

YAIY

Beacon

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And Yahweh Elohim made
all kinds of trees grow out
of the ground - trees that
were pleasing to the eye
and good for food,
Genesis 2:9a NIV.

YAIY **Beacon**

Volume 12 Number 3



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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.

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Live streaming of Sabbath
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An Investment of a Lifetime ... and Far Beyond

Aside from being the one and only salvation guide, the Bible is a history book - the greatest of all time. It gives the true account of creation and the Creator and a history of faithful Abraham and his progeny, both in the Old and in the New Testaments. Beyond that, though, Scripture teaches us about our Creator Yahweh.

From the Word we also learn about the physical world. But the Bible is a message of the spirit as well. As we read Scripture, we sense, below the surface, a moving of the heart's emotions. We receive a depth of understanding beyond the physical. The Bible's words are spirit, and they are life!

Each time we read or study the Bible, we can sense a profound change coming over us. Our thinking ascends to new heights; Yahweh's Spirit works with ours, prompting us to seek higher levels, to a plane that takes us beyond the physical, material realm. We enter a kind of twilight zone, approaching an awesome celestial sphere we have never encountered before. We become acutely aware that we are approaching the threshold of the spiritual where Yahweh is reached and where He communicates with us.

By reading His Book, we grasp, in a small measure, the fullness and depth of His power and majesty. He teaches us His truth through His Word.

Dealing with Selfishness

The Bible renders unembellished accounts of its heroes just as they are; successes with blemishes and hopes with shattered aspirations. Always

hovering over the scene is the concept of a loving, forgiving Almighty. He is Yahweh, One Who willingly extends His tender mercies to all who will turn from their wicked ways and follow Him with a full heart. Readers of Scripture often are unaware of the virtues of giving, receiving, and reciprocating. Spiritual values are learned through physical acts. A deeper comprehension of our purpose in life is gleaned from consideration of spiritual aspects of Yahweh's methods in dealing with humans. Being good custodians of what Yahweh has given us is one aspect of this spiritual acquisition. It includes much more than the title.

The basic problem with carnal mankind everywhere is selfishness. All good things come from Yahweh, Who provides everything we need to live and Who has given us life itself. The Bible subtly relates Yahweh's giving something to mankind and expecting us to use it wisely.

Gifts He gives include property, family, wisdom, possessions, liberty, freedom, and longevity of life. These are given, expecting they will bring glory to Yahweh, while the use of them will benefit the recipient.

We should all feel a deep responsibility for anything Yahweh has given us. We must learn to be accountable and have such a deep respect for His creation that we in return always feel obligated to Yahweh as the owner of everything we have.

Merely fulfilling the requirements of the law but lacking the spiritual under-

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In-Depth Study

Who is Our Creator?

standing for doing it, is not pleasing to Yahweh. This is what our Savior was trying to explain when He extended the dimension beyond a quoted maxim of law with the preface: "But I say unto you ... "

We Are Given a Trust

Our perception or attitude toward Yahweh and His laws must be one of deep respect with a keen desire to please Him. He is the owner of all and expects us to show our gratitude by giving Him the best that we have, the firstfruits of our increase:

Honor Yahweh with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase, Proverbs 3:9.

The writer of Proverbs goes on to explain the wonderful blessings that follow when honoring Yahweh with what we have.

The firstfruits are the best of the crop. The later yield doesn't measure up to the fruit that first appears in spring. This is the produce that belongs to Yahweh (Num. 28:26) and giving of those firstfruits honors Yahweh so that we, in return, receive His blessings, His good things. He expects us to give from the best that we have.

The first, the best, whether it be efforts, waking moments, wages, whatever ... He is worthy of our best. *Firstfruits* may be assumed to be a tenth or tithe, but Proverbs does not mention how much. It may be more than a tenth.

That which dominates our mind, the greater part of our waking moments, determines most of our activities. Our secular world has enticements all around us, night and day. We often fantasize and dream of a better life here on earth through obtaining more and more creature comforts.

Dreaming of a better life is something many turn to often for solace and comfort, relaxation and enjoyment. It is what some think on most, lost in a dreamy, wishful wonderland. Whatever occupies most of our thinking controls our subconscious and motivates our actions. Yahshua said to all of us:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also, Luke 12:34.

The Old Testament reveals that Yahweh had turned His earthly creation over to man as a trust. Man was to manage the earth with its flora and fauna and to govern himself. Yahweh

continues to be the owner, but has placed man in charge. We recognize His sovereignty when we return to Him a portion of the increase of our labors.

The New Testament emphasizes the spiritual application of Yahweh's laws far above satisfying any physical desire. We are to develop the proper attitude as we grow and mature in the stature of the Savior.

Keeping His laws out of mere obligation is not pleasing to Yahweh. We are to comprehend His purpose, His goals, His loving and tender mercies. He sent His Son to teach a deeper spiritual aspect of His truth so that we perceive things from His viewpoint — to think like Him, act like Him, and walk in His very footsteps.

Your Treasure in Heaven

Yahweh reveals to us that our goal in life is beyond this mundane civilization and society. There is a fantastic world ahead, and we are invited to be participants in it. We must realize we are being tested to reveal our ultimate intentions.

