

YAIY

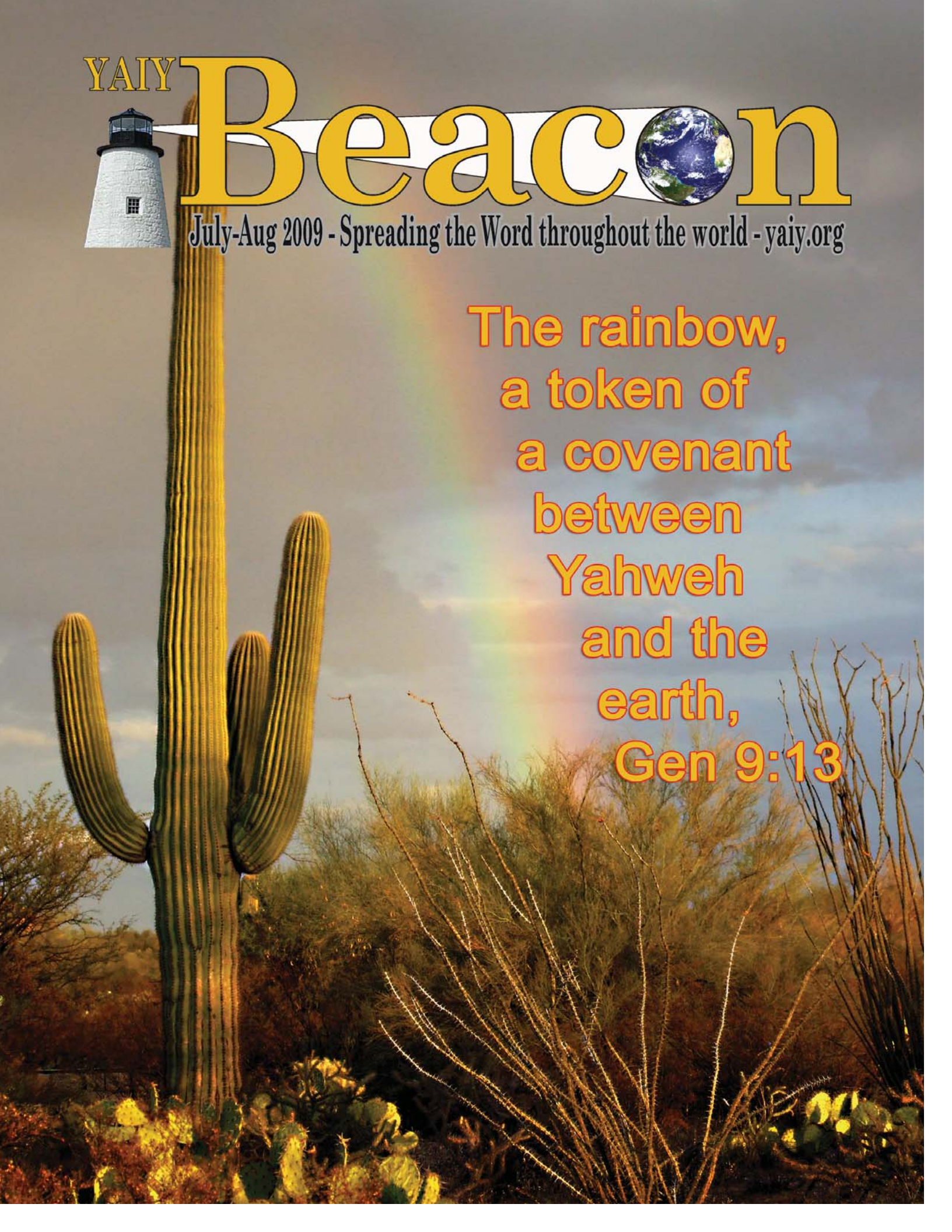


Beacon



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The rainbow,
a token of
a covenant
between
Yahweh
and the
earth,
Gen 9:13



YAIY **Beacon**



Volume 3

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Some people say that once you marry, that spouse is to remain your only spouse until death terminates that commitment. Others will say that if one marries, divorces and then marries someone else, that one must go back to the first spouse and that any children born in the second marriage are illegitimate children. Does Scriptures clarify this? Yes. Read this article to find out when Yahweh does allow divorce and remarriage by a faithful member.

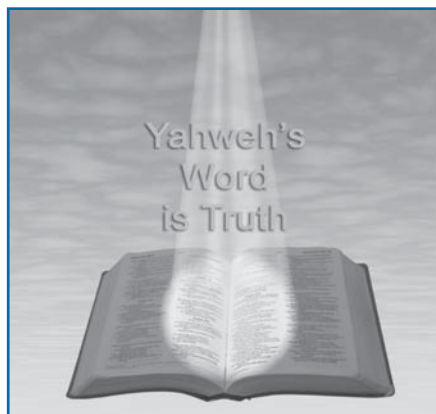
by Elder David Brett

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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For Such a Time as This 10

Over time mankind has continually lowered the standards set forth in Yahweh's Word. Are today's financial woes the result of what mankind believes is right in his sight? We must become aware of what is right in Yahweh's sight and take the proper actions.

by Elder Buel Hallpike

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QUESTION & ANSWER

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A listing of answers to some questions asked by our readership.

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

“Till death do us part.” They’re the words we normally hear at wedding ceremonies today between a man and a woman who are dedicating their lives to one another in holy matrimony. From the beginning of creation we find this was to be so.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave (a bond like glue) unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed, Gen 2:23-25.

The “one flesh” statement here is clearly a Hebrew idiomatic phrase for being “married.” Yahshua the Messiah confirms that it was Yahweh that had placed Adam and Eve together as “one”:

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what Elohim has joined together, let man not separate,” Matt 19:4-6 NIV.

It was later that they became physically intimate (Gen 4:1), which is scripturally allowed for those that are married, Ruth 4:13. We also must remember, before moving forward,

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for Elohim will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral, Heb 13:4 NIV.

Marriage, Sex, and the Family Unit

Marriage can be a wonderful and beautiful union, with physical intimacy adding a dimension for expressing loving emotions and pro-creation for the addition of children to the family. Some married couples are not able to have children due to physical or other difficulties. The reasons vary from

war to other accidents in which injuries prevent physical intimacy as normally could take place. These couples, otherwise, lead very normal lives, and in some cases adopt children to have the traditional family unit made up of a man, woman, and children.

The family is really the foundational building block of homes and communities. Take away family and you will have a breakdown of society. In many countries outside the United States family units are made up of an extended family of grandparents and grandchildren, sometimes all living within the same house or community all caring for, and looking out for one another. Israelite culture also expressed these types of living arrangements early on, though, admittedly, more of a nomadic ancestral living, with examples of patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob being the precursor of all of Israel.

Sex Doesn’t Cause Marriage

From early on we also learn that sex does not cause or make a couple married. We have Jacob and Rachel as an example of the agreement of marriage allowing Jacob to call Rachel his wife before he had been physically intimate with her.

And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her, Gen 29:20-21.

Long before this example we have the account of Cain being married to his wife before any physical intimacy took place. It says, “*Cain knew his wife,*” Gen 4:17. In other words, she was his wife before they had relations which produced children.

There was a “bride price” in times past, but there was only an agreement of marriage if and after the father accepts

the bride-price.

And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife. If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins, Ex 22:16-17.

There is a similar but opposite dowry process in India in which the family of the bride-to-be actually pays the husband's family. In both cases, sex does not a marriage make.

We also find that the proper thing to do if premarital relations takes place is to marry,

If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days, Deut 22:28-29.

It is not an excuse to have premarital sex to think you'll be marrying the one you're with anyway. It

would be a sin to do so, and it comes with a warning, Gal 5:19-21 (Note: Strong's NT:4202 "fornication," not to be confused with NT:3430 "adultery" or NT:1495 "Idolatry" in this case).

Some may think that since a virgin's hymen will break (Duet 22:13-21) it shows a blood covenant process has taken place. However, a covenant has not taken place, especially when considering those who marry in which, as already mentioned, physical relations can't take place, such as with, Joseph and Mary, Matt 1:24-25. Also, marriage is obviously allowed between non-virgins.

Dinah was raped by Shechem (Gen 34:1-2), which didn't cause marriage, but did cause death (Gen 34:25-26). Shechem even recognized that sex didn't cause marriage, because after the act, he went to his father and said, "Get this girl for me," he demanded. "I want to marry her," Gen 34:4 NLT.

The sad account of Judah and Tamar is yet another situation that

didn't cause a "marriage" situation, Gen 38:18, 24, 26.

King David's adulterous relationship with Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:4) didn't cause them to become "one flesh." Only when an agreement (covenant) came were they then married (one flesh), verse 27.

Deeper Meaning

The following statement by the Apostle Paul may initially seem to put a question mark on the consistency of the above statements, as here it looks like "one flesh" is exclusively describing "sex." The Apostle Paul says to the brethren:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Messiah? Shall I then take the members of Messiah

Start your preparation today for the upcoming wedding of Yahshua and His Bride by becoming and remaining steadfast in the truth

and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Master is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from Elohim, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify Elohim in your body and in your spirit, which are Elohim's, 1 Cor 6:15-20 NKJV.

Reread the above verses while thinking of physical and spiritual Israel. If one becomes a part of the body of Messiah (similar wording is used in 1 Cor 12:12-27), then he or she is not to go and be united or married with an adulterous harlot (the world).

After coming into the faith (are

baptized) we can only marry someone in the faith (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14-15), just like we are to live "righteously" in this world after baptism (Titus 2:12). We must understand that those of the body of Messiah are already considered to be the bride through covenant process (2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7) and hence have already been given the family name, John 17:11; Rev 14:1. Today, we are to prepare for the coming wedding.

We are not to draw back physically or spiritually as ancient Israel did, for they were punished for such things;

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come, 1 Cor 10:11 NASU.

Paul, when speaking to the Corinthians, may very well have had the prophet Hosea in mind when he said, "joined to a harlot," 1 Cor 6:15.

When Yahweh first spoke through Hosea, Yahweh said to Hosea, "Go, take

to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking Yahweh," Hos 1:2 NASU. (See also Hos 5:4)

A warning to not commit Israel's unfaithfulness was being related, consciously by Paul or not, to the brethren in Corinth and therefore to us today. Yes, sexual immorality (adultery specifically) was also being spoken of, but it is also relating marrying into symbolic Babylon and being "one" with her.

