

YAIY



Beacon



July-Aug 2010 - Spreading the Word throughout the world - yaiy.org

In the beginning,



Elohim created

the heavens and the earth

YAIY Beacon

Volume 4 Number 4



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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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

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

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



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



Fax:
 573-642-4104



Email:
 beacon@yaiy.org



Internet:
 www.yaiy.org

Cover: picture taken by the Hubble telescope

The Seed

In my previous article, entitled "Truth versus Evolution," we discussed how the Theory of Evolution is the antithesis to Scripture. In other words, the Theory of Evolution is in rebellion against the Word of Yahweh. Evolution seeks to destroy the power and glory of Yahweh AND Yahshua in the primary, Hebraic, 7-word foundational premise of Scripture; which is, (see Menorah insert below)

In the beginning Elohim created the Heavens and the Earth, Genesis 1:1

In English, we count 10 words, but in Hebrew, we count seven: *B^areshet bara' Elohim et hashamayim w^aet ha'rets.* One word is not translated – not in English nor

in Hebrew. It's the Hebrew word "et". What does "et" mean? Well, it's not a word, per se. It's more like a SIGN. It is spelled Aleph-Tau, the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. *B^aresheet bara' Elohim et.* The Aleph-Tau comes right after one of the titles of Yahweh, the word "Elohim." "ET" is WITH Elohim. Wait a minute; that sounds familiar.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with

ton Theon [literally, THE Almighty], and the Word was *theos* [meaning a Mighty One]. He [that is, the Word, a Mighty One] was in the beginning with *ton Theon* [again, THE Almighty]. All things were made through Him [Him who? Him, the WORD], and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it, John 1:1-5. (see John 1:1 insert)

So, who is this Mighty One referred to as "the Word," this "Aleph and Tau"?


Aleph and Tau

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Yahshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed [or freed] us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His Elohim and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Be-

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth.

הָאָרֶץ	וְאֵת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וְאֵלֹהִים	בָּרָא	בְּרֵאשִׁית	1:1
the earth.	and	the Heaven	God	created	In the beginning	
776	853	8064	853	430	1254	7225
haa'aarets	w ^a et	hashamayim	'eet	'Elohiym	baaraa'	B ^a ree'shiyt

ha'arets w^aet hashamayim אֵת Elohim bara B^are'shiyt



John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word (ἦν), and the Word (ὁ) was with *ton Theon*, and the Word (ὁ) was *theos*. He was In the beginning with *ton Theon*.

1:1	Ἐν	ἀρχῇ	ἦν	ὁ	λόγος,
In	the	beginning	was	the	Word.
1722	9999	746	2258	3588	3056
En	archeé	eén	ho	Lógos	

καὶ	ὁ	λόγος	ἦν	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν,
and	the	Word	was	with	God.	
2532	3588	3056	2258	4314	3588	2316
kai	ho	Lógos	eén	prós	tón	Theón

καὶ	θεὸς	ἦν	ὁ	λόγος.
and	God.	was	the	Word
2532	2316	2258	3588	3056
kai	theós	eén	ho	Lógos

2	αὐτός	ἦν	ἐν	ἀρχῇ	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν.
The same	was	in	the	beginning	with	God.	
3778	2258	1722	9999	746	4314	3588	2316
Houtos	eén	en	archeé	prós	tón	Theón	

hold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes [all the offshoots] of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amein. "I am the Aleph and the Tau, [to which some texts add: 'the Beginning and the End'] I am the Aleph and the Tau," says the Master, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty," Revelation 1:4-8

So, this Word, spelled Aleph Tau, is Yahshua Himself. Aleph Tau, therefore is His signature, His SIGN. Going back to Genesis 1:1, perhaps we should read it,

In the beginning Elohim the ALEPH and the TAU [the Sign of Yahshua] created the Heavens and the Earth.

It turns out that there are a number of places in Scripture where we find this Aleph-Tau written, and not translated. (See NUMBERS 25:8 insert)

(I'm going to present the following section of Scripture, adding the Aleph-Tau where it is found in the Hebrew text).

So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor" [which

translates, "Lord of the Opening", a reference to the sexual practices of pagan worship and why Scripture refers to such worship as harlotry]. And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Mo-

ses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Now when Phinehas [Pinkas] the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, ALEPH TAU the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back ALEPH TAU My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous ALEPH TAU for My sake among them, so that I did not consume ALEPH TAU the children of Israel in My jealousy. Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him ALEPH TAU My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his Elohim, and made atonement for the children of Israel.'" Numbers 25:5-13.

Now, WHO is this story REALLY about? Here are the clues: It is about "the Man of Israel", who "turned back the wrath of Yahweh from the Children of Israel," because he was "zealous for the sake of his Elohim – that Israel not be consumed," who was "granted Yahweh's covenant of PEACE," to whom "shall be an everlasting PRIESTHOOD," and who "made atonement for the children of Israel." The ALEPH TAU, the sign of Yahshua, appears five times in the text here, pointing directly, though hidden in the Hebrew text, to Yahshua Ha Mashiach.

I wanted to present this amazing truth before we begin our discussion about the Seed. If you remember, in my previous article, we discussed how the theory of evolution works against the truth that Elohim created the heavens and the earth. Can you see, now, that Satan not only sought to destroy the power and glory of Yahweh, but he was aiming directly at Yahshua in the middle of the first sentence of Scripture? I submit to you that Satan knew that if he could convince the world that our very existence is NOT by the work of our Heavenly

Numbers 25:8							
אֶת־	וַיִּדְקֶר	הַקֶּבֶה	אֶל־	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אִישׁ־	אַחֶר	וַיֵּבֵא
853	1856	6898	413	3478	376	310	935
'et-	Wayidqor	haqubaah	'el-	Yisraa'eel	'iysh-	'achar	Wayaabo'
קַבְּתָהּ	אֶל־	הָאִשָּׁה	וְאֶת־	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אִישׁ	אֶת	שְׁנֵיהֶם
6897	413	802	853	3478	376	853	8147
qaabaataah	'el-	haa'ishaah--	w'et-	Yisraa'eel	'iysh	'eet	sh'neeyhem--

Numbers 25:5-13
 5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor." 6 And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 7 Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; 8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, ALEPH TAU the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. 9 And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. 10 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: 11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back ALEPH TAU My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous ALEPH TAU for My sake among them, so that I did not consume ALEPH TAU the children of Israel in My jealousy. 12 Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him ALEPH TAU My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his Elohim, and made atonement for the children of Israel!'"

Father and His Son, but through the evolution of nothingness, then he could bring many into his world, the valley of Gehenna, the Lake of Fire. He could, through the wrath of Yahweh, destroy the people of Yahweh. Here he is again, using evolution to destroy the people of Yahweh.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, "Has Elohim indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, Elohim has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For Elohim [referring to Yahweh] knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Elohim [mighty ones], knowing good and evil," Genesis 3:1-5.

The word, serpent, is the Hebrew word, *nachash*, meaning to hiss, that is, to whisper a magic spell, or to prognosticate, prophecy or divine. It pictures an enchanter or someone who uses enchantment. In Genesis 3:5, the serpent is enchanting Adam and Eve with the notion of evolution – he was casting a spell, a lie, that they could evolve into more than what they were. They could become mighty ones themselves. Satan continues to this day to deter people from understanding what he was doing back then. He does this by enchanting would-be believers to disregard the beginning of the Bible, or even the entire Old Testament, inventing the notion that the ancient ways are dead and have been replaced by newer ways. For example, enchanting people to believe that the Law of Yahweh is dead, that it was nailed to the tree, that we are "no longer under it" and that we can't perform the works of the Law anyway. To worship Yahweh, we must become DIS-encharmed with these notions. Satan is a liar from the beginning.

Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of

your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it, John 8:43-45

Yahshua was speaking to the Pharisees, who made up their own laws, rebelling against the Word of Yahweh. They, and those today who make up their own laws and traditions that stand in the face of Yahweh, are exactly as Yahshua described them: They are murderers from the beginning, and they do not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in them. When they speak lies, they speak from their own resources, for they are liars and the fathers of them.

O Yahweh, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of af-

fliction, the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, worthlessness and unprofitable things," Jeremiah 16:19.