What is it that prompts us to seek Yahweh's truth which is found in His Bible? To some it is mere curiosity at first. The Bible is a fascination for some, yet it can bewilder and mystify. It holds a perplexing attraction that demands further investigation.

Yahweh owns all things. During the three score and ten years He has allotted us, we

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In-Depth Study

The Temple Tenth

appropriate from His earth those things we need to survive:

The earth has Yahweh given to the children of men, Psalm 115: 16b.

Yahweh has made a way for us to take some of our assets and reach beyond this mundane world into the next. We can turn some of our resources into investments in the everlasting Kingdom. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," our Savior said in Matthew 6. But how do we do that?

Help Someone Find Truth

The Bible likens our life to a vapor. Our 70 allotted years are soon gone. The things we possess, the goods we have, the life we live, and we ourselves will soon pass from the scene. It is possible to turn some of our transitory, tangible, capital into eternal gain. The world's goods, much like the grass that today is, and tomorrow is gone, if handled properly, can become a permanent investment that will endure throughout the ages.

All too often our earnings are spent on material goods that perish and soon disappear. Those things we desire, the things we treasure, the possessions we covet now will not last. A house or home in which we live may endure for a few generations, but eventually who lived there will be forgotten.

We can, however, invest in a house that will endure forever. That house is the household, the family of Yahweh. Our tithes and offerings can make the difference as to whether or not

someone comes to a saving knowledge of the Messiah Yahshua, and becomes a son or daughter of the Most High and lives forever in the Kingdom.

What could be more important? What better use can we make of our brief time on earth than to use our personal resources to help others?

Yahshua said,
Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, Matthew 6:19 - 20.

Giving - the Bible Way

Are we to understand, then, that we should give everything

we have to the ministry? Or do we turn all we own over to the poor, which Yahshua demanded of the rich young ruler? (Matt.19:21). No other individual was asked to divest himself of his wealth. This man's wealth happened to be his greatest obstacle. He apparently worshiped his wealth, and our Savior gave him an option: its your wealth or its Me. Choose.

Rather than giving away all that we possess, Scripture does demand of all of us that we manage our resources well, and to be good stewards of all that we have.

This means that we do both. We manage carefully what we have, and give away some of our resources in a way that pleases Him. The proper handling of our goods and the Scriptural investing of what we have is the work of Yahweh.

The focus of the New Testament is investing in the "spiritual realm." That investment begins in the Assembly, with those who are doing the work of the ministry.

Paul's inspired understanding in this regard is found in 1 Corinthians 9:3 - 14

Mine answer to them that do examine Me is this, Have we not power to eat and to drink? Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Master, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working? Who goes a warfare any time at his own charges? Who

<see **Investment** page 10>

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Never Let It Be Said, You Have Robbed Yahweh!
— The tithing principle for today —

A letter reached our office recently requesting some of our mini-studies. The solicitation ended with the words, "Send them if they are free." The implication was, if they are not free then don't send them.

Our ministudies explain the teachings of Yahweh. Among this person's requests was a study on proper baptism into Yahshua's Name — a priceless truth that is central to salvation itself. Rather than "free," this information is invaluable. It is precious. Yet the nature of the request revealed how little value was actually placed on it.

Obviously, publications, tapes, and even ministerial trips don't just happen without many sharing the burden of the expense. Nothing that is produced comes without cost. Someone must bear the expense of materials, labor, and distribution even when they are provided free of charge.

'Free' Truth?

The salvation that comes through Yahshua was purchased at the highest possible price — the very life of the Son of Yahweh. Even the Word of Yahweh has come to us at the highest of costs. Countless saints down through history have suffered torture and even death to pass on the truth given ultimately to us, including the Scriptures themselves. We have the Bible today because zealous, totally devoted people paid with their very lives to preserve it!

Some do not esteem the truth of the Word as highly as others, even though their very salvation hinges on it. In contrast, Yahshua spoke of a merchant who, in dealing in pearls, found a special one and sold all he had — including all other pearls — in order to

Lean on Me

I'm one of those people who, when I get a song stuck in my head, it just stays there. Right now, a popular song from the early 70's, "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers, keeps going through my mind. I hum the melody and sing a line here and a line there. There's a lot of wisdom in that song and it made me think of how we are to relate to one another as believers in Messiah.

We live in a culture where self-reliance and rugged individualism are viewed as traits to be admired and consequently those who need help are viewed as weak and dependent, sometimes even as parasites.

Givers

Everybody feels good about helping someone "less fortunate" or in need. In fact, Yahshua admonishes us that the sheep on His right hand will be those who are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, taking in strangers, visiting the sick.

For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me, Matthew 25:35 - 36.

Receivers

What about the other side of that equation? What if we are the one who is in need? For everyone, everyone who feeds the hungry, there must be someone who needs food and will accept the gift. For everyone who visits the sick, there must be someone who is ill and will accept the visit and encouragement. Just as we can hide our lamp (good works) under a bushel (*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,* Matthew 5:16), we can also hide our

needs because of embarrassment or pride.

Sometimes people will say "I don't want to burden anyone" or "I'll be OK, I'll get by."

Bill Withers had some important advice for believers when he wrote:

*Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on.*

This is what Yahshua was talking about when He said:

Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I shall give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your beings. For My yoke is gentle and My burden is light, Matthew 11:28 - 30.

