yahshua that Paul was ac-

cepted.

In Acts 20:22-24, we read that Paul was willing to go and testify before men the evangel of the grace of Yahweh. Paul was unaware of what things he might encounter. But still he went to finish his course.

With joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Messiah Yahshua, to testify the evangel of the grace of Yahweh, verse 24b.

In 1 Thes. 2:1-2, Paul tells the people of Thessalonica how he was shamefully treated by the people at Philippi. Even so, Paul tells the people that he took courage to speak to them of the evangel of Yahweh.

What Can We Do?

As we have seen, the Scriptures are full of times in which the people

of Yahweh have shown courage because of their beliefs. We have seen how hardships seemed to make the people more bold and to show more courage.

Paul tells us in Phil. 1:12 that the reason for things happening to him were to further the evangel. We can take each of these examples and make them work for us.

Paul writes for our edification in Hebrews, chapter 13, that we are to live a life free of covetousness and to be satisfied with what we have.

Even though perfection will elude us until Yahshua returns, we must strive towards perfection. This striving will take courage.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

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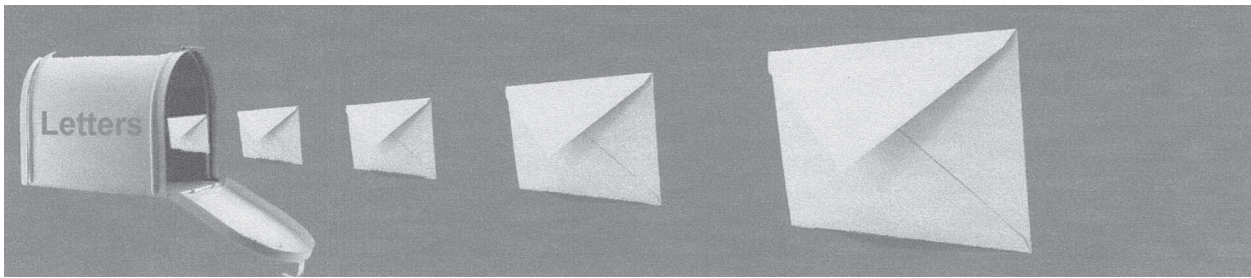
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First, I would love to say how much we enjoy your website. We live in a very little town and we, as we know, are the only ones anywhere near here that honor Yahweh and His commandments. We really use you as a lifeline to enjoy, learn and put into practice that which Yahweh has planned in our lives. I noticed that you only want to send one CD to one household. I would like to get a copy for my mom and myself. We live in the same home but I would love one to keep here at home and then also have one in mom's car for her to listen to in her daily travels. If this is a problem, let me know. I would be happy to send a donation to pay for them. I appreciate your help and may Yahweh continue to guide you and bless you for being obedient to HIM!

(email) — **KF, OH**

Just received your free DVD and 3 very useful materials. I would like to say thank you very much, may Yahweh bless you all and hope you will send me your free magazine. (email) — **EG, Philippines**

I just wanted to say thank you for the free DVD I received a week ago. I watch it a lot and have learned a lot from it. You are a blessing to me and I'm looking forward to receiving the Beacon. (email) — **RB, IN**

Thank you so much for responding so quickly to my request for "How the Savior's Name Was Changed." Very impressive material - best I've read on the subject to date and very well-written. Furthermore, I was grateful to have been placed on the mailing list for the Beacon. Again, I was well pleased by the presentation of each article and the obvious research contained therein. — **KH, CA**

I have read a couple of issues of your magazine, the Beacon, and am very impressed with what I have studied out of it so far. I would like to be added to your mailing list. Thank you. — **JH, GA**

Thank you so much for your publication "Biblical Holy Days." I found it to be quite informative. I am an Orthodox Christian so any of your literature would definitely be of interest to me. How else to understand the oldest religion than to study the religion of Yahshua. — **MG, OR**

I received your literature through the Torah men's group in Salem, Oregon. To date I have received "The Mistaken 'J'" and was truly blessed and overjoyed at the erudite authorship of the in-depth study. May Yahweh bless you and keep you all.—**SG, OR**

I thank Yahshua every time I receive your literature. It is a big help for me and my son. I would like to ask you for the DVDs on a monthly basis. I appreciate it very much and I thank you. — **MO, TX**

Hello again. Thank you for the two booklets. They really helped explain the holy days and showed in good detail the true name of the Father and Son. I want you to know that the cover art and included pictures in each booklet are great. The look is smooth and screams "read me." — **MO, FL**

Shalom! I have been blessed by the information about our Father's word concerning His will that you have provided. — **DN, CA**

Shalom. I'm so excited about finally locating an assembly that spreads the word "free" vs. telling me I must pay for the knowledge. I'm 100% convinced Yahshua and YHWH are smiling down upon your assembly. — **CP, WA**