The truth hurts when it comes in the form of discipline.

My son, do not despise the chastening of Yahweh, nor detest His correction; for whom Yahweh loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights, Proverbs 3:11-12.

Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod and deliver his soul from hell. My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice – indeed, I myself; yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things, Proverbs 23:13-16.

Going back to Genesis 3:5, in the phrase, "knowing good and evil," the English word, "knowing," is the Hebrew word, *yada*, to know or to ascertain by seeing, and is used figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially, pointing to instruction and designation. To know something is to become intimate with it, to be instructed in it and to be designated by it. [Euphemistically means to use a word or phrase that is more neutral, vague, or indirect to replace a direct, harsh, unpleasant, or offensive term – for example, Genesis 4:1, 25 – "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived."] To know good and evil means to become intimately familiar with good and evil. We are still eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But, what else is there?

So Yahweh Elohim said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field. On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush your head,

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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,

and you shall bruise His heel," Genesis 3:14-15.

Abraham's Seed and Satan's

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants [seed], but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Yahshua said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from Yahweh. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father -- Elohim." Yahshua said to them, "If Elohim were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from Yahweh; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. [And what IS Yahshua's Word? It is the Word, the Law of Yahweh!] You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of Yahweh hears Yahweh's words; therefore you do not hear because you are not of Yahweh." Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Yahshua answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. And I do not seek My own glory; there is one who seeks and judges. Most assuredly,

I say to you, if anyone keeps My word [that is, the Law of Yahweh] he shall never see death." Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Yahshua answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your Elohim. Yet you have not known Him; but I know Him [By saying "I know Him," Yahshua is saying here that "He is instructed by Him and designated by Him"]. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham re-

joined to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Yahshua said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Yahshua hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by, John 8:37-59.

How could they be so blind and deaf to the Word of Yahweh? The same way people today listen to what is preached from the pulpit, but do not search out the Word of Yahweh for themselves, to work out their own salvation, with fear and trembling.

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Messiah. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by Yahweh in Messiah, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but Yahweh gave it to Abraham by promise. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but Yahweh is one [Yahweh is echad (O. T. Deut 6:4), Yahweh is unity]. Is the law then against the promises of Yahweh? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Yahshua the Messiah might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard

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Mini Study



Why the Savior Spoke in Parables

Didn't the Messiah use parables to make the message clearer to the common people? That's what most think. But that is not necessarily so.

THE SAVIOR OFTEN USED PARABLES in teaching His disciples. Many parables appear in the Gospels, but none in the Book of Acts, the ministry of the disciples.

Parable is *mashal* in Hebrew, meaning proverb, similitude, parable, in which ideas are presented in the robes of imagery. A parable might be said to be a very short story with a double meaning.

The Bible Encyclopedia defines a parable as a way of teaching spiritual truths by using a picture or short story. Grammarians explain a parable as a figure of speech, an "extended metaphor."

Parables were not new. Founded in antiquity, they are common in most cultures.

Parables in the Old Testament

The Bible's first recorded parable in the form of a fable is that of trees choosing for themselves a king, as we read in Judges chapter 9. Jotham used this fable to convince the inhabitants of Shechem of the folly in having elected so vile a man as Abimelech for their king.

Interestingly, Nathan told King David a parable about a ewe lamb in order for David to get a perspective from Yahweh's viewpoint of his sin with Bathsheba, 2Samuel 12:1-7. David was thus induced to name his own punishment, which Yahweh in His mercy delayed, but later inflicted through David's family.

<see **Seed** page 12>

The Heritage of Jacob

(Note: Except where otherwise stated, Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)

Introduction

What could Yahweh have meant when He said through the prophet Isaiah “*I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob*” (Isa 58:14), and is this relevant to us today?

Before we can unravel the meaning of this promise and understand its significance to us, we need first to fit this verse into the context of the preceding verses to see why this promise was made. After this, we should look at the promises made many years earlier to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in our attempt to discover this unique promise to the house of Jacob. It is hoped that in the end sufficient light would have been shed on the meaning of this verse that we will see more clearly its relevance and significance to a larger body of people, even to us today.

Background

In chapter 58, Isaiah, in a manner that was typical throughout his pronouncements in the book, fearlessly attacked the rebellious attitude of Israel, but equally expounded an alternative way that could lead to their bright future.

The whole chapter focuses upon the delusion and hypocrisy of Israel thinking they were pleasing Yahweh by merely going through the external motions of upholding the law with regard to the observance of Yahweh’s proclaimed fasts (most likely Day of Atonement). Instead of being motivated to draw nearer to Yahweh, they were assured by their deadened consciences that they were pleasing Him. Ignorant, yet arrogant, they asked,

Why have we fasted... and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice? (verse 3)

It was to counter such complacency, fallacy and audacity that the prophet Isaiah was commanded in this chapter to

Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins, Isa 58:1.

Israel’s presumptuous outward shows of obedience outraged rather than pleased Yahweh. They were doing many wrong things, and the right things they did, such as fasting or seeking Yahweh, were with the wrong motives and attitudes. It was as if they thought Yahweh could be hoodwinked by their piety. Through His prophet Isaiah, Yahweh said that the fast that He had chosen was “*to loose the bonds*

of wickedness” (verse 6), not for them to do injustice and to indulge themselves at the expense of others, while making a token gesture of honouring Him. The chapter continued by detailing these wrongdoings and showing how their circumstances would change when they returned to the old paths and rebuilt “*the old waste places,*” verse 12.

In verses 13 and 14 of Isaiah 58, Yahweh was promising them that if they ceased their transgression of the Sabbath or Holy Days laws and would return to delighting in the Sabbath, they would be blessed in many ways and He would “*feed (them) with the heritage of Jacob (their) father*”... the heritage of Jacob? What could this be?

The Hebrew word used here for heritage in verse 14 is ‘*nachalah*’, which means possession bestowed by one person to another. It indicates material and spiritual inheritance. The NIV renders this verse, as “*I will cause you ... to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.*” What then could Jacob’s descendants inherit?

Promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

To each of these three patriarchs Yahweh had made the same triple set of promises.

After Abraham had passed the sacrificial test at Mo-riah, Yahweh’s Angel appeared to Abraham and said:

By Myself I have sworn, says Yahweh, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son-- blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice, Gen 22:16-18.

Later Yahweh said to Isaac,

Live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws, Gen 26:3-5.

When Yahweh appeared to Jacob in a dream at a

place that Jacob later named Bethel, Yahweh said to him,

The land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed, Gen 28:13-14.

Again, when Yahweh appeared to Jacob a second time at Bethel, Yahweh said to him,

Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name. So He called his name Israel. Also Elohim said to him: "I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land," Gen 35:10-12.

Thus to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were given these threefold promises: a) land, b) innumerable descendants, and c) blessings that would encompass and be of benefit to the whole earth. Together they provide vital clues to the meaning of "the heritage of Jacob."

Isaac's Blessings to Jacob

Jacob at the instigation of his conniving mother, and in keeping with his own devious nature, robbed his brother Esau of the blessing that their old and blind father Isaac had intended to be for Esau.

Isaac, in blessing Jacob, said:

May Yahweh give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you! (Gen 27:28, 29)

Although Isaac soon learned

that he had been duped by Jacob, he could not retract the blessing. Words could not be easily withdrawn then as they are today. Isaac's blessings were charged with the power of Yahweh, who does not make mistakes. (Earlier Esau had demonstrated an indifference to his inheritance when in a moment of intense hunger he sold his birthright to Jacob for some stew and bread (Gen 25:29-34)).

The promise made to Jacob was Yahweh-backed and in accordance with the plan of Him who said:

Jacob I have loved; But Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness, Mal 1:2, 3.

By both Yahweh and Isaac therefore this promise to Jacob was irrevocable.

The Material Heritage

The material inheritance of Jacob included everything that Yahweh had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as the blessings of Isaac. These consisted of:

1) The land of Canaan and conquest of lands owned by Israel's enemies:

I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am Yahweh, Ex 6:8.

Referring to the great works of Yahweh, the psalmist stated,

He defeated many nations and slew mighty kings-- Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan-- and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to Israel His people, Ps 135:10-12.