Givers and Receivers

Each of us are both givers and receivers of assistance. If we receive something from someone we are also a giver. We are giving our brother or sister the opportunity to serve.

Sometimes brethren have the mistaken attitude of refusing what they view as charity, believing that accepting charity makes them dependent or weak. The "pride of the poor" is viewed by some as noble and self-reliant, but is it really? The song continues:

*Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show*

Pride

Pride's a tough one for many of us.

Most of us, when we think of prideful people

we think of those who boast about wealth or they flaunt some physical attributes like outward beauty or strength to draw attention to themselves.

As believers, we think we would never behave that way, the way that people in the world behave.

Is it possible though that we are still struggling with pride and that it manifests itself in a more subtle way? All of us have human nature that we battle and sometimes we believe our behavior may be righteous, but if we take a closer look at ourselves, it may be stubbornness and pride.

The Importance of the Assembly

The first century assembly set us a tremendous example:

And all those who believed were together, and had all in common, and sold their possessions and property, and divided them among all, as anyone might have need. And day by day, continuing with one mind in the Set-apart Place, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising Elohim and having favor with all the people. And the Master added to the assembly those who were being saved, day by day, Act 2:44 – 47.

People gave, people accepted help as they had need. What if those who had need were too proud to ask for help? What if they wouldn't accept help when it was offered?

Sha'ul (Paul) admonishes us: *And let us be concerned for one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging, and so much more as you see the day coming near,* Hebrews 10:24 – 25.

Being concerned for one another begins when we worship and break bread together. When we have regular worship and fellowship and meals with one another, we learn about each other and how we can help and serve. We can also begin to trust one another when we need help and to allow a brother to

share our burden, without fear of being judged. We can put aside that feeling of self-consciousness and embarrassment about our own struggles. Isn't that really just pride, when it comes right down to it? We can't really develop that trust with the brethren, if we stay home and keep the Sabbath by watching a service on the internet. We might gain a lot of biblical knowledge, or learn the nuances of Hebrew words. But what about putting that knowledge to work with our relationships with each other? That's why we're commanded (not suggested) to assemble together for worship. We really need personal contact with each other.

Yahshua set us an example of service when He taught us to wash one another's feet. How could we do that if one would not allow us to serve them? When we're in regular contact with each other, the barriers come down and people are more readily willing to accept help. Consequently, if we're the one needing the help, we feel more comfortable accepting the assistance.

Kēpha (Peter) said to Him, "By no means shall You wash my feet, ever!" Yahshua answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me," Yochanan (John) 13:8.

When Yahshua explained what He meant by washing the disciples feet He said:

So when He had washed their feet and taken His garments, and sat down again, He

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Mini Study



Must We Meet with Others for Worship

How important is gathering regularly on Sabbaths?

When Yahweh offered His Covenant with Israel in Exodus 24:1-7, He promised them certain blessings and protection. Israel readily agreed to this covenant. Exodus 25 onward reveals Israel's responsibilities. They were to offer some of their "spoils" taken from the Egyptians so that a sanctuary might be constructed for Yahweh to dwell in and be among the people. Yahweh asked only for a portion of that which He had given them.

Precise instructions were given for building both the Tabernacle and the furniture, along with the required instruments to be used in a specific way in His worship. Similarly, Yahweh has given us guidelines that reveal how He wants to be worshipped today.

The Book of Leviticus deals with specific instructions for mankind in our worship of Yahweh. Chapter 23 gives us the seven Annual Holy Days and the weekly Saturday Sabbath, which are to be observed forever, we find. All Israel was to gather in holy convocation at these special times.

We Do Not Worship at Jerusalem

With the destruction of the Temple and the razing of Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E., worship could no longer continue at Jerusalem. Yahshua had alluded to this with the woman at the well in

said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Master, and you say well, for I am. Then if I, Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example, that you should do as I have done to you," Yochanan (John) 13:12 - 15.

The example goes both ways though. Not only are we to wash one another's feet (serve each other), we are also to allow our feet to be washed (accept the service of another).

Accepting the gift of service from a brother is as much of an act of service as the gift itself. Would we want to deny a brother or sister a chance to be of service? When we are in regular fellowship with each other though, we can begin to trust one another that the service offered is from the heart and not meant to exalt oneself or belittle the one receiving it. Isn't that why sometimes people don't want to accept help? They feel like the one offering it just wants to feel superior to them, or they feel less righteous for needing the help. When we're meeting at a minimum every Sabbath, hopefully more frequently, we get to know one another on a deeper more personal level. We see that we all have trials that we're struggling with. We all have sins that we are battling to overcome. These trials and sins manifest themselves in different ways in different believers but we all have them. When we see that in each

other, we are then moved by YAHWEH's Spirit to try to help. Sometimes that help might be for physical needs, or prayer for healing or to overcome a trial.

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, so that you are healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous one accomplishes much, Ya'akov (James) 5:16.

If we say that we have no sin, we are misleading ourselves, and the truth is not in us, 1 Yochanan (1 John) 1:8.