Yahweh had directed Hosea to show, as an example, Israel's adulterous actions against Yahweh. Judah committed similar "idolatry" as well by playing the harlot, Ezek 23:17-21. It was a forsaking of Yahweh, something we must not do since we are coming into a covenant with Yahweh, like ancient Israel (both Ephraim and Judah) did in the past:

And when I passed by and saw you again, you were old enough to

be married. So I wrapped my cloak around you to cover your nakedness and declared my marriage vows. I made a covenant with you, says the Sovereign Yahweh, and you became mine, Ezek 16:8 NLT.

Marriages by Covenant Process

In addressing the tribe of Judah's sins in particular, Yahweh sarcastically impersonates Judah,

*Do we not all have one father? Has not one Elohim created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of Yahweh which He loves and **has married the daughter of a foreign mighty one.** As for the man who does this, may Yahweh cut off from the tents of Jacob (all the tribes of Israel) everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to Yahweh of hosts. "This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of Yahweh with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because **Yahweh has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant**," Mal 2:10-14 NASU.*

Marriages of both unbelievers and believers are something that Yahweh recognizes. Though not of Israel, and not necessarily believers in Yahweh, there are examples of pagan rulers who had wives in Scripture. Joseph had to deal with one woman in particular who was the wife of an Egyptian master named Potiphar.

From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all

that he owned, Yahweh blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of Yahweh was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife.

In a marriage, if the unbelieving spouse departs (divorces the believing spouse), then the believing spouse is not under bondage (is set free - can remarry), 1 Cor 7:15

How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against Elohim?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her, Gen 39:5-10 NIV.

Men today should take note of Joseph's good character and recognition that one is not to tempt themselves by sticking around in a situation that can lead to adultery or other types of sin. Potiphar was married, and the account is written down as an example and testimony for us.

Another ruler was King Abimelech in whom Abraham, in trying to protect himself from being killed, said that Sarah was his sister. She was technically his half-sister, but long-story-short, Yahweh had closed King Abimelech's own wife's womb as a punishment for grabbing Sarah.

The whole account is given in Genesis chapter 20, but concludes with "Elohim healed Abimelech and his wife," verse 17, confirming they

were married.

How were they and others like them (1 Kings 16:30-31) married? The answer is by whatever ceremony or process of law they had. Just as our governments today have governing marriage laws that we are to abide by and that Yahweh recognizes. It is all by covenant (agreement) process which will be continuing into the future before Yahshua's return:

*And as it came to pass in the days of Noah, even so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, **they married, they were given in marriage**, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all, Luke 17:26-27 ASV.*

Every culture seems to have

marriage ceremonies in place. It may very well be that Yahweh does not give specific guidelines on "How to get married" in the Bible for the purpose of honoring all marriage vows within the specific laws of the land,

which we are to abide by.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of Elohim: the powers that be are ordained of Elohim. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of Elohim: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation, Rom 13:1-2. (See also Titus 3:1 and 1 Pet 2:13-15)

Divorce Allowed

Marriage, we find, is not only "Till death do us part," but also for reasons of infidelity couples may separate. Yahweh Himself had given Ephraim (Israel) a bill of divorce for the unfaithfulness committed.

Yahweh said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? She is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto

me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly (pretending to), saith Yahweh. And Yahweh said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah, Jer 3:6-11.

Yahweh evidently didn't give Judah a writ of divorce due to the fact that Yahshua the Messiah was to come forth from Judah. But the fact remains, divorce is allowed for reasons other than a severance of the marriage resulting from the death of a spouse. It is a true statement that Yahweh hates wrongful or inappropriate divorce.

"I hate divorce," says Yahweh Elohim of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says Yahweh of hosts, Mal 2:16a NIV.

Hillel and Shammai Schools

In Scripture we find that divorce for any reason had basically been allowed, but was not the ideal situation, and was certainly abused as divorce is in today's society,

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her

former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before Yahweh: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee for an inheritance, Deut 24:1-4.

Stemming from these Scriptures came two well known schools of thought espoused by two different teachers back at the time of Messiah.

One was the Hillel school which taught that there was in fact, because of the law, the right to "put away" (another way of saying divorce) one's spouse for the smallest of reasons.

The other school, taught by Shammai, was the more conservative of the two and said that basically only for the reason of sexual immorality was there such grounds for divorce. This Yahshua agreed with in His answer

to the basic question, "Can a man divorce his wife for any reason?"

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore Elohim hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery, Matt 19:3-9.

To this even the disciples were almost in disbelief, and said, *"If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry,"* verse 10.

Original Intent

The reason Yahshua gave for allowing divorce was "due to the hardness of their hearts." It seems safe to say that this was the same reason polygamous relations were allowed, even though the kings were warned not to multiply their wives or else, Deut 17:17. They suffered the consequences of their actions.

Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself, Deut 17:17 NKJV.

Most notable was King Solomon who was led astray into their false worship,

As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other idols, and his heart was not fully devoted to Yahweh his Elohim, as the heart of David his father had been, 1 Kings 11:4-5 NIV.

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Mini Study



Why Biblical Law?

A lesson from the Potter

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

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

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

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

We in the Hands of the Maker

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

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

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

Not only did he have wives, but he added “foreign” wives to himself, which was forbidden in Deuteronomy chapter 7:3.

When Yahweh your Elohim brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations — the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you — and when Yahweh your Elohim has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them, Deut 7:1-3a NIV.

He may, however, have reasoned that was alright as long as they were from distant cities.

This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby, Deut 20:15 NIV.

When you go to war against your enemies and Yahweh your Elohim delivers them into your hands and you take captives, if you notice among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife. Bring her into your home and have her shave her head, trim her nails and put aside the clothes she was wearing when captured. After she has lived in your house and mourned her father and mother for a full month, then you may go to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife. If you are not pleased with her, let her go wherever she wishes. You must not sell her or treat her as a slave, since you have dishonored her, Deut 21:10-14 NIV.

When Judah came back from being in captivity for 70 years in Babylon, they came to know that they had to put away their foreign wives and children under the leadership of Ezra, Ezra 10:3. He did not tell them they couldn't remarry, but did show them from the law that they couldn't be married to

their “foreign” wives.

Today, one would be hard-pressed to figure out if one is of pure Israelite stock. This is evidently part of the reason why the Apostle Paul said to us today not to divorce.

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but Yahweh, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not Yahweh: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him, 1 Cor 7:10-13.

The original intent was to have strong family structures that work to

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them, Lev 20:13

build the foundations of society with Yahweh as the focal point. Paul was evidently for this as well.

Homosexual relations that were forbidden in the Old Testament and that were forbidden in the New, will also not be allowed in the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. It just is not part of the original intent or overall plan, but today you see it becoming more prevalent even though Yahweh calls such things an “abomination.”

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable, Lev 18:22 NIV.

Homosexual unions today are not recognized as marriages by Yahweh since they do not constitute the original intent of a man and a woman.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh, Gen 2:24 NIV.

There are also other improper relations, such as Herod having his brother's wife.

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife,” Mark 6:17-19 NIV.

That particular situation was probably seen by John as an incestuous relationship. Incest was specifically forbidden in the law (torah), Lev 18:16; 20:21. It may also be that John the Immerser took the Shammai School's view as Yahshua did, Matt 19:3-9.

Reasons for Divorce

Paul gives one other reason for divorce other than unfaithfulness. He says,

But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but Elohim hath called us to peace, 1 Cor 7:15.

In other words, for a member of the body of Messiah, one is not bound to a marriage if the unbelieving spouse leaves. It is effectively ready to be dissolved, following the laws of the land (meaning, divorce proceedings), unless reconciliation can be obtained under the guidelines of Deut 24:3-4 and 1 Cor 7:11.

The concept of a non-guilty party is found in the book of Numbers chapter 5:12-31. Though addressing an adulterous situation, the principle relates to one deciding not to obey Yahweh. The one who does obey Yahweh cannot be accused or punished. *Then shall the man be guiltless from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her iniquity, verse 31.*

We effectively have three things in Scripture that allow for a marriage to be dissolved:

1. Sexual immorality (fornication, Heb. "Zanah," Jer 3:1; Hos 2:5; Amos 7:17), which includes, but is not limited to, adultery.
2. Death of the spouse, 1 Cor 7:39.
3. "...if the unbelieving depart (divorces)"..., 1Cor 7:15.

Reasons for Remarriage

The same three reasons listed above are also the three reasons which can allow a person to remarry. But there is at least one more which is still connected to one of the former reasons.

When we are baptized into the true name of Yahshua, we effectively are going through a symbolic burial (death). We are striving to put away the past wrong ways of living and, in a sense, it is a symbolic washing away of transgressions against the heavenly Father. They are put away permanently as east is from west.

It is similar in example to a book of your former life being immersed in water and all the ink being washed away. When the book comes up, a new pen is put to it and starts recording a new life in Messiah Yahshua.

Not even the best attorney or accuser (namely Lucifer) can look back and say, "You know what, you haven't been forgiven of everything!" Satan can't say that and neither can we. Doesn't the heavenly Father even have the right to annul any previous oaths/covenants, even if it is a previous vow, Num 30:5, 12. Those that are single, when they come into the faith, are therefore free to remarry within the faith.

Living in Adultery?

Are those coming into the faith that have divorced and remarried numerous times living in adultery? Can a deacon or elder in good conscience baptize those that have a questionable marriage? These are questions that come up. To answer such questions let's look to examples in Scripture.

Did any Jews not receive the

Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 because they had divorced and remarried? Remember, many Jews evidently divorced and remarried for "any reason" as the law allowed,

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife, Deut 24:1-2.

Yet not one of them was told to get rid of their spouse.

What was Yahshua's example with the woman at the well in which he asked for a drink of water?

The woman was surprised, for Jews

refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Yahshua, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Yahshua replied, "If you only knew the gift Elohim has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water? And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoyed?" Yahshua replied, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life." "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me some of that water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to haul water." "Go and get your husband," Yahshua told her. "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Yahshua said, "You're right! You don't have a husband — for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now." "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet," John 4:7-19 NLT.

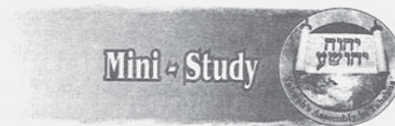
Notice that Yahshua acknowledged that she had "five" husbands. And she was now evidently living with a man whom she had not married, truly a sexually immoral situation.

What are the odds with this Samaritan that every one of her previous marriages were to the standards that Yahshua had laid out for the Pharisees who were trying to trip him up by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"

The woman certainly would have had to marry the man she was with or separate from him if she were to come into the faith, but the point is Yahshua acknowledged she had been married, not just a couple of times, but "five times."