The land was to be Israel's permanent inheritance. Yahweh had said to Jacob that He would:

Give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession, Gen 48: 4;

2) An innumerably large family from which would come nations, spreading in all directions. (See once again Gen 28:13-14, Gen 35:11-12, and Gen 48:4);

3) Blessings by Yahweh and to those who blessed Israel, and a cursing to those who cursed Yahweh's chosen people, Gen 27:29;

4) Abundant supplies (Gen 27:28); and

5) The high esteem of other nations (Gen 27:29).

These by themselves would have caused Jacob's posterity to be the envy of all nations, but they are only the beginning!

The Uniqueness of Jacob

Isaiah 58:14 is about the heritage of Jacob and not the heritage of Abraham and Isaac. This chapter, like the rest of Isaiah's prophecy, is to the descendants of Jacob, who had become the nation of Israel. But, that by itself does not fully justify the exclusive choice of Jacob. Since Jacob's father Isaac and grandfather Abraham had also been promised Yahweh's blessings, Isaiah could have referred to the heritage of Abraham or of Isaac instead of to that of Jacob. Why did he not do that?

John Gill, in his commentary on this verse, said that it was "not Abraham, of whom it is written, 'arise, walk through the land in the length of it,' Gen 13:17, nor Isaac, of whom it is written, 'for unto thee, and to thy seed, will I give all these countries,' Gen 26:3, but Jacob, of whom it is written, 'and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south,' Gen 28:14, expressing the larger extent of the inheritance."

He continued by stating: "the sons of Jacob, and not Ishmael the son of Abraham, nor Esau the

son of Isaac, inherited the land of Canaan.” Gill added that the more significant reason was that Jacob “is the father of all true Israelites, who are, as he was, wrestling and prevailing.”

Matthew Poole’s explanation is that “the whole posterity of Jacob was within the covenant, but Ishmael and Esau, one the seed of Isaac, the other the seed of Abraham, were both excluded.”

We have already shown from Malachi 1:2-3, that Yahweh had chosen Jacob in preference to Esau. It is not for anyone to question Yahweh’s choice. However, we can confidently say that if the heritage that was to be passed on to posterity of all ages had been directly from Abraham’s or Isaac’s line, it would have of necessity included the descendants of Esau, whose heritage Yahweh had “laid waste ... for the jackals of the wilderness.”

Jacob had three divine revelations - once at Peniel (Gen 32:28) and twice at Bethel (Gen 28:14 and 35:10). Of these he was twice told that his name would be changed to Israel – no longer would he be called “the supplanter” but “Yahweh prevails.” Webster’s Bible Translation renders Gen 32:28,

Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with Yahweh, and with men, and hast prevailed.

In some ways Jacob or his line provided a fundamental fresh start:

- By wrestling with and prevailing over the “angel” of Yahweh, he had moved on from the level of prevailing over mere mortals to having a special relationship with the Almighty Yahweh.
- With Jacob and his family moving to Egypt at the time of the famine, the stage was set at his death for the fulfilment of the prophecy of Israel becoming a nation. His twelve sons

became the foundation stones of Yahweh’s specially chosen nation, which was named after their father Israel.

- It was from the line of Judah, Jacob’s fourth son, that the Son of Yahweh, our Redeemer and Israel’s promised Messiah, was born.

Numbers 24:17 foretells not only the coming Messiah, but also shows the significance of Jacob:

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel.

The significance of Jacob’s family throughout Bible history and prophecy transcends that of any other family. During the rest of the Old Testament, Israel grew to be a special people and nation. But there was one outstanding prophecy that did not happen in the Old Testament era. The nations of the earth had still not yet been blessed through this special nation. It is here we will discover the uniqueness of Jacob.

There is something extra special about Jacob. In him Yahweh showed He is capable of transforming the roughly cut stones of human nature and elevating them to be useful vessels for His purpose and glory. Jacob, the cheat, became a prince whom Yahweh blessed to be father of Yahweh’s special family. Jacob’s supremacy over his older brother Esau from birth, his blessing from his father Isaac, his encounter with the Angel of Yahweh, the change of his name, his two meetings with Yahweh, and his spectacular posterity that includes the Messiah, give proof that in spite of his faults, he had been chosen and blessed by Yahweh. Deut 32:9 tells us “*Yahweh’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.*” 1Chronicles 16:13 refers to the “*seed of Israel His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones!*” Jeremiah says, “*Israel is the tribe of His inheritance,*”

Jer 10:16.

Yahweh promised great things to Jacob.

Elohim said to him: “I am El-Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body,” Gen 35:11.

Later, Jacob said to Joseph his son:

El-Shaddai appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, “Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession,” Gen 48:3, 4.

It requires no special insight to perceive that the inheritance of such a man, hand-picked and blessed by Yahweh, would have significant and far-reaching consequences for future generations.

The Eternal Heritage

Yahweh had something far greater in mind for Israel (the offspring of Jacob) than the land of Canaan into which they had entered, since they all died having not obtained the promise (Heb 11:39).

Included in the heritage of Jacob and his descendants, is the all-encompassing promise made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that “*in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,*” Acts 3:25 and Gal 3:8. This transcends the material blessings in which Israel was to be the beneficiary from other nations. Now, however, in this promise, Israel was to be the benefactor. How would this heritage of being a blessing to others come about?

For generations following the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, that episode had been unfinished. Yahweh had said in Genesis 3:15, that the seed of the woman (Yahshua), would bruise the serpent’s (Satan’s) head, but during

early Bible History this did not happen.

Yahweh's people multiplied and became the nation(s) of Israel, but their iniquities also multiplied. They walked in the footsteps of their first parents Adam and Eve, by showing an inability to obey Yahweh. Time and again in the history of Israel they had occupied the Promised Land when they obeyed Yahweh and were driven from it when they disobeyed. The result was that they did not have lasting enjoyment of the blessings of Yahweh. As they swayed between obedience and disobedience to Yahweh, so too were the fluctuations of their blessings and punishment. This was not Yahweh's desire for His chosen people Israel.

The problem was rooted in their hearts. The prophet Jeremiah said in Jer 17:9,

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

That was Israel's dilemma. If Israel were to continually experience the blessings Yahweh had in store for them, there had to be a change, which they were incapable of making. Until then, the blessings Yahweh had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob could not fully materialize.

But Yahweh had a plan before the foundations of the world to resolve this predicament and to redeem not only Israel but also fallen mankind of all races to Himself, through Jacob's lineage.

Jeremiah and Isaiah, like some of the other prophets, foretold how this would be accomplished through Judah's line. Jeremiah prophesied of the Messiah who would bring righteousness to Israel and to the whole earth.

"Behold, the days are coming," says Yahweh, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth," Jer 23:5.

"Behold, the days are coming," says Yahweh, "that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely," Jer 33:14-16.

Jeremiah foresaw the day when the hearts of Israelites would be changed:

Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says Yahweh. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know Yahweh," for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more, Jer 31:31-34 (See also Heb 8:10).

The day is coming when the house of Jacob will accept the New Covenant that is provided through the Deliverer - Yahshua the Messiah, who is of their ancestry. He will forgive their sins. His laws will be indelibly written in their hearts, and they will delight themselves in Yahweh. This promise, unlike the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, was specifically for "the house of Israel" (descendants of Jacob) and has longer term, indeed everlasting significance.

Paul took up this theme in Rom

11:26-27 when he wrote:

All Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away [wickedness] from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

Here Paul was quoting from Isaiah 59:20, which states,

"The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says Yahweh. "As for Me," says Yahweh, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit [that] is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says Yahweh, "from this time and forevermore," Isa 59:20, 21.

It is clear from many prophecies, including Isaiah's, that Jacob's lineage had a pivotal role that went far beyond the boundaries of their material heritage, and would bring great blessings to mankind.

The everlasting heritage of Jacob encapsulated in that promise to Jacob that "in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed," Gen 28:14, has been partly fulfilled with the coming of Yahshua our Saviour. In His first advent, Yahshua, who was from Judah's lineage, paid the penalty of death for the sins of the world. In this way the whole earth has been blessed, but the greatest blessings await those who through believing and obeying the Saviour will inherit eternal life, at His Second Coming.