The Song Continues:

*You just call on me
brother, when you
need a hand
We all need somebody to
lean on
I just might have a problem
that you'll understand
We all need somebody to
lean on
Lean on me, when you're
not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on*

[Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.*]

*You just call on me
brother, when you
need a hand
We all need somebody to
lean on
I just might have a problem
that you'll understand
We all need somebody to*

lean on

[Proverbs 27:17 *Iron is sharpened by iron, and a man sharpens the face of his friend.*]

*If there is a load you have
to bear*

That you can't carry

I'm right up the road

I'll share your load

Our need may not be a physical one, maybe it's a spiritual battle we're fighting alone. Some people are battling to overcome hurts and scars they suffered as children or as adults who made a lot of mistakes before they were called. Some people are battling loneliness and isolation. Some people are battling sins like pornography or coveting or bitterness or anger. Sometimes people are too proud to let a brother or sister help them through that. When we begin to trust each other though, that's when the real healing can take place as Almighty Father Yahweh brings us all together as the Body of Messiah.

For I say, through the favor which has been given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he should think, but to think soberly, as Elohim has given to each a measure of belief. For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, the many, are one body in Messiah, and members each one of one another, Romans 12:3 - 5.

And may the Elohim of patience and encouragement give to you to mind the same thing

among one another according to Yahshua Messiah, that with one accord and with one mouth you may glorify the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah. Because of this, be friendly, and **bear one another's burdens** as Messiah also brought us close to the glory of Elohim, Romans 15:5 – 7.

For, brothers, you were called to liberty. Only do not use this liberty for an opening to the flesh. But through love **serve one another**, Galatians 5:13.

We All Are A Work In Progress

At different times in our walk we may have different gifts and different needs. Look at our teacher, the apostle Sha'ul (Paul). He was a man who thought he had everything; position, power, prestige and knowledge. In an instant, he became blind and helpless and needed to be led by the hand to safety. Our trials may not be that dramatic, but they can be just as debilitating.

Someone who is just being called into the truth, may need a lot of help at first. If they are wise and humble, they will accept help from brethren who are more established. Often times, those Yahweh calls are people who are broken, and hurt and need help physically as well as spiritually.

For look at your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not

many noble. But Elohim has chosen the foolish matters of the world to put to shame the wise, and Elohim has chosen the weak of the world to put to shame the strong. And Elohim has chosen the low-born of the world and the despised, and the ones that are not, that He might bring to naught the ones that are, so that no flesh should boast in His presence. And of Him you are in Messiah יהושע (Yahshua) Who became for us wisdom from Elohim, righteousness also, and set-apartness and redemption, that, as it has been written, **"He who boasts, let him boast in YAHWEH,"** 1 Corinthians 6:26 – 31.

Almighty Father Yahweh doesn't expect us to stay this way though. He has big plans for us and He expects us to grow. Just as our brother and teacher Sha'ul (Paul) didn't stay blind and helpless, we are to make progress in this spiritual journey.

But grow in the favor and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the esteem both now and to a day that abides. Amēn, 2 Peter 3:18.

So, as an example, it may be that we find ourselves as someone who has just learned that the Scriptures teaches us to tithe on our income. Our human nature and prideful self might be tempted to think, "I can't do that!" I already have too much month at the end of my paycheck. But, one who is wise, might confide in a brother or sister who has been through this

trial before and ask for help. "How can I possibly do this? How did you do it?" They might find that brother is able to help them prioritize their spending, maybe help them find a better paying job, or a way to reduce expenses. Certainly the brother could pray with us about it.

Many times, Yahweh blesses our efforts and provides a way for us. As we are obedient to Him, and we step out in faith and strive to be a part of the body, YAHWEH is able to help us according to His will.

And in the same way the Spirit does help in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groanings unutterable. And He Who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the set-apart ones according to Elohim. And we know that **all matters work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose.** Because those whom He knew beforehand, He also ordained beforehand to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, for Him to be the first-born among many brothers. And whom He ordained beforehand, these He also called, and whom He called, these He also declared right. And whom He declared right, these He also esteemed. What then shall we say to this? **If Elohim is for us, who is against us?** (Romans 8:26 – 31).

Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of favor, in order to receive compassion, and **find favor for timely help**, Hebrews 4:16 .

And to **Him who is able to do exceedingly above what we ask or think**, according to the power that is working in us, to Him be esteem in the assembly by Messiah Yahshua unto all generations, for ever and ever. Amēn, Ephesians 3:20 – 21.

Almighty Father YAHWEH's desire for us is to live with Him throughout all eternity. He desires that we come together as His children and become the place where He can dwell.

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens of the set-apart ones and members of the household of Elohim, having been built upon the foundation of the emissaries and prophets, Yahshua Messiah Himself being chief corner-stone, in Whom all the building, being joined together, grows into a set-apart Dwelling Place in יְהוָה (Yahweh) in Whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit, Ephesians 2:19 – 22.

And I appeal to you, brothers, by the Name of our Master Yahshua Messiah, that you all agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be knit together in the same mind and in the same opinion, 1 Corinthians 1:10.

When we lean on each other, when we support one another, when we come together as an

assembly, we are doing what Almighty YAHWEH has created us to do: To love one another, to serve one another, to be served by one another, and to share one another's burdens and trials, to grow together. So lean on me and let me lean on you.

Together, we'll be in YAHWEH's Kingdom.