Elders and Deacons

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Does the Bible Condone Homosexuality?

As true believers study Yahweh's word, the subject of homosexuality seems at times to be overlooked. Yahweh's people, whom have been baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah, having Yahweh's spirit within them, instinctively know that He abhorred the act of homosexuality. But what does the Bible actually teach on this subject?

As we look at scriptures in the Old and New Testaments, the following statements can be concluded:

Proponents of homosexuality use rhetoric to distort the well-defined writings in the Old Testament causing so called "scholars" to weaken in their perception of Yahweh's truth. We see this happening all around us, especially in the Christian churches.

Proponents of homosexuality have stated the New Testament is without direction on this issue. Their clarification comes from the absence of Yahshua directly stating its abomination. Yahshua kept the "Law" perfectly, his example for us is clear. Those without an alternative agenda realize this after careful study.

In the Beginning

Notice the command in the following verses:

"So Elohim created man in his own image, in the image of Elohim created he him; male and female created he them. And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over

Can there be leaders within the Assembly that have divorced and remarried?

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of Elohim's assembly?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Messiah Yahshua, 1 Tim 3:1-13 NIV. (See also Titus 1:6-9)

A husband of "one wife" is consistent with the "original intent." It does not mean, husband of "one original wife." There is a difference.

Yahshua said, *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery, Matt 5:31-32.*

Some will say, in verse 32, "It was alright to give a writ of divorce even within the betrothal or engagement period," is to assume that there were two separate papers for saying, "This is not my wife and I am not her husband."

Two different documents did not, and still do not, exist. Divorce is divorce, as remarriage is remarriage. Both happen when a couple has been legally married. An engagement does not a marriage make, it only leads to the marriage itself. A couple should not marry if they feel or think they are incompatible after a prolonged engagement.

In the end, we are not to shut people out because of their past mistakes nor hold back a potential leader who can help serve the body of Messiah.

Was the Apostle Paul held back from

serving because of his former lifestyle of persecuting the brethren? How was Paul, of his own admission, being the "chief" (1 Tim 1:15) sinner among "all," allowed to lead the members if he wasn't completely forgiven of "all" previous transgressions?

The conclusion concerning elders in the faith is that, if they're married, their wife (singular) is to be in the faith also. There are 3 reasons for this:

1. 1 Cor 9:5 - the Apostle/Elder Paul specifically said "believing" wife.
2. Titus 1:6 - "believing" children strongly suggests a product of a "believing" mother.
3. 1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14 - An Elder is to be an example (above reproach, 1 Tim 3:2) to the body in word and action. No one is to look back at a prospective elder's former history before baptism and say, "They cannot serve in that position, because they divorced and remarried before they came into the body of Messiah."

Coming into the Faith


Should we dig into peoples' history and start denying them access to baptism? Should we disrupt whole families due to their previous marriages? Are we to shut the door on people trying to enter into the kingdom?

Paul never contradicted Yahshua and Yahshua never contradicted Paul. There seems to be no question of Paul's intentions in addressing the Corinthians the way he did. It was to help them overcome their shortcomings and to help these new believers—some single, some married, some previously divorced and remarried, etc.—in their walk with Yahweh and Yahshua.

What is missing in all of this instruction is his telling ANY married couples to separate. Paul was not going to recommend breaking up families, the very structure of society, but emphasized that we should live at peace, even with an UNBELIEVING

<see **Marriage** page 18>

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Mini - Study 

BAPTISM'S DEEPER MEANING

Baptism is undoubtedly the most important decision one can make on this earth. Because our future is determined by it, we should be alert to all its conditions and significance. In the following study we will seek a deeper meaning of baptism according to Yahweh's word. We should comprehend what baptism accomplishes and seek to ensure our baptism is approved by Yahweh. Furthermore, we should know what to expect upon being baptized, for it is the foundation-stone of the promised salvation given us through our Savior Yahshua.

From time to time we all have realized how far we have fallen from the high expectations of Yahweh's word, and felt we were the lost generation much like those Peter was preaching to. When the Jews in Acts chapter two realized it was their sins which put the Savior to death, they asked, "What can we do?"

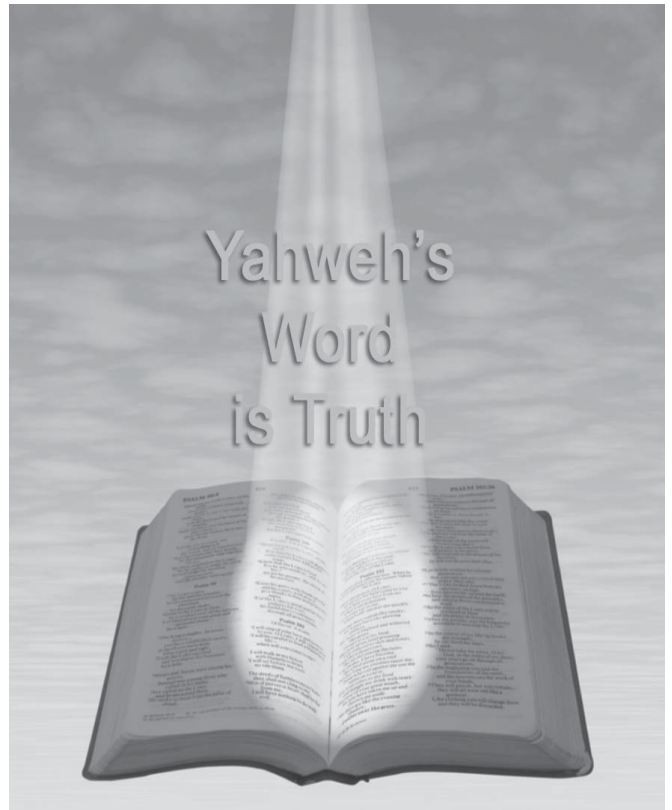
"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call." (Acts 2:38-39 AV)

BAPTISM IN THE ONLY NAME

Most baptisms done throughout churchianity are done according to Matthew 28:19, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." However, not one of these is a name, but only a title. There are many "fathers" on this earth, and all of us have a human father. Fathers are also sons, as are all males. The Holy Spirit is the power emanating from Yahweh, and shared by the Son. A number of scholars believe this verse is spurious, including the Catholic Jerusalem Bible. (For a deeper study of this verse, request your copy of our mini-study, "Trinitarian

For Such a Time as This

(Note: Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted. The author for emphasis has sometimes shown parts of quotations in bold.)



Introduction

When Barack Obama first decided to run for the presidency of the United States he would not have anticipated being greeted with such a phenomenal set of local and global problems on such an unprecedented scale with each demanding urgent attention. He did not choose the diverse cocktail of perplexing circumstances that loomed before him at the start of his presidency. Yet the nation and the world expect him to shoulder his responsibility adroitly and to show leadership through the minefield of obstacles just as if he had been particularly groomed all his life for such a time as this. That is what being a President is all about. He cannot walk away, however much he would have preferred an easier test. As the U.S.A. President, he has to face up to and deal with whatever comes.

Although we may dislike the occurrences in our lives, each of us has to take action within the framework of events and challenges that present themselves daily to us. We cannot walk away from, ignore, deny or exchange the things that confront us. Each episode provides unique opportunities for us to try our best to shape and resolve them in a manner that will bring the maximum benefit.

What applies regularly in the physical sphere finds even greater significance in the spiritual realm. In this article we shall consider and learn from Biblical examples of heroes who took the timely action required of them, when faced with specific challenges or tasks in which only they could impact the age and times in which they lived. We shall also consider the example of one person, who tried to avoid the assignment given by Yahweh. Perhaps you will then

begin to see the opportunities that surround you wherever you are, and like the songwriter Wayne Watson, you will be able to say:

*"For such a time as this
I was placed upon the earth
To hear the voice of [Yah]
And do His will, whatever it is."*

Esther (Please read the book of Esther)

The Jewish orphan girl Esther never planned to be the wife of the Persian king Ahasuerus, who at that time was the monarch of the greatest empire in the world.

When king Ahasuerus' wife Vashti was dethroned, the king was advised to obliterate the memory of her by replacing her with a young beautiful virgin.

Out of the most beautiful young girls in the land, Esther was shortlisted on the top seven, and finally won the admiration of the king more than any of the other women. Her day of recognition had come, but it was not yet the precise moment for her to play the crucial unique role for which Yahweh had chosen her. She was the right person in the right place, but was unaware that she was there for an unusual purpose that would become apparent at the right time.

Without knowledge of Esther's origin, Haman had planned to destroy all Jews who lived in the Persian Empire. When queen Esther's cousin Mordecai learned of this he promptly sent word to Esther, who was hesitant to approach the king about it. Mordecai replied to Esther: *"Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any*

more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom **for such a time as this?**" Esth 4:13,14.

Esther then decided to fast and asked Mordecai to arrange for the Jews who lived in Shushan to do the same. Afterward she would do what only she in her position as queen could do, with the fearless determination, *"if I perish I perish,"* Esth 4:16. She then proceeded with a carefully laid strategy that brought her before Ahasuerus and Haman where she was able to expose Haman's plot. She managed to get the king to reverse Haman's plan, save the lives of her people, hang Haman on the gallows he had intended for Mordecai, and destroy all of the Jews' tormentors.

This is a truly remarkable 'rags to riches' story of how one unknown woman, whose parents had come to Persia as captives, became queen of this vast country and saved the lives of the Jewish people, because she recognised the important part that only she could play, and accepted that she had *"come to the kingdom for such a time as this."* She overturned the greatest threat that had faced all Jews of her day through prayer and the firm resolve to do what only she could do. There can be no doubt that the most important 'Player' of all had been working behind each scene to bring about such decisive and timely victory for His people. But Yahweh required a frontline human 'actor' to take the stage and carry out His bidding.

Do not underestimate the significant difference you can make when you begin to see your situation not as a problem but as a challenge, and grasping the opportunity of the moment, you yield yourself totally to Yahweh

and do what only you can do.

Joseph (Read Genesis 37- end)

Like Esther, Joseph was involuntarily brought to live in a foreign country. How he had come to leave his land of Canaan and be in Egypt is even more unusual than the story of Esther. Partly because of the favouritism his father had shown to him, but mainly on account of his dream that suggested he would have supremacy over his entire family, Joseph's brothers envied him and most wanted to kill him. First they threw him in a pit, and then made money out of him by selling him to Ishmaelite traders, who in turn sold him in Egypt to Pharaoh's captain Potiphar. That was Joseph's passport to fame!