Isaiah foresaw the Messiah's advents when he declared:

Yahweh Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel, Isa 7:14.

He continued this topic in chapter 8: 6-7:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful,

Counselor, Mighty El, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this, Isa 9:6, 7.

In fulfilment of this last prophecy Yahshua shall return and will “set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed,” Daniel 2:44.

Eternal unison and residence with Yahweh is the heritage of Israel and of all people who accept the forgiveness of Yahshua their Saviour and Messiah and keep the commandments of Yahweh. Yahweh’s ultimate commitment is not for places or land but for a people who will tabernacle with Him eternally.

For this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, Heb 9:15.

Israel’s blessings to “all the families of the earth” will not be material blessings, but spiritual. This nation, which in Isaiah’s day could not enjoy their material heritage because they had been displeasing Yahweh, has now become the means whereby the whole world will be granted the opportunity to share in their grander heritage when we tabernacle with Yahweh. It was to this rather than to the land of Canaan that the patriarchs looked most expectantly:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had

come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore Yahweh is not ashamed to be called their Elohim, for He has prepared a city for them, Heb 11:13-16.

One songwriter wrote, “This world is not our home.” The writer of the book of Hebrews commented, “*here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come,*” Heb 13:14.

Relevance To Us Today

Yahshua came “*a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel,*” Luke 2:32. He died that all people who accept and obey Him may enter into the eternal heritage of Jacob. In John 1:12, we are told that “*as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of Yahweh, to those who believe in His name.*”

Preaching to people “from every nation under heaven” on the day of Pentecost, Peter said,

The promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as [Yahweh our Elohim] will call, Acts 2:39.

Therefore we Gentiles, who at one time

Were without the Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Yahweh in the world... have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah, Eph 2:12,13.

Through Yahshua we have the privilege today to be “grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree” and to enjoy our eternal heritage that has come to us through the lineage of and promises to Jacob.

There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope, Rom 15:12.

Today those who are keeping

Yahweh’s commandments including His Sabbaths and believe in Yahshua our Saviour are already having a preliminary feast on the One who will bring to fulfilment the heritage of Jacob, as He leads us to Zion our eternal heritage, the Promised City of Yahweh.

Like Israel in Isaiah’s day we too can become complacent and arrogant as we go through the motions of obeying Yahweh while our callous hearts are far from Him. We can fail to receive answers to our fasts and prayers if we do not have right relationship with Yahweh and our fellowmen. Yahshua is not coming to admire “whitewashed sepulchres” or a people who “*draw near with their mouths and honor [Him] with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from [Him], Isa 29:13.* Like the house of Jacob we too must return to and remain in the old paths of doing what is pleasing to Yahweh, if we will feast on “the [eternal] heritage of Jacob.”

Conclusion

It has been said that, “the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.” The heritage of Jacob concealed in the Old Testament has been revealed in the New. There is a Promised Land awaiting the house of Jacob and their adopted heirs. It is the City that none of the patriarchs had entered, but for which they earnestly looked (Heb 11:10). It is not the land of Canaan, but the New Jerusalem, which shall descend from heaven, when Yahweh shall tabernacle with men. It will be flowing not with milk and honey but with the word and glory of Yahweh.

“David My servant [Yahshua, who is the line of David] shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them...and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; ... and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

"My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.

"The nations also will know that I, Yahweh, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." Extracts from Ezek 38:24-28.

Those who enter into this inheritance will truly be of the house of Jacob - *"the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face,"* Ps 24:6, and will feast on the everlasting "heritage of Jacob". *"The ransomed of Yahweh shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away,"* Isa 35:10. Halleluyah!

At last the people of Israel would have been delivered, the patriarchs who await us would have obtained their promise, and so too would those Gentiles who are grafted into the inheritance of Israel.

It will be a great day when the true and faithful of all generations will hear *"the King ... say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,'"* Matt 25:34. There, Jacob will meet his extended and blessed family, which will be as innumerable as the "dust of the earth" from east, west, north and south. The promises made by Yahweh in His first appearance to Jacob at Bethel (see Gen 28:13-14), will have been fulfilled, when with Israel we shall enter into our *"inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that [will] not fade away,"* 1 Peter 1:4. "What a Day of rejoicing that will be?" Will you be there to feast with Jacob on his heritage?

Elder Buel Hallpike

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by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed [the New Covenant, Jeremiah 31:31ff – in which the Law of Yahweh is put into the hearts and minds of His Chosen]. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to the Messiah, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under [the guard of] a tutor [because we are given the Spirit of Yahweh – which now strengthens us to keep the Law of Yahweh], Galatians 3:16-25.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of Yahweh [The Law of Yahweh]. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience, Luke 8:11-15.

They bear fruit because the Seed, Yahshua, the Word of Yahweh, has been planted in their hearts. It has sprouted and grown and now bears fruit containing the Seed of the Tree of Life. And, now they can offer the fruit containing the Seed to others.

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 2 Corinthians 9:10.

And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

Consider what I say, and may Yahweh give you understanding in all things. Remember that Yahshua the Messiah, of the seed of David [who meditates on the Law of Yahweh day and night, Ps 1:2], was raised from the dead according to my good news, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the Word of Yahweh is not chained. Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in the Messiah Yahshua with eternal glory, 2 Timothy 2:5-10.

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of Yahweh which lives and abides forever, because, "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the Word of Yahweh endures forever." Now this is the word which by the good news was preached to you, 1 Peter 1:22-25.

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of Yahweh was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of Yahweh does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of Yahweh, 1 John 3:7-9.

Next time, we will discuss the The Fruit of the Spirit. Until then, Yahweh bless you and keep you; Yahweh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. May His name be placed upon you, the children of Israel.

Elder John Fisher

Except Ye See Signs and Wonders

It is not unusual to have a sincere seeker after Truth raise the question, "How can one determine the true body of Messiah?" With some 450 religious groups all preaching from the same Bible, the question of just who is preaching the Truth leaves us with our minds whirling as we try to examine the various groups we see around us today. We have the promise of the Savior Himself who stated the He would build His Assembly, and gates of the grave (hades) could not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18).

Yahshua said that His true body of believers would always be upon this earth, and that the assembly would not die out, as there would be new converts to take the place of the deceased. This is what Paul has in mind in his discourse in the "resurrection chapter" of 1Cor. 15:29 about those being baptized "for the dead," were to take the place of those who died. We have the guarantee, then, that somewhere upon this earth is the true Assembly, the body of Messiah.

Paul refers to the "House of Elohim which is the assembly of the living Elohim, the pillar and ground of the truth," 1Timothy 3:15. Obviously, Paul is referring to the true Assembly as the custodian of spiritual truth given them by the Holy Spirit.

Scriptural Teachings

A growing number realize the true body of believers is different from nominal churchianity. Enlightened Bible scholars are aware that a number of practices and teachings of mainline churches are nowhere found in the Bible but have their roots in paganism. An observant Bible reader will soon realize that xmas, Easter, Lent, Halloween, and Valentines Day certainly are nothing the Savior or the Apostles practiced. Neither can we seize upon the New Testament only and allege we have all the truth, and ignore the Old Testament entirely. After all, the Savior and His followers had only the Old Testament from which to base their teachings. The New had not yet been written.

Knowing and calling upon the Sacred Name is certainly commendable, for it is the seal. Keeping the weekly Sabbath is the Sign. Adhering to the clean food laws of the Scripture is for our own good,

as is abstaining from tobacco and street drugs or other poisons. The Scripture teaches that the true body of Messiah will strive to keep the whole counsel of Yahweh,

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of Yahweh, Acts 20:27.

This "whole counsel of Yahweh" includes all ten of the Commandments in the Old Testament to foot washing and baptism in the New. We must look for Scriptural guidance to govern our daily walk as well as our worship.

When it is noted that we of Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua are constantly striving to remove from their lives all things that offend,

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire, Matt. 18:8-9.

This should be done so that we might be an obedient people and questions often arise. Because we have accepted the sacrifice of the Savior we strive to keep Yahweh's Commandments and obey them lest we walk all over the shed blood of the Savior again. We obey to please our Heavenly Father and obey just as did the Savior.