Brother John Illgen

<from Investment page 5>

plants a vineyard, and eats not of the fruit thereof? Or who feeds a flock, and eats not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? Or says not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, you shall not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads out the corn. Does Elohim take care for oxen? Or says He it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that plows should plow in hope; and that he that threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the Good News of Messiah. Do you not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so has Yahweh or-

dained that they which preach the Good News should live of the Good News.

In Malachi, the prophet issues a sobering chiding of those who allowed the work of Yahweh to suffer for personal gain. Notice:

Will a man rob Elohim? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, says Yahweh of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it, Malachi 3:8 - 10.

The economic principle of Scripture is simple: Put Yahweh first, and He promises that His blessings will be returned many times over.

Simply put, worship is more than service of the lips. It involves doing and sharing, and putting Yahweh foremost in our lives.

The question is, do we worship "me" first and Yahweh second (or not at all) by our unwillingness to return a tenth part of what is rightfully all of His to begin with?

Let Him not charge us of robbing the Most High of His portion. To do so is theft of the HIGHEST proportions.

Elder Donald R. Mansager
(deceased)

History

The Key to Coming Events! — Part 1

To understand the prophecies of the coming beast government foretold in Daniel and Revelation, we must go back and restudy world history. The Bible's central focus is always on Israel and the nations that surround her. Yahweh gave His chosen people the land of Israel. And Yahshua will set up His millennial government at Jerusalem.

This two-part study on prophecy begins with Habakkuk, the ancient yet space-age prophet.

Classed by Bible scholars as one of the minor prophets, there is nothing minor about the book written by Habakkuk. It is evident that he was a highly educated and devout man. Habakkuk wrote in classical Hebrew, in a beautiful style, and eloquent rhetoric. The message is clearly for our time, although it was written 600 years before the Messiah's birth.

Habakkuk raises the age-old question (Hab. 1: 3 - 4), why the wicked are allowed to oppress and persecute the righteous. Why do those striving to be obedient suffer? Furthermore, why does Yahweh punish His own people at the hands of others who are far more wicked? (1:13).

Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted three times in the New Testament: Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38, where it is read that "... the just shall live by his faith." This was the source of the rallying cry of the Reformation, "Faith alone!" It must be noted here, however, that the word "alone" was added by the reformers. Believing is not enough. We are to act on the faith we have to show we believe in it.

The Hebrew word translated "faith" is *emuwnah*, Strong's Hebrew Dictionary No. 530, which means either firmness, security or faithfulness. The only meaning Habakkuk evidently had in mind by *emuwnah*, which does not contradict other Scriptures, is faithfulness.

"The righteous will live by his faithfulness" has a different connotation from "the righteous will live by his belief or trust in the Messiah."

The New Testament writers also grasped this vital truth and elaborated on this truth. Belief and trust in the Messiah enhances the faithfulness of the righteous. Faithfulness to what?

O Yahweh, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear! Even cry out unto You of violence, and You will not save! Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment does never go forth: for the wicked does compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth, Habakkuk 1: 2 – 4.

Clearly, the believer is to develop faithfulness to Yahweh's law! Habakkuk did not go up on the ramparts to watch for the coming Messiah. He watched what was going on among the nations and compared what he saw with that which Yahweh told him so that he might understand how he should respond.

Habakkuk's Prophecy on Target

With that background, let us climb up a spiritual rampart and look around. Will our views be similar to the situation described by Habakkuk?

Here's what we see:

- Crime, violence, disregard for the law and authority and a perversion of justice, Habakkuk 1:3 - 4.
- Reverence of business that borders on worship, Habakkuk 1:15 - 17.
- All those things in Habakkuk chapter two for which Babylon will be judged.
- Hypocritical worship of Yahweh in which mere lip service is proffered as described in Matthew 15:7 - 8; and van-

ity, disobedience, covetousness, unthankfulness, unholy, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of Yahweh, 2 Timothy 3: 1 - 5.

These are not natural times. Very few people even pay lip service to Yahweh today. The influence of the religion of the Bible continues to wane year after year and the morality of our nation and the world continues ever downward. Surely is being fulfilled the warning of the Messiah in Matthew 24:33 that when we see all these things come to pass, that the return of Yahshua is even at the door.

Bible students studying prophecy and who have learned the lesson of the fig tree know that the culmination of the age is near. Many others in all levels of our society can also see the signs of the coming end of the age.

Environmentalists are concerned over the pollution of our air, the rivers and lakes, and of the earth itself. The loss of the rain forests, acid rain, and drought make us aware that the precarious balance of nature is breaking down. There may not be sufficient time to correct these mistakes. Scoffers and skeptics are becoming increasingly concerned about what they see coming on this earth. Overpopulation, the threat of nuclear war, upset weather, and incurable diseases are but a few concerns of science.

Christians are convinced they will not be deceived by the

Man of Sin into worshipping the beast and receiving its mark. But a bigger question we must ask is, have they been deceived already? Have they been lured into a misunderstanding of the message given us by the prophets?

Are the beasts in Daniel to be equated with those in Revelation? Extreme care must be exercised that we do not become adamant in our position relating to prophecy, thus failing to recognize the Man of Sin and where this prophecy fits with the end-time beast in the Book of Daniel.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads;

and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things, Daniel 7:1-8.

Bible Beast and Empires

In the Bible, beasts usually symbolize nations or empires. First, Daniel saw a lion with eagle's wings.