Potiphar's wife lusted after Joseph but after failing in her bid to induce him to have an illicit relationship with her, she secured a totally different type of pleasure with Joseph, called 'revenge'. With the convincing 'evidence' of his clothes that Joseph had left behind as he fled in haste from her, she reported to her husband that that Hebrew servant Joseph had sought to rape her! Joseph was put in prison. But even there Yahweh's invisible but almighty hand was at work. Yahweh blessed Joseph, enabled him to be the most praiseworthy prisoner, and developed Joseph's skill of interpreting dreams. At the right moment, Joseph's effective interpretation of his fellow prisoners' dreams eventually paved the way for him to interpret the king's

dreams. Pharaoh was as much impressed with Joseph's prophetic interpretation of his dream that warned of an impending famine, as with Joseph's astute suggestions of the preparations required to meet this calamity. Pharaoh elevated Joseph to the highest position in Egypt second only to Pharaoh himself.

The famine that Joseph had predicted came and covered the whole earth. When it became known that food was available in Egypt, Joseph's father Jacob sent his sons to Egypt in search of food. There the fulfilment of Joseph's earliest dreams of dominance over his family came to fruition. So neither the devious strategy of his brothers nor the sinister plot of Potiphar's wife succeeded in derailing Yahweh's plans that were to be accomplished through the one man Yahweh had chosen *"for such a time as this."*

At each stage of Joseph's persistent trials he could have questioned why his path was so painful, perilous, and tortuous. He did not. He faced each phase with dignity and aplomb. Yahweh transformed each of Joseph's hurdles into stepping-stones that led to his crowning glory. At the end when the story finally unfolded, the guileless Joseph explained to his conniving and wicked brothers: *"you meant evil against me; but Yahweh meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive,"* Gen 50:20.

"Through many dangers toils and snares" Joseph was brought to the forefront by Yahweh to bring an end to the hardship of his family, feed the people of Egypt, and play a pivotal role in etching for Yahweh's people Israel a place in history that would never be erased. Joseph had been born for such a time. Joseph the dreamer finally became Joseph the deliverer.

Neither Joseph nor his brothers knew the



Picture depicting Joseph being sold and taken into slavery

purpose he would fulfil until the time came. In the meantime, he was being unwittingly prepared for his great moment when his dreams would become a reality.

Joseph had put Yahweh first when he could have yielded to an adulterous temptation. Many in Joseph's position as a handsome young man and a slave, would have been grateful for the chance to indulge their passions with nobility! For Joseph, that was neither an option nor an attraction. He could also have been spiteful towards his brothers and hateful of Potiphar's wife, but he had no inclination for such negative and destructive feelings. Instead, as an exemplary representative of Yahweh, he faithfully did only that which was pleasing to Him. When the right time finally came, Yahweh rewarded this key man of the moment. Joseph was in the right place with the right attitude for such a time.

Though the thorny path you tread may seem to be unending and unrewarding, hold on, keep close to Yahweh, obey Him and seize every opportunity to do His will. Who knows if you are Yahweh's key person at this time of your life?

Noah

At a time when *"The earth ... was corrupt before Elohim, and ... was filled with violence,"* Gen 6:11, *"Noah found grace in the eyes of Yahweh"* Gen 6:8.

Noah was the only man at the time who was willing to obey Yahweh, so Yahweh selected him with his family as the only humans in the whole earth that would be still alive, after Yahweh had cleansed the world of its wickedness.

Yahweh told Noah He would send a flood upon the earth that would destroy all creatures except those within the ark, which Yahweh was instructing Noah to build. *"According to all that Elohim commanded him, so he did,"* Gen 6:22. Yahweh gave to Noah details of the creatures and Noah's immediate family that should

be kept in the ark. Once again *"Noah did according to all that Yahweh commanded him,"* Gen 7:5. After Noah's immediate family and pairs of all creatures entered the ark, the promised flood came. *"And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights,"* Gen 7:12. But *"the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days,"* Gen 7:24. Yahweh *"destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive,"* Gen 7:23.

The faithfulness of only one righteous man in the whole earth saved the earth from total destruction. Noah obeyed and honoured Yahweh when others did not. It takes very little imagination to visualise the jeering he

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth... So Yahweh said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth," Gen 9:13, 17 NIV

must have encountered during the time that he was building this huge vessel on dry land, in anticipation of a historic flood that had never occurred before.

It demands superhuman courage and faith to hold on in obedience to Yahweh's commands and promises when all others doubt and mock you and there is no tangible or logical reason for your confidence, other than saying "this is what Yahweh has said." Noah's was no mean feat. It was the product of a life wholly submitted to Yahweh's will, through whom Yahweh could do His miraculous work. Nothing is impossible in the life of anyone who obeys and trusts Yahweh implicitly and is not shaken by the most powerful opposition or deterred by the most enormous challenge.

The whole world has moved dangerously farther from their Creator, Yahweh. Righteousness is punished while evil is vindicated. Globally, people are discouraged from preaching exactly what the Bible says.

In England, an American preacher is banned from entering the country because he has publicly denounced homosexuality as a sin Yahweh hates and which will incur the wrath of Yahweh. The world wants to be able to sin peacefully and is uneasy with anyone who will not conform to its standards or participate in its rebellious ways. The forces of evil are allowed to speak with a loud voice, while the voice of truth is being silenced. This is the age in which we live, where there is no distinction between one who firmly upholds the Bible and a racist or terrorist. As in the days of Noah *"The earth ... [is] corrupt before Yahweh, and ... is filled with violence."* The day of Yahweh's wrath is surely coming. At such a time as this, we must be more willing to please Yahweh than to appease the deluded society in which we live.

You can be the special person today, through whom Yahweh will bring about His **u n p r e c e d e n t e d** designs, when you are pliable in His hands

and totally surrendered to His will. Let it be your passion and prayer that in this evil age, you, like Noah, will find grace in the eyes of Yahweh, and will be resolute in your determination to obey Yahweh completely rather than acquiesce in man's wicked ways.

Daniel

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Daniel, who was of a young age, had been carried off as a captive with other Jews to Babylon. There, Daniel with his three Jewish friends remained loyal to their faith and stood their ground amidst the paganism of the Babylonian court. Daniel soon became distinguished for his interpretation of dreams and rapidly progressed to the highest ranks of the Babylonian hierarchy. But he never relinquished his firm trust in and loyalty to the One who is the *"revealer of secrets."*

Daniel's meteoric rise to success incurred the envy of the governors and satraps within the realm.

So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his Eloah." So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any [deity] or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." Therefore King Darius signed the written decree, Dan 6:4-9.

His conspirators, thinking they had found a way to be rid of this 'upstart', waited on Daniel to fall into their trap, but Daniel had been also waiting on them so that he could make his next move. "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his Eloah, as was his custom since early days," Dan 6:10.

Daniel was fearless. He preferred to be eaten by hungry lions and to satisfy the avaricious appetites of power hungry men, than to bow before an idol in contravention of Yahweh's law. When his enemies found he was praying to his Elohim they promptly went and told the king. The king desired to save Daniel, but was reminded by those men, that the laws of the Medes and Persians were unalterable. Daniel was thrown into the den of lions and a stone rolled at the mouth of the den. It seemed that Daniel had no way out. That night the king could not sleep because of his concern over Daniel. Early the next

morning, the king in distress called out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living Eloah, has your Eloah, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My Eloah sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you," Dan 6:20-22.

Yahweh had vindicated the righteousness of one man who at that time dared to defy the king and the threat of sure death at the paws of hungry lions. Daniel was taken from the lions' den. His accusers and their family were thrown into the den and were overpowered by the lions. The king Darius acknowledged the sovereignty of Yahweh and made a decree that "in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the Eloah of Daniel. For He is the living Eloah, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall

endure to the end," Dan 6:26.

One man by his unwavering obedience to Yahweh survived a night in a den of lions, caused the law of a heathen empire to be changed, the subjects to revere Yahweh only, witnessed swift retribution on those who had plotted his downfall, and prospered in the very land where his demise seemed imminent. Daniel was that special man for the time in which he lived, who dared to defy the king's unchangeable decree, because of his firm allegiance to Yahweh.

Perhaps you would like to be used by Yahweh to do something special for Him in your time. Remember great victories are not won in small skirmishes, or large fish caught in the safety of the shoreline. The ultimate prize will be yours only after you have given of your best for a cause that is bigger than you and stretches you beyond your comfort zone. If you are willing to see, there are challenges here today that are reminiscent of those that Daniel had faced. The world wants you to surrender your values and live by their standards or bear the consequences. They would gladly put pressure on those who do not participate in their pernicious ways but instead honour the only sovereign of the universe. Now is not the time to walk away from your responsibility, ignore what is happening or be half-hearted in your loyalty to Yahweh. Now is the time to take your extraordinary stance in support of Yahweh and His truths, which are contrary to popular opinion. At such a time as this, it is your duty to stand firmly for what you believe even though you may be alone, for "We ought to obey Yahweh rather than men," Acts 5:29.



Because of the edict by the king of Egypt to slay all males born to the Hebrew women, Moses was rescued and raised by the daughter of the Pharaoh

Moses

From his birth, the hand of Yahweh was upon Moses. He was miraculously rescued from the murderous devices of Pharaoh who sought to destroy all Jewish male children at birth. Instead of being put to death, he ended up in the King's palace as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, after being cared for by his own mother as a paid maid. Nothing in the life of Moses happened

by chance. There was divine design at every stage, for Moses was to be the special man Yahweh would choose for an unusual project.

For four hundred years generations of Israelites in Egypt had known only a life of slavery. *“The children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to Elohim because of the bondage,”* Exod 2:23. Yahweh heard their cry and appeared to Moses in a burning bush at Mount Horeb saying,

“I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians,” Exod 3:7, 8.

Yahweh then gave to Moses instructions of the part he was to play so as to bring deliverance to Yahweh’s people. From a difficult and testing beginning, Moses was eventually able to fulfil the mission for which he had been called. Although Moses questioned his own ability to carry out this tough task, he was nevertheless the man who had been chosen for that particular mission at that time. No other, not even his brother Aaron, who was a more competent speaker could take his place. Through his tiresome encounters with the unyielding Pharaoh, and with Yahweh’s guiding hand, Moses eventually led the children of Israel out of captivity, then mysteriously through the Red Sea, where all their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

One man, by submitting himself to Yahweh’s will, extricated the captive Israelites from their Egyptian slave masters, and brought them close to the land Yahweh had promised.