Where Are the Miracles?

Another question has to do with the performing of miracles by the body of Messiah. It is assumed that an obedient people will be blessed with supernatural gifts of the Spirit and are able to cast out demons, heal the sick and lame and maybe even raise the dead. It is expected that these miraculous gifts would be very much in evidence and carried out in wholesale lots so that the broad populous would take note and benefit from these miracles.

The implication is that such phenomena would be proof positive that any group with such healing and supernatural powers must indeed be that true body of Messiah! If the called-out people of Yahweh's Assembly cannot perform such healings, then

the question arises, "Is this the true body?" Or "Why do you not have that power to cast out demons and heal?" Where are the miracles?

Signs and Wonders

When the young nobleman entreated the Savior in John 4:47-54 to heal his child, Yahshua replied in the 48th verse, "*Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.*" However, even seeing signs and wonders was not enough, for Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 1:22, "*For the Jews require a sign.*" Yet for all the miracles that the Messiah did, the Jews as a whole did not accept Him as their Savior. Yahshua did not measure up to their expected performance. They wanted the Messiah to throw off the Roman yoke and restore the physical Kingdom to Israel, Acts 1:6. They sought a physical kingdom on earth.

Had He launched on a program to perform miracles wholesale at that time, He would have had the entire nation flocking to Him. However, it was not His purpose to restore the Kingdom at that time. His purpose at that time was to preach the good news of the Kingdom, commission His followers to continue the preaching, and, of course, His greatest work was that of His atoning sacrifice on the stake. He did not attempt to build a huge following by supernatural means, but to call out a people for His Name,

Simeon hath declared how Yahweh at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name, Acts 15:14.

This also is true in this age! He wants a dedicated, obedient people, learning of Him,

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, Matt. 11:29.

Only as we overcome our carnal nature through obedience to Yahshua do we inherit all things,

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his Elohim,

and he shall be my son, Rev. 21:7.

Reject the Message

It is a very grave situation to have miraculous things performed among us only to summarily reject the source, the Word of Yahweh. Notice the condemnation which the Messiah poured upon the populace of Chorasin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum in Matt. 11:21-24,

Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

He states that had the miracles been performed in Tyre and Sidon they would still be in existence. That it will yet be more tolerable for the land of Sodom (which was destroyed because of their wickedness—Gen. 19:1-29) than for Capernaum. In spite of the miraculous, mighty works that were accomplished in that city, the unregenerate people continued in their worldly ways and refused to believe and come to repentance.

Experiencing miracles among us, but rejecting the message of the worker, puts us in jeopardy. The miracles Yahshua performed basically were to call attention to the message of the Kingdom. The miracles of restoring the sick to health and food in abundance were a portent of future glories of a healthy, joyful people enjoying the fullness of the Kingdom. The Jews in Yahshua's time witnessed miracles, but these did not change their

hearts. A broken and contrite heart is what is needed today.

Restore All Things

Before the Messiah returns as King and Master of this world, we are told there must be a restoration of all things.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of Yahweh; And he shall send Yahshua Messiah, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which Yahweh hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall Yahweh your Elohim raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people, Acts 3:19-23.

It will be a restoration of spiritual things ignored and brought to ruin over the centuries. This will include those institutions that will be held in the Millennium such as the Feasts (Zech. 14:16-19), the Sabbath (Isaiah 66:23), and clean meats (Isaiah 66:17). Yahshua's Name will be changed and He shall be known as Yahweh-Zidkenu, "*Yahweh our Righteousness,*" Jer. 22:6, Is. 52:6.

Yahshua must rule until He establishes a righteous earth:

Then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Elohim, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power, 1Corinthians 15:24.

Malachi 4:5 promises that EliYAH the prophet shall be sent before the return of the Messiah:

Behold, I will send you EliYah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yah-

weh.

In Matthew 17:11 we learn that there will yet come an EliYAH people who will restore all things:

Yahshua replied, "To be sure, EliYah comes and will restore all things, NIV.

John the Baptist came the first time and preached a message of repentance, a turning back to Yahweh's laws. It is this restoration of Yahweh's laws and obedience to His word that we of Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua are striving to fulfill, in addition to restoring the Sacred Name. There must be a people who answer the high calling to return to the way of Yahweh and warn the world of Yahweh's imminent coming just as did John the Baptist.

Come Out of Her, My People

If we are to be a people preaching the message of John the Baptist, we must look at his life and see what kind of life he lived and the miracles he performed. We know that he was the son of a priest, and that he was a priest in his own right, Luke 1:5-13. However, he left the priestly robes behind him and he was garbed in the simplest leather girdle and a coat of camel's hair. He left behind the cloistered walls of the city, and he left the ritualistic rules of temple worship to go the open freedom of the out-of-doors. There he was able to preach the message of repentance without being encumbered by tradition and formalism.

When the sincere seeker-after-truth seeks to fill his emptiness with spiritual truth and leaves the established traditions and conformity to worldly religions and turns to the pure Word of Yahweh, only then will he be able to worship Yahweh in Spirit and in Truth:

Yahweh is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth, John 4:24.

This well may mean the leav-

ing of one's friends, relatives and associates, as did John the Baptist. It also means renouncing our former name of "Christian" even as John gave up the name Zechariah by which the custom of the day dictated he should be known. Christianity is a Greek word given to our Jewish Savior, and is associated with many pagan celebrations, such as xmas, Easter, hallowe'en, lent, Good Friday, Sunday worship, etc., which we do not wish to take part in through celebration.

In His wisdom, Yahweh has seen fit not to bestow His supernatural gifts without measure upon His people at this time. Our goal in this life should not be to see who can perform the greatest miracle, but it should be to "*study to show thyself approved unto Yahweh, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth,*" 2Tim. 2:15.

Self-Discipline First

We must first learn how to control our thoughts and deeds by yielding to the Word of Scripture so that our very attitudes and actions are a reflection of our obedience to Yahweh. To be given this great power of the Spirit without having become completely submissive, we may in a fit of anger or frustration use this "pneuma hagion" (power from on high) for a purpose other than the glory of Yahweh as James and John proposed:

And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Master, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, even as Elias did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You know not what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went to another village, Luke 9:54-56

If performing of miracles were the test of faith, then whoever could perform the greatest miracles

would have the largest following! People would come for miles just to see or participate in the miracles of Yahshua, much as they enjoy a circus performance today.

Miracles Are Not a Test of Truth

We read in John 10:41, "*John did no miracle, but all things John spake of this Man were true.*" If the EliYah for to come did no miracles, why should we seek miracles as a sign to confirm the proof of one's ministry? John the Baptist did no miracles, and doubted within himself if Yahshua were the One the world was looking for. He even needed reassurance that Yahshua was the promised Messiah.

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Messiah, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Yahshua answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me, Matt. 11:2-6.

John was not popular with everyone because he rebuked those who were in error, including even Herod.

Our goal, then, should be not that of seeking to perform miracles, but rather that whatsoever we teach of the Word is true. Apparently there will be those who look for miracles as "signs" or "proof" that this is the true body of Messiah. Almost as if predicting this, the Messiah said in Matt. 24:24,

For there shall arise false Messiahs and false prophets, and SHALL SHEW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS; inasmuch that, if

<see **Wonders** page 20>



FOOD for Thought

Note: Owing to its relevance to the main topic of this study, the writer opted to borrow the meaningful phrase as Title.

Toddlers have a nasty habit of picking up things, and then putting it into their mouth. And if it's OK to the little child's palate, that thing goes down into the stomach. You see, as little children begin to have a vision or understanding of the world around them, out of ignorance anything that tastes satisfactory is FOOD. They neither know nor care about proper nourishment. No qualms whatsoever that what they eat may not be good for their health.

When my five children were still toddlers, at home I always followed my little child while roaming around the house or backyard. I saw to it that nothing dirty or 'rubbish' went into my child's mouth. Time and again I would say, "No, no, my child. That's dirty. Don't put that thing in your mouth."

I presume every father or mother does just that. It's because as parents, we love our children so much. At the time my prime concern was my child's well-being. I wanted my child to grow up healthy, strong and sound.