Evidently this combination represented a union of earthly and spiritual power, and was actually used by the Babylonians as the emblem of their empire. They considered Babylon to be such a union.

Next, the bear with bones in its mouth apparently symbolized the same Medo-Persian empire depicted by the ram in Daniel 8:20. The Medo-Persian empire overthrew the Babylonians and ruled the Biblical world until the rise of the Greeks.

The third was the four-winged leopard with a bird on its back must symbolize the same Grecian empire as the four-horned goat in Daniel 8:21 - 22. The Grecian empire split

four ways upon the death of its first king, Alexander, with his four generals dividing up his empire among themselves.

The Roman Empire overthrew the part of the Greek Empire that ruled over Judea. Therefore, the terrible fourth beast must symbolize the Roman Empire.

While the Bible verifies these identifications of the beasts in Daniel's prophecy, no hint of time is given us. To gain some idea of the relationship of time involved, consider a few facts from the history of the empire not dealt with in the Bible.

The Roman Empire began its conquest of the Grecian Empire by defeating the Macedonians in 197 B.C.E. The Romans did not conquer the Seleucid division of the Grecian empire, which ruled over Judea, until the Roman General Pompey defeated Aristobulus II at Jerusalem in 63 B.C.E. – 134 years! Thus, the establishment of the Roman Empire took place over a longer period of time than any of the earlier empires.

Two Legs — Two Kingdoms

Daniel 2:31 – 45 reveals the metal man of Nebuchadnezzar's dream with the head of gold, arms of silver, belly of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and miry clay.

From verse 38, we learn that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, is the head of gold. The nation of Babylon is symbolized by the first beast, the lion with eagle wings. It follows, then,

that iron legs of the image must symbolize the same kingdom as the fourth beast, the Roman Empire.

The prophecy of the fourth beast does not imply that the Roman Empire became a divided kingdom, but the two legs of the image and Daniel 2:41 strongly imply this.

The Bible does not give us details of the split of the Roman Empire into the eastern division and western division shortly after Emperor Constantine made Christianity the imperial religion of Rome. Constantine died in 337 C.E. and the eastern division of the empire became known as the Byzantine Empire about 467 C.E. Eastern Christianity became Greek Orthodox Catholicism. Western Christianity remained Latin Catholicism, called the Roman Catholic Church.

In the late 11th century a nomadic people known as the Ottoman Turks surged west from Turkestan and overwhelmed the Persians of Iran and the Muslims of Iraq. The Turks became Persian in culture, Islamic in religion, and fanatical about uniting the world into one Islamic government.

As Shiite partisans, the Turks came to look upon their conquest as a "jihad" (holy war) against unbelievers. They conquered the Byzantine Empire in 1453 and by 1513 had pushed their Muslim conquest of Europe almost to Vienna, Austria. Ottoman emperors saw themselves sitting on the throne of the Caesars and ruling all the

lands once ruled by the Roman Empire. This was true in the east. In the west, Europe remained under the rule of the popes of Rome and the German kings of the so-called Holy Roman Empire.

The two legs of iron represent this Holy Roman Empire. A normal foot has five toes, and the two feet, ten toes. The fact that the feet are smashed by the rock that becomes Yahweh's Kingdom implies that an east-west division of nations survives until the Messiah's return.

If this is true, the ten toes cannot symbolize a revived Roman Empire consisting of the ten Common Market countries of western Europe. The implication is that the ten toes symbolize a loose confederation of five western nations and another loose confederation of five eastern nations.

It just so happens that, as we approached the end of the 20th century, that there were five major Christian nations of Western Europe that are totally or partially within the boundaries of the ancient Roman Empire of the Caesars. There are also five major Islamic nations that are totally within the boundaries of the eastern division of the old Roman Empire. They are: Christian — Italy, Germany, France, Spain, and England; Islamic — Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.

If our understanding of prophecy is correct, one foot is anchored in Rome, which is dominated by Christians, while

the other foot is in Constantinople and is Muslim.

What more significant understanding of the iron and clay mixture could there be than the fact that these ten nations are a mixture of races, languages, traditions, customs and background, yet the nations of each division fundamentally unite in culture, religion, and economy.

The western nations are basically Grecian in culture and Christian in religion. The eastern nations are essentially Persian in culture and Islamic in religion. The nations within each division have at times been at war with each other, yet many prelates of the various religious factions within these nations are at work attempting to unify the religion with each division — Roman Catholicism in the west, Shiite Islam in the east. The Shiite Muslims today are reactivating the very "jihad" fanaticism that pushed Roman Catholicism to the brink of extinction. Daniel prophesies of these nations and governments:

And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth

kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom, is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him, Daniel 7:20 – 27.

Many Bible scholars and commentators assume that the ten horns and the ten toes are different symbols for the same thing. But in Daniel's vision of the beast with ten horns, there are actually eleven horns and only eight of them survive until the Messiah's return. If the ten horns and the ten toes symbolize the same thing, why the difference in the visions?

History Through Dark Glasses

Many people don't believe anything apart from what the

Bible says. Such people, though, believe without question interpretations of Bible prophecy founded upon a knowledge of the history of nations. They fail to realize that there can be no understanding of the prophets without figuratively standing upon the ramparts and watching what is going on among the nations and comparing what is seen with what the prophets said.