Moses’ prominent leadership went beyond the crossing of the Red Sea. He demonstrated remarkable compliance with Yahweh’s plans in building the Tabernacle, making the priesthood garments, and observing the many other commands of Yahweh regarding the Levitical priesthood and sacrificial laws. His obedience

is recorded in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers in which the phrase is frequently repeated, that *“Moses did as Yahweh commanded him,”* Lev 8:4. When even his assistant Aaron gave in to the idolatrous wishes of the rebellious Israelites, Moses held his ground in upholding the commandments of Yahweh.

You also may be called to lead or to perform in a role that you think will stretch you beyond your capabilities. Like Moses you may think of others who seem to be more suited for the task. Remember that Yahweh equips those whom He calls. Do not make excuses or presuppose the outcome. If you are chosen by Yahweh He will be with you. Your inability will be transformed to ability, weakness to strength, fear to faith, and cowardice to courage when Yahweh goes before you. Your Pharaoh will finally yield. From your impossible cul-de-sac situation at your impassable Red Sea, a way will be found, if you will stop looking at your limitations and do that for which you have been called,

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a hugh fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, Matt 12:40 NIV

positioned, and equipped. Yahweh’s business was clearly Moses’ prime concern even when those closest to him sided with the majority or ridiculed him. Head and shoulders above the rest by his relentless obedience and allegiance to Yahweh, Moses was the man for the time in which he lived. Who knows whether like Moses you are called from birth for such a time as this? Your unswerving willingness to obey Yahweh may be the hint that Yahweh will use you at the right time.

As you will now see, not everyone in the Bible responded willingly to their specific role as they might have done.

Jonah

Yahweh had handpicked Jonah for the specific task of preaching to the city of Nineveh: *“the word of Yahweh*

came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me’,” Jonah 1:1, 2. Jonah was the man Yahweh had chosen for that particular time in which he lived.

Generally when other persons in the Bible received such clear instructions they acted promptly in accordance with Yahweh’s directive – for example Abraham, Moses, Elijah and Saul of Tarsus. Jonah was different. Immediately after receiving his commission,

“Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh,” Jonah 1:3.

Jonah then had to learn the hard way that no one can flee from Yahweh’s presence.

As the psalmist David wrote: *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You,” Ps 139:7-12.

Jonah ran but could not hide from Yahweh. Yahweh chose just three weapons from His infinite armoury to get Jonah to the place to which he had been sent. Yahweh sent a boisterous **wind** that created such havoc on the **sea** that the sailors in the boat in which Jonah was travelling eventually threw Jonah overboard as Jonah had suggested. The sea became calm. Yahweh then provided a large **fish** that swallowed Jonah and became Jonah’s personal and fully automated submarine. Trapped and unable to

stray farther, Jonah awoke from his delusion and cried unto Yahweh from the fish's belly in his despair. Yahweh heard him and caused the fish to vomit his cargo, Jonah, on dry land.

Yahweh gave Jonah a second chance. *"The word of Yahweh came to Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you,'"* Jonah 3:1, 2. Being much smarter now from the wisdom he had gained while in the fish's belly, he did not hesitate this time. *"So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of Yahweh. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said: 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' So the people of Nineveh believed Yahweh, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to Yahweh; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if Yahweh will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then Yahweh saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and Yahweh relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it,"* Jonah 3:3-10.

This reluctant preacher finally delivered his message but was unhappy when the people of Nineveh heeded his warning. Although Jonah had been disobedient, Yahweh forgave him and gave him another opportunity. Nevertheless, he was resentful of Yahweh's mercy in pardoning the sins of Nineveh and allowing them a fresh start! He did not want to preach to

those who were lost, for he preferred to see them suffer for their sins.

This is particularly relevant for us today. When we see the evil that is everywhere, it is easy to desire to see the wrath of Yahweh poured out in full measure upon the wicked and rebellious world rather than to *"Tell [the] people their transgression"* (Isa 58:1), and of their urgent need to repent and be ready for Yahweh's kingdom that is at hand. Our remit is to do the will of Yahweh by teaching, preaching and leading by example. Vengeance belongs to Yahweh who alone searches the hearts and who only is just.

The lesson from this is simple and clear. Never fail to do what only you are called to do. You do not please Yahweh by longing for the destruction of those who have gone astray, while

your work of leading these people to Him remains undone. Yahweh can do His supernatural work, but He requires you to carry out the human task He asks of you. Jonah ran but could not escape from Yahweh. Neither will you. You are the unique person Yahweh is calling at this precise time, in these special circumstances to do the specific work that only you can do where you are. So do not choose Jonah's stubborn and convoluted route to evade Yahweh's destination. Yahweh can cause stones or a dumb donkey to speak if necessary, but He prefers to work through human beings.

No Time Like the Present

The present time is unlike anything the world has ever known. Fearless terrorists, who are willing to use their bodies as human bombs, threaten mass destruction and the demolition of every shred of democratic freedom. Established standards of morality have been eroded but neither governments nor the majority of leading denominations in Christendom are concerned, motivated or knowledgeable enough to tackle the moral decadence of their nation. Self-centredness and materialism are having full sway while people turn farther and farther from their Creator. Bible teaching in schools has been replaced with teachings about religions. Christendom has lost its way and is increasingly moving away from the unambiguous doctrines of the Bible, even allowing practicing homosexuals to hold priestly positions. By doing this they have encouraged more flagrant violation of Yahweh's law that forbids homosexual relationships and they have prostituted the sanctity of marriage by extending marriage and legal marital rights to same-sex couples. With this type of spineless leadership, it is no wonder that the influence of the so-called 'Christian' religion is rapidly dwindling and is being replaced by false religions, such as Islam, whose foolhardy adherents have a definite purpose and zeal to fill the world with their domineering creeds. Most political leaders

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The Meaning of Prayer

Many know by memory the Master's Model Prayer. Yet, do they think of what they are really asking when they repeat His words? Here is a lesson about prayer that bears repeating!

It has always been man's innate desire to reach out beyond himself to tap the unseen powers beyond his own sphere, in an effort to achieve results outside his reach.

Even primitive, pagan man acknowledged unseen powers or beings beyond himself. Because he was not able to see or prove the existence of such supernatural powers, he created icons of these imagined forces. With them he hoped to get a physical handle on powers of the invisible spirit world.

Some pagan practices involved carving a talisman or totem pole from wood or stone and then inviting a spirit deity to inhabit that humanly created object. Other objects might include a "good luck" bracelet, ring or brooch to ward away evil spirits.

The Bible tells us not to rely on icons, images or figures made by man for our worship or protection, neither are we to bow down to them. Yahweh is the only true Creator and Heavenly Father.

To Whom Do We Pray?

As far back as Adam, many Biblical examples reveal that man was able to converse with his Creator and He would respond.

We are not to take up the ways of the heathen, but to follow examples of righteous men given us in the Bible.

Our Savior told the woman at the well in John 4:24, "Yahweh is spirit, and they that worship Him must

worldwide seem to be blind or totally oblivious of the political aspirations of and inroads being made into their countries by the fastest growing religious group, Islam. Tolerance of and equal rights for the destructive and morally decadent elements in our society have taken the place of reason and commonsense. Satan has blinded the minds of leaders and individuals to the extent that they *"call evil good, and good evil,"* Isa 5:20. Many who are concerned about the sad state of the world fail to see that it is symptomatic of the true condition of man's heart. The main cause of the problem remains untreated so the malady worsens.

In the wake of the moral and spiritual decline, the sudden financial disaster has become like the price mankind must pay for its spiritual neglect. It is difficult when one is travelling in the same boat as others, to escape the overpowering waves that are battering the vessel. The good as well as the bad, and the poor as well as the rich are being shaken by the global financial predicament that seems to defy the efforts of governments to resolve it. Like a stack of cards, investments of companies and individuals alike are crumbling when their support is removed or shifted.

You may have experienced first hand or may be very concerned about experiencing the damaging brunt of the global situation in your life. In the midst of all this turmoil you could be thinking that your survival through these difficult times is what matters most to you. Perhaps because of this you no longer see the present time as presenting the opportunity to impact your environment for good, or to fulfil Yahweh's purposes. The numbing and crippling effects of fear and anxiety can create a mental blockage that keeps you restricted within the confines of your threatening circumstances.

You are not trapped by your situation, but by your attitude

to them. Esther did what she had to do; fearless of the ultimate price she may have had to pay. Joseph moved on from the pit, slavery and prison when there was no visible reason to hope, but won the admiration of others and the prize of the second highest position in Egypt. David persevered courageously with the right respectful attitude towards Saul who sought after his life. When David had an opportunity to take Saul's life, *"he said to his men, 'Yahweh forbid that I should do this thing to my master, Yahweh's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of Yahweh,'"* 1 Sam 24:6. David waited patiently till his time came to be king.

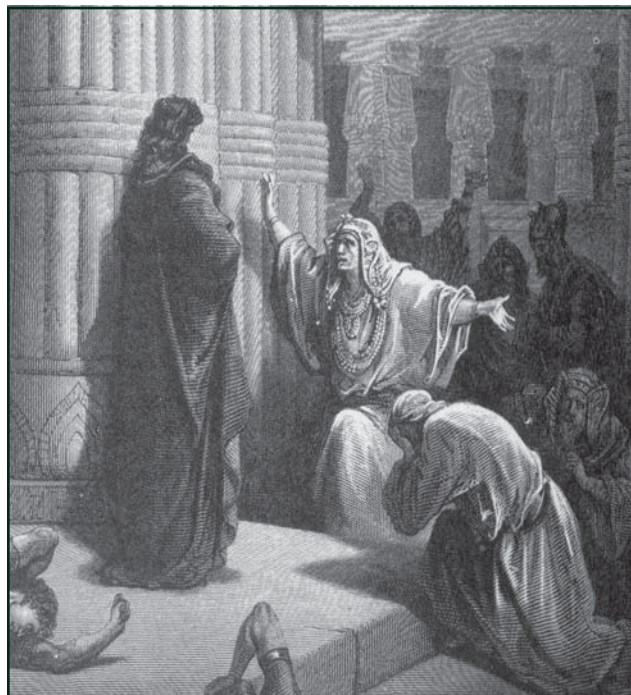
Moses, when faced with the unyielding determination of Pharaoh and the incessant opposition of a disgruntled people he was trying to help, persisted in carrying out the commands of Yahweh. The Hebrew boys stood their ground in refusing to bow to an idol, even when tossed into an overheated furnace. Daniel allowed himself to be hurled into a den of lions rather than relinquish his devotion to Yahweh.