Food

What is food? A much better word is nourishment, i.e., the food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition (Oxford English Dictionary). Relative to this is the term nutrition. Nowadays, no matter where you live in this world, there are Nutritionists employed by the government or private institutions concerned with health care. These professionals are tasked to provide expert guidelines on proper nourishment - necessarily to

have and maintain a healthy body - so as to combat and prevent illness. Ironically, healthwise modern man appears to be sicker than ever. So the question is: Is there something wrong with this world's concept of food?

How the World Eats

Along with 'Replacement Theology' most religious leaders say that Elohim has rejected Israel in favor of the New Testament Assembly. And accordingly, New Testament believers are no longer bound to obey and observe what they call the 'Jewish' dietary law, and can now enjoy or gorge themselves with what this world considers delicacies, e.g., oysters, crabs, lobsters, ham, etc. Add to this dog meat which is considered a delicacy among the several mountain tribes in the Cordillera Autonomous Region in northern Philippines.

Until the decade of the '60s, when my wife and I were still members of a Baptist church, except for dog meat, my family enjoyed eating the above mentioned creatures. We did so, based on Bible texts that we thought gave us the freedom to consume anything we liked to eat. By then, it was our belief that anything edible and delicious was FOOD.

But in the year 1970, after having discovered the truth of the Sabbath, a strange feeling motivated me to do an in-depth study and second look at a number of texts that purports to have set aside the law of the clean and unclean meats. Once and for all I resolved to find out if the 'Jewish' law (Lev. 11 and Deut. 14)

is no longer valid as claimed by the "no law" preachers.

But I was still hoping the pastors were right, because aside from the aforementioned creatures, my family also loved to eat prawns, shrimps, shellfish, and a yummy recipe of squids cooked whole in coconut milk inclusive of the squid's ink or blood. Contrary to my expectations, I was in for a shocking surprise. Now let's take a critical look at the following texts.

Ambiguous Texts Clarified

Let us begin with four of Paul's writings - usually cited by adherents to the 'no law' doctrine: Romans 14:14 and 20; 1 Corinthians 10:25 and 27; Galatians 2:11 and 12; and 1 Timothy 4:4 and 5.

1) *As one who is in the Master Yahshua, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean of Itself. But if anyone rewards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean... Do not destroy the work of Elohim for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble,* Romans 14:14, 20.

At first glance, it seems that Paul had abandoned the dietary law, under which he grew up with and observed zealously. However, not a single passage in the entire NT Scriptures will show that Paul changed his diet, nor ate the flesh of swine or any of the unclean creatures. Remember, Paul was the son of a Pharisee (Acts 22:3), was raised up a Pharisee (Acts 23:6), a Hebrew of Hebrews (Php. 3:5), and thoroughly trained in the Jewish way of life under the tutelage of a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, i.e., Gamaliel.

In, fact, when he was on trial before the Roman Governor Felix, in his defense, Paul reiterated his adherence to the Jewish custom and way of life.

But this I confess unto thee, that

after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets, Acts 24:14..

To correctly understand Paul's words in his epistle, bear in mind that it was addressed to the Roman and Jewish converts, and not to the gentile population of Rome. Paul was not telling the Roman converts to ignore the dietary law and fall back into their old pagan custom of eating unclean animals like swine. So, what does he really mean by 'no food is unclean' or 'all food is clean'?

Unknown to most Bible readers, in Jewish usage, food refers only to scripturally approved (kosher) meal from grains, cereals, nuts, fruits, vegetables and clean animals. Aside from these, there's also honey and the clean insects. And no Jew in his right mind will ever think of pork or the flesh of any unclean creature as food. To a Jew, these things are "rubbish" and abominable. So, what was Paul talking about in his letter to the Roman brethren?

Apparently, there's disagreement within the Roman Assembly about food. Some are vegetarians, while others do not subscribe to the vegan diet, Romans 14:2. That's the problem and there was a rift between the two camps. So Paul was obliged to admonish and advised them not to judge one another, and avoid causing a brother or sister to stumble. The issue in question has nothing to do with the law of the clean and unclean meats.

2) *Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience... If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience,* 1 Corinthians 10:25, 27 NIV.

Most Christians take these passages to mean that Paul tells the brethren in Corinth to dispense

with the dietary law. Is that what Paul really meant? The key to rightly understand Paul here lies in the words 'questions of conscience' in both texts. In the gentile culture then prevailing in that pagan society, it was customary for a family to take an animal, e.g., cattle, and offer it in sacrifice to their deity (idol), and as the carcass is too large for the family to consume, most of the meat is taken to the market for sale. The problem is that the brethren don't know whether or not the meat has been offered in sacrifice to an idol, especially for those whose conscience won't allow them to eat what they think is defiled meat.

In chapter 8 Paul reminds them that idols are nothing, so food sacrificed to an idol is okay to eat, except for those whose conscience is weak. What about verse 27? Here in the Philippines, at times an unconverted relative or former co-worker invites us to special occasions like a Wedding Anniversary or Thanksgiving Party when their son or daughter passes the Board Exam. Sometimes we accept the invitation and go, because our host knows what we eat and what we don't, and they prepare for us a 'separate' meal like roasted native chicken, vegetables, or fruit salad. So, sometimes we eat together with unbelievers. As Paul said, "If you want to go." The Apostle tells the Corinthian brethren to use their own discretion. It's as simple as that.

3) *But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him face to face, because he was blamable. For before certain persons came from James, he ate together with the Gentiles; but when they came he withdrew and separated himself, being afraid of those belonging to the circumcision,* Galatians 2:11-12 The Emphatic Diaglott.

Most Bible readers rashly take for granted that Peter had eaten unclean meals with unconverted Gentiles. Considering that Peter is

one of the "pillars" of the faith, that is preposterous. The fact that his name Simon was changed to Cephas (Aram. Kepha, i.e., the Rock) signifies his steadfastness.

Eating together with the Gentiles doesn't necessarily mean eating unclean meats. I know this from personal experience. At the time Elder Don Mansager baptized me, I was a member of a promotional Team of Life Insurance Agents conducting lectures on the what's and why's of life insurance nationwide. Some of my Teammates are Catholics, while others are Protestants. Of course we ate together at the same table, but years before that I was already STRICTLY observing the law of clean and unclean meats. Yes, we ate together, but that doesn't mean we ate the same meal.

What is Peter's fault that Paul rebuked him for? It stemmed from an old law that forbids Jews from associating with the Gentiles (John 4:9), pointing back to the separation of the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Jews at the Temple premises. The separation was so strict that for a Gentile to pass through the partition was certain death. But Peter learned from his vision of the sheet (Acts 10:11-13) containing the unclean beasts that this old (ceremonial) law has been lifted by the Messiah Himself, verses 15 and 28. Peter's fault is his dissembling act (hypocrisy) which even led Barnabas to do likewise. It is not about eating unclean meal with Gentiles.

4) *For every creature of Elohim is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified by the word of Elohim and prayer,* 1 Timothy 4:4-5.

Here the words 'If it be received with thanksgiving' and 'sanctified by the word of Elohim,' is the key to the right meaning of the texts. In practice, it is unthinkable for a Jew or True Believer to sit down before

a meal of unclean meats and thank Yahweh for it. It is obvious, then, that Paul refers only to 'kosher' foods. Moreover, consider the word SANCTIFIED. In religious parlance it means set apart, consecrated, made sacred, inviolable (Webster's New World Diet.). How? By the word of Yahweh, i.e., Lev. 11 and Deut. 14.

A year after I moved to Palawan (an island Province) a Catholic neighbor accosted me and said, "Kabayan (i.e., townmate), the Bible says 'Everything that lives and moves will be food for you,'" Genesis 9:3.

I presume he got the text from his parish Priest in the nearby Catholic Church.

"Do you really believe that?" I laughingly replied, "If someone will serve you a dinner of roasted globefish and salad of 'tubli', will you take it?" People here say the fish is delicious, but it has a deadly toxin. A cousin of mine died after eating roasted globefish. Tubli is a tropical vine whose milky sap is used by natives to stun and disorientate fish in shallow creeks and river banks.