Traditional understanding of Bible prophecies was conceived since the Protestant Reformation by Bible scholars who were ignorant of ancient history beyond what the Bible relates. They possessed a very limited knowledge of the history, or even current events, of the nations outside of Europe in their own day.

In the past century, historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, pathologists, sociologists and linguists have brought to light an astounding amount of knowledge, not only of ancient history, but also about what occurred among the nations between the Testaments and since Yahshua's resurrection.

Most Bible scholars of the Reformation were probably as learned for their time as the prophet Habakkuk was for his time, and would have been stunned by a revelation of their ignorance of history. Just as Yahweh told Habakkuk that he wouldn't believe what he is told, most people today will not believe New Testament prophecies that the knowledge of formerly hidden things will require.

John wrote in Revelation 2: 17a,

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the assemblies; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.

What does Yahshua mean by the expression "hidden manna"? Read Exodus 16:15.

Yahshua tells us in John 6:35 that He is the Bread of Life. (The Hebrew word "manna" means "what is it.") Even though Moses said it was bread, we know that it was not literally bread but a miraculous food sent from Yahweh to feed His people.

No one can conquer or overcome the world without having eaten of the Bread of Life. Knowledge of Yahshua the Messiah has not been hidden since the resurrection. "What is it" that has been hidden? Wisdom? Solomon wrote,

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding, Proverbs 9:10.

Reverence for Yahweh and the knowledge of the Holy One have been ignored or rejected, but not hidden. Anyone who studies the Bible can find "what is it" that has been hidden from mankind - understanding of history! This must be the hidden "what is it" (manna) in Revelation 2:17.

If there are any lingering doubts in your mind, consider this: why do footnote references in the Bible that deal with prophecies refer to the action of kings and nations? Also, why would the editors of the New

International Version of the Bible be inspired to insert a chronology of history chart before the title page?

What difference would knowledge of ancient history make in our understanding of prophecy, especially New Testament prophecy? Let me give you a brief look at a couple of things.

Yahweh brought Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees and promised to give him and his descendants possession of the land of Canaan, Genesis 11:31; 15:5 – 7, 13 – 21; Galatians 3:29.

Is there any question about Abraham's descendants' being heirs to the land destined to become the Kingdom of heaven on earth?

Babylon — A Long and Sordid Past

We are to come out of Babylon. Why? Lest we become partakers of her sins, Revelation 18:2 – 5. Is that the reason Yahweh brought Abraham out of Ur? A look at the history of Babylon will tell us something about this that the Bible doesn't.

Historians, archaeologists, and linguists have determined that the civilized life we know began in a region between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, known as Mesopotamia, about 5,000 years before the birth of the Messiah, Genesis 10:8 – 12 and 11:1 – 1.

Alexander Hislop tells us in his book, *The Two Babylons*, that Nimrod is the Biblical name for "Ninus." Ninus was an

Assyrian king. Inscriptions of his name are the most ancient ever to be unearthed by archaeologists. The inscriptions state that Ninus or Nimrod was the first king ever to engage in wars with his neighbors.

The inscriptions also verify the fact that Ninus subjugated all of Mesopotamia (meaning "land between the rivers") to his rule. He built the city of Nineveh in Assyria as the seat of his government and he built the city of Babylon in Mesopotamia. Legend has it that Ninus (i.e., Nimrod) was the ruling king during the building of the tower of Babel, Gen. 11:4.

The Assyrians so admired, even revered, Ninus and his queen that they elevated them to the status of gods after their deaths. This was long before Abraham's time.

The Chaldeans moved into the region of Sumer in southern Mesopotamia about 3,000 years before the birth of the Messiah. These people were strong enough to not only resist Assyrian domination but also to free the Akkadians, which Genesis 10:10 tells us were among the first people conquered by the Assyrians.

The Chaldeans and Akkadians remained racially and linguistically distinct, but became one people culturally and socially in a political union powerful enough militarily to drive out the Assyrians and establish an empire known as Babylonia in lower Mesopotamia.

The Assyrian Empire remained intact in northern Mesopotamia and for centuries under

various Assyrian kings warred with the Babylonians in attempts to regain dominion over the area.

The people of city states ruled by the Akkadian-Chaldean people, now known as Babylonians, preferred the tyranny of the Assyrians to the even more tyrannical rule of the Babylonians. They often sided with the Assyrians and even openly rebelled against the Babylonians.

"Divine" Right of Kings

During these troubled times a Babylonian king named Naram-Sin (se-un) moved his throne from the city of Babylon to Ur of the Chaldeans and declared himself to be a god.

Naram-Sin, Babylonian king of Ur, is the first king known to historians to have proclaimed himself to be a deity. And this was probably less than half a century before Abraham was born at Ur. Now the vassal kings of city states ruled by Babylonian kings apparently found it expedient to claim they ruled their domain by divine right of deity. To them, of course, the deity who granted the right to impose rule was the Babylonian king.

Except for the pharaohs of Egypt, the cult of king worship was not widely adopted outside of Babylon. But, the kings of the ancient near east, who were not under Babylonian rule, seem to have latched onto the idea of ruling by the divine right of the "gods." The "gods" these kings had in mind, of

course, were not deity at all, only figments of the imaginations of men.