Let me begin by saying thanks for the learning material. May the blessings of YHWH be with you. I'll tell you that I'm like a man in a desert, a very dry place and very hot. When I get your Bible studies it's like drinking a cold glass of water. It's refreshing and rejuvenating. — **JB, TX**

The reason for this letter is because I've met a good friend who is giving me knowledge of our Father's real Name and how it has been changed. I'll be honest. I'm shocked at how twisted minded individuals are. I just got my hands on your imazine "YAIY Beacon." What is His Name? What is His Son's Name? Do you know? I would like to receive your magazine. I would like to thank you for your time and also for spreading the truth and helping misled people. — **PB, PA**

When I read your pamphlets I am really excited when you touch subjects I have questioned for years. — **JA, GA**



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

USA, Oregon, Salem
KPJC 1220 AM (radio)
Tuesdays, 4:30 pm

HOLY BIBLE

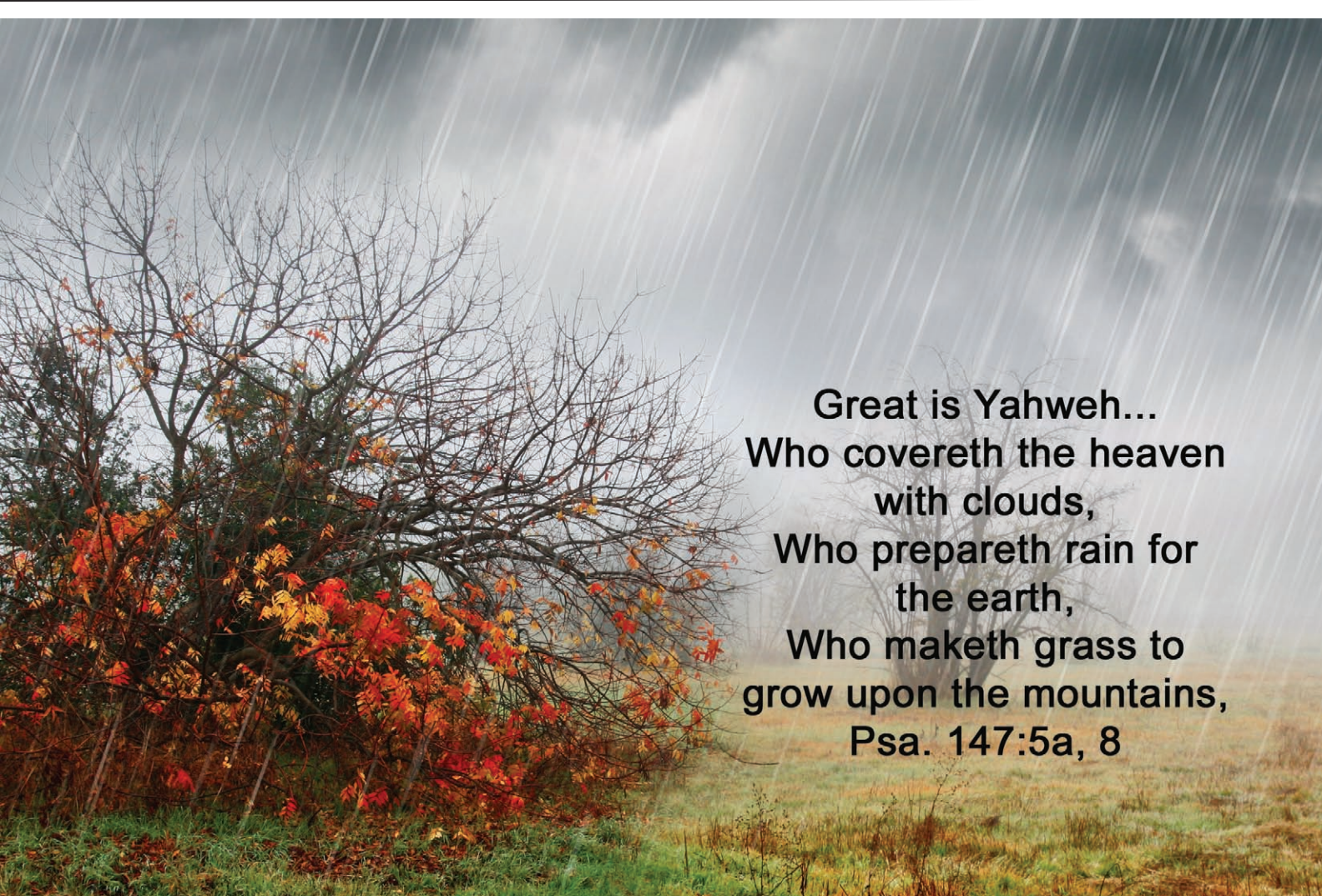
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**Great is Yahweh...
Who covereth the heaven
with clouds,
Who prepareth rain for
the earth,
Who maketh grass to
grow upon the mountains,
Psa. 147:5a, 8**