Startled and visibly confused, the man said he was just joking and apologized. Now, let us take a closer look and analyze Genesis 9:3,

Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

Bible Commentaries and other Study References agree that man's original diet consisted of grains, cereals, nuts, fruits, vegetables and excluded flesh. But the Great Flood during the time of Noah destroyed vegetation. Even if Noah and his sons will immediately plant vegetables right after the flood water subsided to supplement what remains of food, stored in the Ark, it will take some time for the plants to grow to be consumed.

Evidently, Yahweh prepared for

this by instructing Noah to take into the Ark seven pairs of the clean animals whose meat would henceforth supplement man's diet. Here we see that long before the Mosaic Law the distinction between the clean and unclean creatures was in place and known by Noah and his sons.

Genesis 9:3 is idiomatic language and should be understood by its context. It should not be taken wholly, because literally that is impossible. Common sense makes us aware that we cannot eat everything that lives and moves. Maybe only the mentally deranged will try to do that. Again, the food mentioned here refers to clean food.

Fat and Blood

In the early '90s when my family arrived in Palawan, our new Adventist neighbor was delighted to know that we are commandment keepers. Eager to befriend us, one early evening the man came and brought us a big bowl of beef stew. But when I transferred the food into our bowl, I cringed with what I saw - with the meat are chunks of fat, even the hard kind. We were unable to eat our neighbor's food, but our dog took only a few minutes to devour it and then looked-up at me as if asking for more. The next day I asked my neighbor why there are chunks of fat in his stew.

"Well, it is the fat that makes the beef stew more delicious," he explained and quickly added, "it is the blood that we do not eat."

It surprised me that there are people - supposedly commandment keepers - who are still ignorant of the command against eating fat along with blood. So I advised him to read Leviticus 3:17 and 7:23:

It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood, Leviticus 3:17.

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, "Ye shall eat no manner

of fat, of ox, or of sheep, or of goat," Leviticus 7:23.

During a wedding reception, a man seated beside the Priest at the long dining table asked,

"Father, is it true that even in our Catholic Bible, it also says pig meat, fat and blood are forbidden to eat?"

"Well, yes, my child," the Priest replied, "but we are not Jews or Israelites. We are Filipinos. Come on, let's begin to eat. The food is delicious and nourishing."

"Thank you for clarifying, Father," the man smiled and nodded, "I believe you are right."

One popular dish is 'dinuguan', from 'duo' (i. e., blood) consisting of pig entrails and other innards cut in very small pieces cooked with blood as the main ingredient. Many Filipinos consider the bloody meal a delicacy.

Grown Up Toddlers

A toddler and the Priest differ considerably in size, but in matters of food reckoning, their mentality is basically the same. To a toddler and the Priest, as long as it tastes right or delicious, anything is food. The determining factor is the taste.

That is the prevailing mentality of most people throughout the generations worldwide. To many people, even if their doctor tells them that eating such and such will be bad for their health, they cannot restrain their appetite and go on eating their favorite food. And the result is the consistent high rate of cardiovascular and other degenerative diseases. As one writer put it many years back, "Many people slowly dig their graves with their teeth."

Medical Science Confirms

Lev. 11

Doctors say that while other factors contribute to cardiovascular diseases, the main culprit is bad cholesterol - attributed to the consumption of animal fat. In ancient Israel, the fat of the clean animals was used as a burnt offering to Yahweh. For food, instead of animal fat they used olive oil.

Modern medical findings confirm that the biblical injunction (Lev. 11 and Deut. 14) has a scientific basis. Most of the unclean creatures are scavengers, i.e., they eat refuse and are disease carriers. Let me relate the experience of two Protestant Pastors in the main island (Luzon) before my family moved to Palawan. The Baptist Pastor (my wife's classmate in the Seminary) related what happened.

"One evening our meal was rice and oysters," the Pastor said, "and my wife had eaten much because it's delicious. But in the middle of the night my wife woke up vomiting and had severe diarrhea. Horrified, I had to rush her to the hospital. Maybe it's true that oysters are a dirty food."

The other incident involves an American Missionary who was on a visit. As they were eating dinner at the back of the Parsonage, some-

one noticed that the guest ignored his plate of shrimps.

"Why, Pastor," he asked, "don't you like shrimps?"

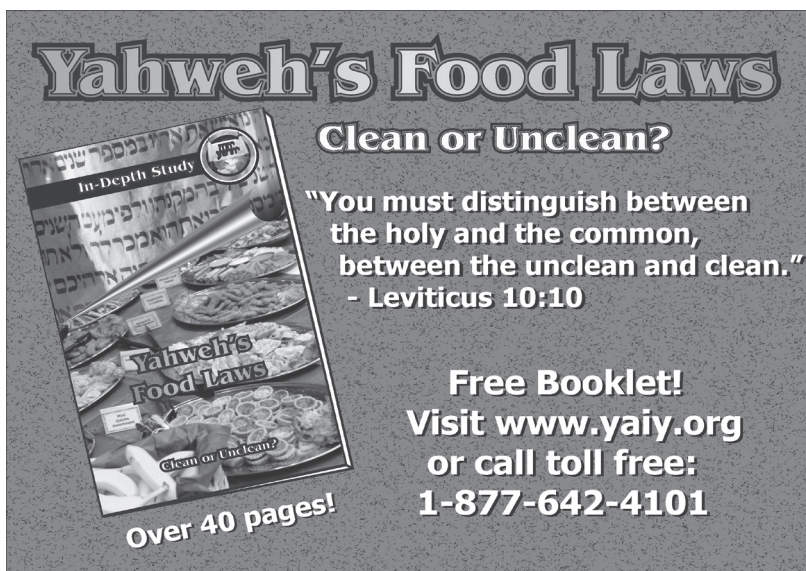
"I sometimes ate shrimps before," the American replied, "but not anymore. One time we had shrimps for dinner at home, and my wife got very, very sick. I was frightened she would die."

The oysters and shrimps came from the river traversing the city. On both sides of the waterway are four hospitals and many other establishments whose sewers extend to the river. I think most educated people know that shellfish and other crustaceans eat waste matter carried by the tides or that settles at the bottom, and anyone who eats these unclean creatures is at risk of getting sick. Nonetheless, because of the taste people don't care and still eat them.

Still, there are those who argue that the Savior is the ultimate authority on food and points to Matthew 15:10-11:

Yahshua called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean."

This is by no means a difficult text. Just read verses 1-20 and you will see by its context that it has nothing to do with the dietary law. The matter in question is about eating with unwashed hands. What is implied here is the possibility of eating 'dirt' along with foods because of unwashed hands. Yahshua said the dirt will soon be expelled out of the body and does not defile the man.



Yahweh's Food Laws
Clean or Unclean?

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- Leviticus 10:10

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Conclusion

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son, Hoshea 11:1.

Yahweh the Father loves His children so much, and as the Israelites ventured and wandered in the desert, the ever loving Elohim accompanied His children - to watch and guide them on their journey to the Promised Land. Lest they would pick up anything unclean as they trudged along the way in the wilderness, Yahweh instructed them on what to eat or not to eat. The dietary law (Lev. 11 and Deut. 14) cannot be quoted here due to space limitations. So I leave it to the reader to read the passages in the Bible. Some people, still not willing to give up their eating habits, ask,

"If pig is forbidden to eat, for what in heaven's name did Elohim create it for? Did not the Bible say that everything created by Elohim is good?"

That is true, but each one is good only for its intended purpose. It's a fact that pigs, vultures and other scavengers also eat refuse (trash pickers) to rid the environment of decaying matter like flesh. The crustaceans are designed to get rid of waste matter around them. What about the big cats? Maybe their role is to control the wildlife population. Every animal has its role in this life, contributing to ecological balance in nature. And the unclean creatures are not intended for food.

Yahweh designed and created us humans, and the All-wise Creator knew best what is good for the human body. Just like us parents - we don't like our little loved ones to pick up and eat dirty things. So, along with other laws, the loving Creator gave man the dietary law.

And Yahweh commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for OUR GOOD ALWAYS, that he might preserve us alive, as it is this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we

observe to do all these commandments before Yahweh our Elohim, as he hath commanded us, Deuteronomy 6:24-25.