In all these cases there was a

spectacular outcome because the heroes did not stay focused upon themselves or remain restricted by the intimidating risk. There is hardly a danger you can face that will surpass any or all of these examples. If you still think your situation is worse then try comparing yourself with Yahshua who was ridiculed by His family, betrayed, denied, disbelieved, misunderstood and abandoned by His closest friends. He was also derided, stripped, beaten, spat upon, tortured, given an unjust hearing in court, and finally ignominiously and cruelly put to death instead of a murderer, for wrongs he never committed because that was His mission. By His sacrifice and perfect example He became not just a man of His times but of all ages.

No single person designed the whirlwind of global problems and no individual can stop it or shelter himself/herself completely from its damaging effects. Your best solution cannot be 'self-preservation' but faith in the only One who can still the storms of life. However, never forget the Bible has predicted, *"In the last days perilous times will come,"* 2 Tim 3:1. Those times cannot come without menacing, frightening and inescapable events that are similar to or far greater than those we are now witnessing. These are not the times to pull down the shutters of life and stay cocooned from the rest of the world. No shelter is secure enough in this destructive typhoon that is entrapping/will entrap the whole world.

With an unmovable faith in Yahweh, you can be untroubled by whatever happens. Stormy winds may blow but they cannot and will not destroy a faith that is securely anchored in Yahweh. You can have 'peace in the midst of the storms' when Yahshua is in the vessel of your life. It is imperative that you have this faith **NOW** before things get worse. If you lived long enough the day could come when you



Moses pleads with the Pharaoh of Egypt to let Yahweh's People go

would look back at the 'good old days' of this era. The present time may be your last opportunity to deepen the roots of your faith in Yahweh, in preparation for what lies ahead. Use this precious time wisely to become less obsessed with yourself and the cares of this world. Instead, become pre-occupied with Him and His plans. Only He cannot be shaken. Only in Him you will find security. Only He can quieten the deafening noises before they penetrate your heart. *"Yahweh is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah,"* Ps 46:1-3.

When you are able to meet difficulties with this attitude, you will discover an inner strength that will energize you to find and fulfil your purposes for such a time as this. This must surely have been one of the secrets behind the successes of the Bible's heroes, *"who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens... and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance ... still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented... They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth,"* Heb 11:33-38. These all had an unstoppable, unmoveable faith in Yahweh who had stored up for them something far more illustrious than anything they had forfeited in this life. They were not looking *"at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal,"* 2 Cor 4:18.

The most difficult situations we face today are merely the outer wrappers that hide the precious treasures, which will be eternally ours after we have unwrapped each of life's knotted parcels. Therefore it is not what you are going through now that really matters, but having the right attitude and doing what only you can do, while you head for your eternal home.

What Can You Do at This Time?

You, with your specific talents, position, resources and contacts have been called for such a time as this. You are not called to be Esther, Joseph, David, Moses, John the Baptizer, the Hebrew boys, Daniel, Abraham, Noah, Samuel, Joshua, or any of the many other stalwart Biblical examples of Yahweh's obedient servants. They had their particular role to play in their time and have passed on. They could not have been you and you

Now is your time to be strong, bold and fearless for Yahweh's cause and to encourage others to be the same

cannot be them. You are called to play your unique role today in your distinctive way by taking your stand for Yahweh, opening eyes that are blind, setting the captives free and preparing mankind for the coming day of Yahweh. *"Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more,"* Luke 12:48b.

The knowledge and gifts you have are not merely for your individual benefit, while the world is staggering and languishing like a drunkard from their intoxicating ignorance, arrogance, and deception, caused by their rejection of their Creator.

Now is your time to be strong, bold and fearless for Yahweh's cause and to encourage others to be the same. It is your time to speak out and warn the nations of what lies ahead. It is your duty to declare in your own way the truths of Yahweh. *"If the watchman*

sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand," Ezek 33:6. You will not want to meet your Saviour with the blood of those who you could have rescued on your hands.

Lies are being propagated while the truth is concealed. Those who disobey Yahweh still claim to have the truth for *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,"* Prov 21:2. With the truths of Yahweh being ignored or despised by the majority of this world's inhabitants, there has never been a better time than the present, for you to declare boldly: *"thus says Yahweh,"* and to stand firmly for that which you know is right. You cannot afford to be silent. There is no point in praying *"Your kingdom come, your will be done"* (Matt 6:10) and then hide your light. Darkness is simply the absence of light. The world is dark because the lights of truth are not shining where they ought, but instead are lighting up the meeting halls of religious clubs where they are superfluous and least effective. It is time to vacate the cloistered, whitewashed and ineffective sepulchres of organized religions that conceal the darkness and rottenness within them, and instead go forth in resurrection power, as shining representatives of the true Light, dispelling darkness by your message and example. You are in no position to speak of the evil that is in the world if all you do is support and meet in your weekly, cozy, socio-religious friendly society. Yahshua said He did not come to call the righteous but sinners. Now is your time to show to sinners the narrow way that will lead to eternal life.

No one had a choice in the timing of his/her birth and no person is totally to blame for all that is happening on our planet today. Nevertheless we all enter upon the stage of life with the opportunity to make an impact for good, and to please our heavenly Father. You are not here to make yourself comfortable or to set up

permanent residence in this old and tattered globe.

You are here to prepare yourself and others to meet Yahweh. This is your day to be *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of Yahweh; Make His paths straight'."* Mark 1:3.

Conclusion

Yahshua repeatedly said that His purpose was to do the will of the Father who sent Him. He lived by this motto throughout His lifetime, and so provided a model for us to follow.

All of the Bible's heroes who dramatically impacted the times in which they lived, did so because their first priority was certainly not fame or comfort, but simply to please Yahweh. You will not be effective in meeting the challenges of your times, until you have put self-interest to death and you are energized and motivated by the one goal of pleasing your Heavenly Father at all times. Now is your moment to take on the Yah-centred attitude, which was characteristic of the outstanding personalities in Biblical times, and to be used powerfully by Yahweh in the way He chooses. Only one agenda is paramount, and that is Yahweh's. Pleasing yourself cannot be an option as you draw nearer to the time when you shall meet your Saviour face to face.

William Penn wrote: *"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

Only you can make the deliberate and consistent effort to do what you know is right. Only you, with Yahweh's help, can effectively carry out your specific mission for the times in which you live. Only you can defer or neglect to carry out your particular responsibility.

Like the seasons, the times and circumstances will change to usher in the next stage. You do not know what will be the ensuing phase or where

you will be. You only have the present. Use it carefully and prayerfully. Seek at all times to obey Yahweh. Look to Him for guidance, and have a steadfast faith in Him as His servants of old had done. At every step He will reveal to you your specific duties and purposes, as He did to those before you. Faithfully follow His lead for it will bring you to the next juncture where He will unfold to you even more of the part you must play. Do not run ahead of Him, or run away from Him. Stay close to Him and continue to do His will. Yield yourself fully to Him as His human instrument, and He will use you in ways you had never expected.

You may be unsure of the particular task Yahweh requires of you, but you can be certain that there is much work for everyone in His harvest field. *"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"* (John 4:35) Do not shirk your work by claiming you do not know what you must do. Look up to Yahweh, and then out at the fields at the evil and ignorance in your society. Search the motives and attitudes of your heart. Prayerfully consider what you can do to take your firm stand in obedience and allegiance to Yahweh. Then with the assurance of the work you must do, and Yahweh's unailing help, confidently face the task. Do not run from it. Grasp it. The time to act decisively is **NOW!** You are the unique person with a distinctive and irreplaceable assignment from Yahweh **"for such a time as this."** Do not *defer or neglect* to do what He requires of you NOW, *"for [you] shall not pass this way again."*

Elder Buel Hallpike

<from **Marriage** page 9>

spouse. *"Brethren, each one is to remain with Elohim in that condition in which he was called,"* 1 Cor 7:24 NASU.

Paul said in the same chapter that the children are "holy," even when just

"one" in the family comes into the body of Messiah. What he laid out for us, under the inspiration of the Spirit, is that we should care for our families and love them, even if one spouse doesn't believe.

He did NOT refer back to Ezra's time and use that to say those in Corinth should separate from their foreign (pagan, unbelieving, etc.) wives or husbands. There is a difference today than Ezra's situation back at that time. Even with that said, there is no indication that Ezra refused them the right to remarry.

If Yahweh winked at ignorance in the past, should we not do the same of those things done in the past? Yes, we are now called to repent and to be holy. Is it unholy to show mercy to those who repent of the actions and therefore the situation they may find themselves in? That is, married to an unbeliever (foreigner) or having previously been divorced and remarried?

We also must keep in mind that the Apostle James says to not "trouble" new believers.

Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to Elohim from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath, Acts 15:19-21 NASU.

Four things they were to eliminate out of their lives immediately, but putting away spouses was not one of them. They were then welcomed into the synagogues every Sabbath to learn more.

It is a simple matter of not shutting the door, nor tearing apart families, who are clearly seeking a new way of life for themselves and their children. In some cases, their children's children.

Elder David Brett

Life, Love and Pleasing the Creator

I have had the desire, since being called out, to speak to people who have not heard the profound truth contained within the Scriptures and who are seeking truth. This article is, in essence, my effort to draw those who have been called out of Babylon, but have not yet found the Way that leads to salvation and redemption spoken of by Yahweh's anointed, Yahshua Ha Mashiach.

I offer greetings and blessings to you who are reading this writing. By doing so, you have demonstrated your desire to grow and mature in the light of the Holy Spirit, the Set-apart Spirit of Yahweh; and I pray that you may be richly rewarded for your curiosity and desire to understand more about Life, Love and Pleasing the Creator, our Heavenly Father, Yahweh, Almighty.

What I hope to address is the meaning and purpose of Life, the character and process of Love, and the message that our Heavenly Father has given to us about what He expects of us in order to please Him.

If I may, let me first tell you a little about myself, so that you might understand what I'm preaching, in the light of my life's experiences. I was born into a home where my mother was raised Catholic, my father was raised Presbyterian and I was raised ... by mid-American TV evangelism. I remember, as a kid, in my innocence and naiveté, setting up a make-shift altar at the foot of the TV, using some pillows and a brass fruit bowl off the kitchen counter. As I look back upon that scene, I now see how the ancient Israelites had the child-like desire to create an idol, impatiently waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain. In this case, I bowed down to the god of the TV – which had become my deity, my source of comfort, understanding and wisdom. It preached the wisdom of the world, and today, our TV is disconnected to the air waves.