So dear reader, whatever are your gastronomic habits, I offer you this study as a trustworthy 'Food for Thought.'

Elder A. S. Untalan, Sr.

<Wonders from page 15>

it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

The Egyptian magicians Jannes and Jambres could imitate the miracles of Moses (up to a point). See also Rev. 16:14; 19:20. Let us not be among the deceived because of signs and wonders.

To Your Faith Add Virtue

One of the most Spirit-filled men in the Bible sought thrice that his thorn in the flesh be removed from him:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought Yahweh thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Messiah may rest upon me, 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

Yet, Paul tells us that because of this infirmity he had to rely on Yahweh all the more and this weakness of Paul's was retained for Yahweh's glory. This is a wonderful passage of Scripture for us who are suffering from an affliction that does not leave us. It is probably for Yahweh's glory that at times afflictions remain. These force us to turn to our Heavenly Father for help.

This is not the time to look for a

group that seemingly performs miracles of healing, raises the dead, speaks in tongues or performs what the world has set up as the standard. Signs and wonders will not by themselves prove the true assembly. Yahshua tells us:

Many will say to me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in thy Name? and in thy Name have cast out devils? and in thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity, Matthew 7:22-23 AV.

Yahshua had already said,

Not every one that says unto me, Master, Master, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven, Matthew 7:21.

This should be a time of study, learning, and growing in the word. We should examine our goals to be certain we remain on the spiritual plane of the Kingdom and not seek thrills and sensual pleasures and miracles. To our faith in Yahweh and His word, we should add virtue, or moral character, as well as knowledge, 2 Peter 1:5. With prayerful concentration on these things we can overcome the allurements and pleasures of this world as did John the Baptizer.

We should seek to become a "glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that we should be holy and without blemish," Eph. 5:27. Only by seeking the Kingdom and doing His will can we "be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is," 1 John 3:2.

When we put on immortality at His Second Coming, then we will have a glorified body and will be able to perform the miracles, the greater things promised to us. If we seek first the Kingdom, all these things will be given us. Are you working to rid yourself of all spots and wrinkles?

Elder Donald R. Mansager

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q “Lights & Perfections” does not clarify for me the meaning of the Urim & Thummim. From Ex. 28:30, Numbers 27:21 and Deut. 33:8-11, it was something over the High Priest’s heart which somehow had something to do with judgment.

A The Companion Bible explains the Urim and Thummim were probably two precious stones that were placed in the bag of the breastplate of judgment. Called “Lights” and “Perfections” the stones were drawn out and made a judicial decision of guilt and innocence by the high priest. When the land was divided “by lot,” judgment of Yahweh was by the “Urim” and “Thummin.” The technique whereby guidance was made plain has not been recorded, according to the New Bible Dictionary, J. D. Douglas. There are no negative answers recorded.

Q Did the rules to consecrate a priest in Ex. 28:4-5 extend to the New Covenant Assembly?

A Yahweh seeks a broken and contrite heart prepared to obey Him. Exodus 28 goes into much detail about the physical laws of the tabernacle and the robes and dress of the Levitical priesthood.. We understand that we are now in the Melchisedek order.

We are told in Scripture *“For many are called, but few [are] chosen.”* [Those chosen have been selected beforehand] *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Yahshua Messiah to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”* (Mat 22:14; Eph 1:4-5 AV)

The Holy Spirit is given at baptism and each baptized believer is a child of Yahweh who is given a spiritual gift (Rom 12 and 1Cor.12), which Paul describes is to guide the assembly: *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some,*

evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah.” (Eph 4:11-12 AV)

It is up to the leaders of the Assembly to recognize the potential of those Yahshua has placed in the body, that we guide and mentor them for greater spiritual responsible positions in the Assembly.

We are now under the Melchisedek order and seek spiritual answers and guidance more than physical rules.

Q In Exodus 9:6 it states that *“and all the cattle of Egypt died”* having died from *“a very grievous murrain or plague by the hand of Yahweh.* In Exodus 9:9 it states that when the ashes were sprinkled toward heaven by Moses, *“it become a boil breaking forth with blains upon man and upon beast.”* I thought all “beasts” (cattle, horses, asses, camels, flocks and herds) were killed in Exodus 9:6 by the plague. Where did Pharaoh get chariot horses to chase down the Israelites? *“But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses [and] chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.”* (Ex 14:9 AV)

A *“Behold, the hand of YAHWEH is upon thy cattle which [is] in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: [there shall be] a very grievous murrain.”*

Note that Yahweh’s hand is controlling this plague. Moses does not have to do anything at first. Another point is that the animals that were in the field were the victims of His wrath. Animals in a shed or barn will not be affected. Verse 6 says YAHWEH took action against the animals (that were in the field is understood). The Egyptians worshipped animals like the Apis, their bull deity. (Later Israel reverted to the pagan ways of Egypt, shown by making and worshipping a golden calf, Exodus 32.)

The murrain fell upon not only humans but on those animals that previously had been protected..

Some scholars allege the Pharaoh, whose chariots later chased after Israel, had his army horses quartered in caves or barns of some kind, and these were protected from the soot and ashes.

Q In Exodus 33:20 we learn that no man can see Yahweh's face and live. Therefore, Moses was shielded by Yahweh in the cleft of the rock. In Deut. 4:12 we learn that Yahweh spoke to the children of Israel, but they heard His voice only. Yet in Exodus 24:10-11 it states, "*and they saw the Elohim of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and as it were the very heaven for clearness, and upon the nobles of the children of Israel He laid not His hand: and they beheld Elohim, and ate and drank.*" In Numbers 14:14 it states: "*for they have heard that thou, Yahweh, art among this people, that thou Yahweh art seen face to face...*" KJV. Do these statements seem contradictory?

A They do indeed seem puzzling. Yahweh of the Old Testament "spoke" to certain ones such as Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, who may not have seen His physical presence. Moving through the Bible, in Revelation we are given added insight or clarification of His appearance. To Abram "He appeared," Genesis 12:7. To Hagar He appeared as an angel (Genesis 16:7-13). A well was there called Beer-lahai-roi (Do I live after seeing Elohim?) With Jacob He appeared with human features) "*And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen Elohim face to face, and my life is preserved.*" (Gen 32:30).

As we read through Scripture, we learn more of His appearance and character as we go along, and we note His many attributes. Only certain ones are privileged to see Yahweh in His subdued glory, but even Moses could not look upon the full face of Yahweh, Exodus 33:18. Nevertheless, the glory of Yahweh's presence radiated a glory to the face of Moses which was covered by a veil.

As we read the Old Testament we are given references to Yahweh, but not a clear description of His actual appearance. Rather, we are given lessons of His character, His love for mankind, His wisdom, patience, and all the things that make up His righteous personality and holy character.

It is not until we get into the New Testament that we get a clearer picture of Yahweh, for the Savior admits He looks just like the Heavenly Father:

Yahshua saith unto him, Have I been so long time

with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. (John 14:9-10 AV)

"(Yahshua) Who is the image of the invisible Elohim, the firstborn of every creature." (Col 1:15 AV)

In whom the deity of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim, should shine unto them. (2Co 4:4 AV)

The book of Revelation gives us a clear picture of the glorified Savior who appears as a bright, blinding LIGHT! Yahshua is the fullness and intention of Yahweh! It is Yahshua Who will be our judge and give immortality to the Firstfruits, (2Peter 1:4). He looks just like the Heavenly Father Who has never left the Spirit realm. Here in Revelation we see the blinding light and fullness of Yahshua Who takes vengeance on His enemies:

His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. (Re 1:14-16 AV)

We do not fully understand nor see clearly, but through faith we are promised we will see the faces of both Yahweh and Yahshua and come to a full understanding in the coming Kingdom, and we will then have glorified bodies just like that of Yahshua:

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (1Co 13:12 AV)

Q If it's what's inside that counts, why does Yahweh exclude these with disability?

A He wants those to represent His benevolent side so that we might remember His goodness and tender mercies. In preferring good physical specimens, we can easily recognize spiritual qualifications are also part of the equation Yahweh expects from us. We are to strive for spiritual perfection, for we are to be holy as He is holy, 1Peter 1:16



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