I was never taken to church by my parents; however, a Baptist neighbor, inquiring of my mother about our family's church affiliation, discovered that my sister and I had never been to church, and she volunteered to take us to her place of worship. My parents consented, and that is where I first had the opportunity to make a place in my heart for the Savior. Later, as a young teenager, returning to that neighbor's church to seek a connection to the Creator, I had what I would call my first "manifestation of the Holy Spirit." I felt, and visualized, the hand of

the Creator coming down from heaven and enveloping me in His gentle grasp. I had been "called". Amazingly, though, when I "answered the call" to "come down" to the altar at the end of the service, I was ushered into the pastor's office to answer the question, "Do you want to be baptized?" I answered, "No," not fully understanding the connection between that fresh spiritual experience and the formality of baptism. Having given that answer, I was then ushered through another door out of the pastor's office – and into the parking lot! I had been rejected as effectively as if I had been flushed down the toilet. At least, that's what I thought in response, as I stood there wondering what just happened.

From that point, my confusion led me to various attempts to discover truth, including submersion (not immersion) into Transcendental Meditation and the philosophical teachings of the Maharaji Mahesh Yogi, dedication of myself to Mormonism, then rebellion to Mormonism into Agnosticism, attempts to "find a place for myself" in multiple marriages, diversion to drugs and country rock music, acquiescence to conventional Protestantism, and then seduction into "Signs and Wonders Pentecostalism."

Lastly, I think the Creator took pity on my soul, and spoke to me directly (not auditorily), while writing 3 words on my heart. As I sat in a pew, after a Sunday service which was, as I recall, directed at the value of grace over works, these 3 words transformed me into a new being. There were no fireworks; and, no volcanoes erupted that morning; there were no horns blasting, and I had no compulsion to "go out on the street corner to preach the good news." I simply had a profound sense of peace, a gentle assurance of a deep change within me. The three words were, "Honor My Sabbath."

There was no question in my mind that I was being called to set the 7th day, the Sabbath of Yahweh, aside to read Scripture, pray and sing. And, that's all I did. In doing so, I received an inordinate amount of energy; I became maniacally obsessed with reading the Word. The first Scripture "given" to me was Romans 3:4 – "Let Yahweh be true and every man a liar." That's what the text said; but I knew that, for me, it meant that I should set in abeyance everything ever preached to me and, instead, read the Scripture for myself, for what it actually says.

What I discovered unsettled me, for what I read did

NOT correspond with what was being preached from the pulpit! And, I spent months, meeting with the pastor in an effort to reconcile these differences. But, I could not be reconciled, and the last words this pastor spoke to me was this, "Don't read the Old Testament; it's only good for a few stories!" In that moment, I knew that I could not go back to my former complacency, sitting in the pew, listening to words that contradicted THE Word.

I found myself again, "out in the parking lot," so to speak; except, this time, I had been CALLED OUT of Christianity; since being PUSHED out apparently didn't take. I wonder if those who ushered me out of the church were working to do Yahweh's will? Was I too blind to see His hand in this matter? One day, maybe I'll find out.

I had severed the umbilical cord to tradition, denomination, dogma – and to the institution of Christianity itself. At the same time though, I was given a deeper testimony of the One who took the stripes for me, bled and sacrificed His life so that I might have life, and have it more abundantly. I was dragged out of religion, and my eyes were opened to the light of the truth contained in the Bible. This experience was, for me, as if a veil had been lifted from my face – I could see clearer now; though, be advised, I know that I am NOT the holder of the truth. I instruct you who are reading my words to follow the admonition of Paul, "Let Yahweh be true, and every man a liar." You are to consider me to be a liar – not as a means of condemnation, but for the purpose of seeking out the truth for yourselves. I know that "a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." Don't believe ME! Believe the Word of the Creator. Read the Book for yourself and see if the words contained in it speak to you. I suggest that you set aside, as I was led to do, the notion that "the man behind the pulpit knows MUCH more than I; after all, he went to school to learn all this stuff. Who am *I* to contradict what a minister preaches?!"

People, we are admonished to "work out our OWN salvation – with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. Do not rely on me or anyone else for the truth. Take the veil from off your face and seek the Spirit of the Creator for the truth. Seek the Heavenly Father, whose name is Yahweh.

And, with that last bit of knowledge, let me begin to describe to you what I have discovered, or more accurately, let me teach you what the Holy Spirit has given to me.

I must tell you an astonishing story of how my wife and I came to know the Sacred names of our Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and His Anointed Son, Yahshua. It is astonishing for two reasons. 1) An acquaintance of my wife came into our lives, having an abiding and enduring strength of testimony of the truths contained within the Old and New Testament. She did not know about this revelation of mine, and the first time she came over to our house, to go for a walk with my wife, she saw me sitting at the table, reading the Bible. She was struck with the sight of someone actually reading the Bible. She enquired about my study, and I spoke to her about my call to honor the Sabbath. Her eyes bugged out and, for the next 6 hours, she, my wife and I shared about our experiences and Scriptural understandings. She had studied the Bible for years and had an amazing ability to quote and teach the truths contained in the Word. She introduced us to some amazing facts contained in Scripture, including the name of the Creator and the name of His Son.

Proverbs 30:4 - Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name and what is the name of His Son? Surely you know!

Yet, now, she has abandoned these truths and seriously doubts the legitimacy of the entire Bible, including the redeeming work of salvation suffered by our Savior. She is, for all intents and purposes, lost. I pray

for her return to faith in the Creator. I don't know if it was a blessing or a curse that, when the opportunity to be baptized in the name of Yahshua came, she relented to do so. For me, if there was ever a picture of someone who had extinguished the Holy Spirit within them, this was it. That's not to condemn her; clearly, I have no right to do that; but her story only serves me as a possibility of what the only unforgivable sin might look like.

Secondly, I have no knowledge of this woman having an impact on anyone else's life that had any resemblance to the impact she had on my life and on that of my wife. It was as if she had been raised up for one purpose, to bring light to me and my wife. I know that sounds terribly self-serving and grandiose; however, I have witnessed her speaking to others what she shared with us, and I can absolutely say that I have no evidence that anyone ever accepted her words of wisdom. All whom she spoke to rejected her teaching. Once, while simply READING the Scripture to someone, that person stood up and yelled, "The Bible does NOT say that!!" Wow. How powerful is the influence of false teachings over the very words of Scripture?! After she, herself, fell away, she tried to convince us of the error of faith in the words of the Bible. Sadly, for her, she again found rejection of her teaching. We remained faithful to Yahweh's Word.

I have much to share with you; and, normally, an instructor might take his time introducing new ideas so that he doesn't overwhelm his audience. Even so, I'm going to risk giving you the whole ball of wax in a briefly-worded list of truths I have discovered pertaining to the names of the Father and Son, the Bible, the plan of salvation, and so on.

1. The name of our Heavenly Father is Yahweh. His name may be new to you, but it has been known since the beginning of time, and has not been removed from the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. It is my assertion that the pronunciation of His name has not been lost, a concept that has been promoted by the Jew-

ish people. The meaning of His name, AND the pronunciation of His name, is found in the two Hebrew words, hayah and haweh, which both, interestingly, mean “to be, to become or to exist.” Hence, His name is translated and interpreted in English, in Exodus 3:14, as “I am that I am.” To the extent that any human being can know history, we can be assured of the pronunciation of His name. What more can be expected of us?

2. The name of Yahweh's Son is Yahshua. His name in Hebrew means “the Salvation of Yah.” “Yah” is the poetic name of Yahweh. “Shua” means Salvation. This is the name that the Angel Gabriel spoke to Miriam to name the Savior of all mankind.

3. The Law of Yahweh, which was given to Moses to give to the Children of Israel, is NOT dead, and has NOT been nailed to the tree to be erased from memory. It is still alive and living in the hearts of those who worship Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua, who was the example given to us so that we might more fully obey. After all, Yahshua said, “If you love me, you will obey My commandments,” John 14: 15, 21; John 15:10.

4. Sin is lawlessness. What law? The Law of Yahweh, and most importantly the Law written by the hand of Yahweh on Mount Sinai, the Ten Commandments. 1 John 3:4 - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5. Sabbath ... the day set aside for the remembrance, honor and worship of the Creator of the Heavens and Earth, is the seventh day of the week. It begins on the sixth day at sunset (the day identified on the Gregorian calendar as Friday). It ends at sunset on the day referred to as Saturday. Exodus 20:8-11 - "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy [or set apart]. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is *a* Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female

servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and made it Holy.” Yahweh consecrated and blessed this day as belonging to Him. He wrote in stone that He and all of those who worship him have a weekly Appointment with Him at His Sacred meeting place.

6. In Exodus 20:10, it says “but the seventh day is a Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim.” It is *a* Sabbath of Yahweh. The *other* seven Sabbaths, or Appointed Times, of Yahweh are found in Leviticus 23. There, we find the Plan of Salvation, which we will delve into in much greater depth later. Nevertheless, we shall discover, there, how Yahshua has fulfilled the first three of the seven Appointed Times (the seven annual Sabbaths), foreshadowing what must happen before the end of time. The Appointed Times are, after the weekly 7th day Sabbath, Passover (in memorium to the blood of the unblemished Lamb of Yahweh placed on the door posts and lintels of our “houses,” protecting us from the “destroying angel”). Next are the Appointed Times of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or coming out of sin, (meaning *Purity* in Greek) and leaving the idolatry of Egypt. The third Appointed Time is that of Pentecost, also called the Feast of Weeks, the day of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai and the day upon which the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples of Yahshua in the Temple or House of Yahweh. The Feast of Weeks is thought to foreshadow the coming together of the House of Judah and the House of Israel. These three Appointed Times, Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost, have been fulfilled by Yahshua. The remaining four Appointed Times are yet to be fulfilled: the Feast of Trumpets, which foreshadows the heralding of the Revelation of the Messiah; the Day of Atonement, when Heaven and earth become “at one;” the Feast of Tabernacles, when Yahshua will tabernacle with us in His thousand

year reign; and the Last Great Day, when all evil will be put away and the earth renewed to its former paradise.

What I've described here, to me, are the most relevant issues that we need to absorb and hold on to, because, it makes the rest of Scripture understandable. It serves to clarify what is seemingly nonsensical in the Bible. For example, we find in the King James in Matthew 28:1, “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.” In some other versions the 1st phrase reads, “After the Sabbath...”, which implies that Sabbath is over, and we are now on Sunday. However, that same version in the American Standard Version reads, “Now late on the Sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first (day) of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.” When the English ear hears the word “dawn,” we naturally think sunrise. Right? But, it is used here in the sense that “It dawned on me that I was late for my appointment,” having nothing to do with sunrise. We know this to be true, because in ancient times, one day ends and another day BEGINS at sunset. So, Mary went to the sepulchre BEFORE the sun set, on Sabbath, to visit the grave of the Messiah, and found Him gone. Yahshua was raised from the grave on the Sabbath, the day of which He is the Master and Sovereign. He did not rise on Sunday.

Life - chaim

In His role as Shepherd to us, as sheep, the Savior says these words in John 10:10, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

He contrasts the concept of life and death to the concepts of something that is valuable being stolen, having died or being destroyed. Life, as the Savior is describing it, must therefore mean to be restored, to be born

and to be built up. I take it that He is restoring us to a former state of being, BEFORE we were stolen, killed or destroyed; perhaps to that state in which Adam and Eve found themselves in the Garden of Eden. Life, to Him, means being born from Above, a re-birth into the Kingdom. And, the Messiah seems to be saying that Life involves a continual state of being built up, learning knowledge and developing wisdom. May His words bring us closer to that Kingdom.

Love – Ahab

Deuteronomy means a retelling. In chapter 6 and verse 5, Moses is reminding the Chosen People what Yahweh had formerly covenanted with them, "You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." In Deuteronomy 7:13, Moses describes Yahweh's part of this covenant, "And He will love you and bless you and multiply you." NKJV

Pleasing the Creator

Luke 2:14 says, "Glory to Elohim in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." That's from the NASU version. The NIV version says, "Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Upon whom does His favor rest? Our Shepherd and Redeemer says, "If you love Me, you will obey My commandments." For me, He is describing what He expects of us in order to be favored, or chosen, by Him. Remember, He harshly turned away those who "drank in His presence, taught in their streets, and who prophesied, cast out demons and did many wonders in His name." He rejected them because they practiced ... lawlessness. See Luke 13:26-27, Matthew 13:41-43 and Matthew 7:22-23.

There are many, many more jaw-dropping discoveries to explore, found within the books of the Scriptures. For example, do you know the ONE sign that Yahshua gave that He was, indeed, the awaited Messiah?

Do you know the sign that shows that you are a Child of our Heavenly Father, Yahweh? Is Christmas mentioned in the New Testament? How about Hanukah? In Biblical times, when does a day "dawn"? Upon what day did sun-worshippers meet for worship? Do you know who Easter is, or whose birthday was celebrated on December 25? In what book and chapter of the Old Testament is the Plan of Salvation laid out? (Hint: blood is shed to protect from death, sin is removed, the "Firstfruit" is lifted to Heaven, the Spirit is given, the Messiah returns, order is restored, He reigns [for a thousand years], and Death is put-away). Can the Creator lie? Did he lie about saving a remnant of Israel? For whom did women mourn for 40 days and make candled cakes for the Queen of Heaven? Where, in the Old Testament, is the New Testament described? How is the New different from the Old? Who comprises the House of Judah? Who comprises the House of Israel? What does Scripture say will happen to them, some day? Why did the Messiah send His disciples out to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel"? What did He mean when He said that He has only come for "the lost sheep of the House of Israel"? Who did James (whose real name is Ya'akob) write to? When Peter (Kepha) wrote to the Pilgrims of the Dispersion, who was he writing to? If he wrote letters to them, do you suppose he knew their address? When does a day begin, according to Hebrew culture? When Mary went to the grave "as the first day of the week dawned," what time of day was that? John said that the Messiah's body had to be off the cruel tree by sundown because the "High Sabbath" was approaching. What's a High Sabbath? The Messiah said that He was the Sovereign of the Sabbath. Which day of the week was that, the 1st or the 7th? Who created the entire universe? "What is His name; and what is the name of His Son? Surely you know." James likened a dead body to one's faith. He said that spirit brings that body to life. What is it that brings one's dead

faith to life?

If you do not know the answers to these questions, then stick around as we explore this amazing book, the Bible, the Word, the Scriptures.

As a final note, we hear snippets from the Bible (and sometimes NOT from the Bible) that generate false understanding and false beliefs about who Yahweh is. One of them is found in Luke 2:14, which says, "Glory to Yahweh in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Great! Right? Yahweh is bringing peace and good will toward all mankind. Cool. It implies that the Father will "save" everyone. In a very important sense, that is true, because Yahshua offered His life's blood for all mankind. However, Biblical scholars have seemingly found a flaw in this translation. The phrase, "Good will toward men" is a reading much disputed. A.T. Robertson, who wrote Word Pictures of the New Testament, says that a better translation would be, "peace among men in whom He is well pleased" (as translated in the American Standard Version). The NASU writes, "Glory to Yahweh in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." The idea here is that "He loved us first." That's why we love Him. Yahshua did the work of salvation for us. We are ALL able to accept what He paid for us. But, many reject Him. Luke 2:14 says that those who receive Yahweh's Son and act according to Yahweh's Laws are pleasing to Him and will receive peace in their souls. We are in a covenant with Yahweh. He provides for our salvation; but to be redeemed, we must uphold our part of our agreement. We who obey Yahweh's Law will be redeemed. He paid the price and will return to redeem those who did not rot on the vine, who did not fall to the earth or were not plucked up by birds of the air and who were not stolen by thieves. He offers to make of us new wine, placed in new wine skins for eternal joy.

May Yahweh Bless you and enrich your understanding of His Word. HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q Greetings in Yah's Name; hope all is well. I would like to have your opinion please on a few matters; firstly concerning the command given in Lev.19.19 about planting & garments.

How best do you believe we can observe such, keeping in mind the way kitchen gardens are normally planted with all different types of plants in the same plot and the same with the multitude of materials used in clothing especially man made materials like polyester; and its usage in even things like duffle bags and such?

Secondly, I've recently been doing business with a cabinet door supplier, who supplied doors for two jobs so far. I've noticed on closer inspection of his product sheet, they are called 'cathedral style,' i.e., with a type of arched curvy top. Currently this is the only style he has and all his customers are coming to me to build their cabinets. My issue is, we know that a cathedral is synonymous with Roman Catholic type 'churches' do you think, whether or not the doors were inspired by a

A Greetings in Yahweh's Sacred Name. Thanks for contacting us. I understand your concern about Lev 19:19. I do think that even farmers today understand that it is best to grow corn, for example, at one planting, while planting a separate crop of soy beans at another. One will pull nitrogen, while the other replenishes it. As far as I can tell, the basic principle is for large crops. Yahweh, knowing these things, was evidently trying to help ancient Israel to be productive in their agricultural endeavors and to also help the soil to be fertile. The following was also quoted in a commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments, by Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). "If the various genera of the natural order Gramineae, which includes the grains and the grasses, should be sown in the same field, and flower at the same time, so that the pollen of the two flowers mix, a spurious seed will be the consequence, called by the farmers chess. It is always inferior and unlike either of the two grains that produced it, in size, flavor, and nutritious principles. Independently of contributing to disease the soil, they never fail to produce the same in animals and men that feed on them" [Whitlaw].

On the mixing of materials for garments, it also seems Yahweh was trying to help the people out, as one material

may shrink after washing, while another wouldn't. Today there are synthetic materials that are able to be mixed without any problems. I personally try to buy 100% synthetic sweaters because they will wear 10+ times longer as cotton or other materials. Most jeans are 100% cotton so I normally purchase them, but if they come out with a synthetic mix which helps them to wear longer, I wouldn't hesitate buying a pair.

Concerning the doors, some I've heard, will not even have normal bookshelves in their residence because they have crosses. I do think one can start to get a Phari-saical attitude on such things. I don't see any problem in using doors with cathedral type doors. In fact, I think that is what I have at home. I also have bookshelves, eat hot cross buns, and occasionally wear a Nike cap. However, I don't worship Yahweh with any of them, nor do I bow down to pay them homage, Ex 20:1-6; Deut 12:30-32.

Q I have asked this question many times and have always had a different answer to it!! Some people say yes, some say no, some say just only at passover times. So I am going to ask you for your opinion and if you could, provide evidence from the Bible also!! IS DRINKING ALLOWED ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

A According to Scripture, alcohol is alright, in moderation:

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!" (Isa 5:10)

It was even allowed (keeping in mind, moderation) for those keeping the sojourning Feasts (found in Lev 23) of Yahweh:

"And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before Yahweh thy Elohim, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household," Deut 14:26.

The reference of wine for Passover, however, is a misnomer. The Greek word "oinos" is NOT used in reference to the Passover in the New Testament, not even once. This is easily proven. Even when you look at the first reference in Scripture to "cup," you find it is grapes being squeezed into it. In the New Testament the reference for "grape juice" is "fruit of the vine."

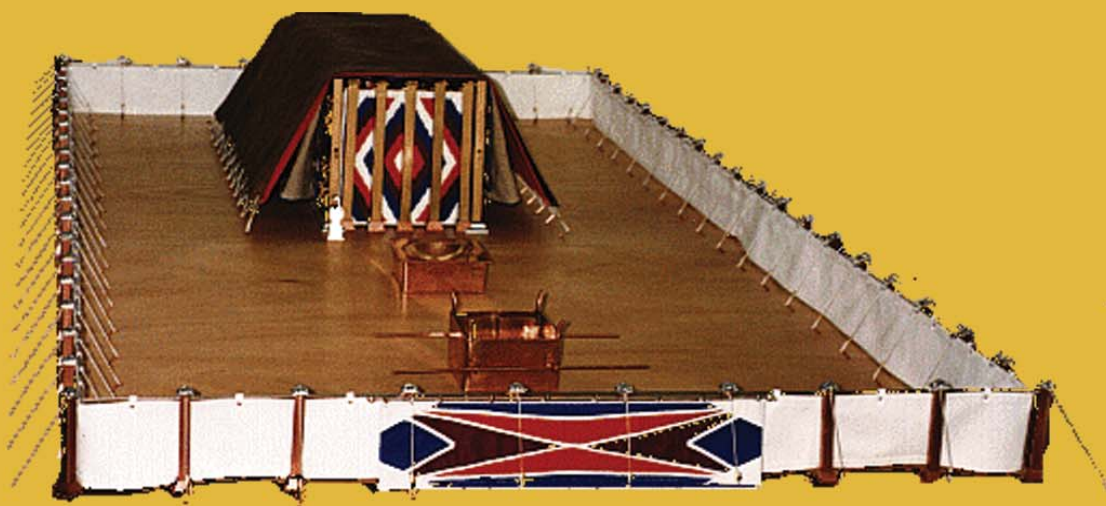
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