It is interesting that the idea of "the divine right of kings" has come down to us from a Babylonian king who ruled Babylon over 4,000 years ago. One has but to look at the history of Europe to find rulers who assumed this prerogative and note their dismal record.

After Abraham was born, there arose another king who ruled Babylon from Ur of the Chaldeans, Ur-Nammu. This king promulgated the first written law code in all history. This law code became the basis for the most famous law code in all history — the law Code of Hammurabi, king of Babylon about 13 centuries after Ur-Nammu of Ur.

Ur was the most important cult center of the moon deity, Nanna-Sin in southern Mesopotamia. Terah at this time moved his family, including Abraham, from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran of the Assyrians, which was at that time the most important cult center for the moon deity in northern Mesopotamia.

Revelation 18:4 says we are to come out of Babylon lest we become partakers of her sins. Yahweh doesn't tell us why He brought Abraham and therefore his descendants out of Ur and Haran, but even this sketchy summary of recently revealed history of ancient Babylon can hardly leave any question as to why. Yahweh's reason must have been the same reason He commands us to come out of

her — to prevent us from participating in Babylon's sins.

The world will witness a universal deception that will entrap most. Paul warned in a prophetic message to us,

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshiped; so that he as Elohim sits in the temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4.

During the time of the end foreshadowed by Habakkuk's prophecy, the man of sin will do exactly what the Babylonian king Naram-Sin did before Abraham was born. He will exalt himself above all of man's false gods: the Lord, Allah, Krishna, Buddha, and all others and demand to be worshiped as the true Mighty One, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4.

Next Part: What are the beast, the horn, the abomination in the temple, stars, and a woman dressed in scarlet, and what do they all mean in terms of future events coming on this earth?

Elder Ralph Henrie (deceased)

Atonement: Past and Present

In this modern age, so many are so busy with life that they cannot see what the purpose for life really is. When we look at the past and present, we see some similarities, but also some differences. To comprehend the present more fully, we need to first understand the foundation which has already been set.

Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to Yahweh. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before Yahweh your Elohim. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people, Leviticus 23:27 – 29 NKJV.

Like the weekly (7th Day) Sabbath, we keep this as a day of rest from work, but since this was done under the Levitical Order, we don't offer sacrificial offerings by fire.

We see under the Melchizedek Order in Messiah, that we still keep this day set apart, but we offer rather of our increase and of ourselves. See our free booklets entitled, *The Temple Tenth* and *Orthodox Believers*.

It's wonderful to think of Yahshua as our High Priest in the heavenly realm. Is He interceding for us, as the high priest would intercede on the peoples behalf in the past? If Satan is accusing us, which Scripture says he does, day and night, Yahshua is then, no doubt, interceding for us.

We'll all be amazed to see just how much goes on in the spirit realm, once we are changed ourselves and can witness all of it.

Kept: Past, Present, and Future

And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be to you

a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall observe your Sabbath, Leviticus 23:30 – 32 NKJV.

We afflict our souls, as commanded. On the 10th day we fast, from sunset of the 9th to the sunset of the 10th. In the New Covenant (Acts 27:9), we find this actually referred to as "the Fast." No water and no food. Harder for some than others. And, of course, we do the best we can, given health issues and the like.

This Day is serious, however, as we've read, "any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people." Why is it so important? Why is it needed? Because it's part of the process that Yahweh set forth from the beginning for the reconciliation of Himself and Israel and all of mankind in general. It's foundational.

For us, it is somewhat symbolic of the sacrificial death of Yahshua Messiah. It also points to a prophetic atonement process in the coming Kingdom, in which Atonement will be kept after His return.

You shall then sound a ram's horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land. You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family, Leviticus 25:9 – 10 NASB.

There have been a lot of studies and interest about Daniel's Timeline (found in Dan 9:24 — 27), and the Jubilee years, and the Messiah's return. I'm sure there will be more interest and more dates offered in the months and years ahead.

In the meantime, we can point to Yahshua Who actually spoke about proclaiming a release to the prisoners and quotes the first part of Isaiah chapter 61.

How do we understand this release in our own lives? Certainly, we are forgiven of our past sins, but is that it? Not at all.

Obedience to The Father

What did Yahshua teach? Aren't we to follow in His footsteps? Yes, and in doing so, we submit to Yahweh. Remember what Yahshua said about Who is good?

"Why do you call Me good?" Yahshua answered. "No one is good — except Yahweh alone," Mark 10:18 NIV.

Yahshua was submitting to Yahweh fully. He didn't sin, so one would think that Yahshua was good, also. "Good" meant excellent in all quality and character, the very core nature of Yahweh is eternal life itself. A very good thing. Yahshua took the opportunity to give honor to Yahweh and allow people to know where goodness truly comes from. The source of all life and goodness: Yahweh.

Mankind is at fault, however, and is in need of a Savior.

For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin, Ecclesiastes 7:20 NKJV.

Yet, we do see that with determination to study and follow Yahweh's Holy Word and especially with Yahweh's Spirit imparted, one can be blameless and faithful.

Perfect? No, but certainly following a righteous path with continued growth with perfection in mind. The path is Yahweh's way, His Holy Word,

which was also seen lived out in the Messiah.

The Apostle Paul was said to be blameless (Acts 24:14, 16; 25:8), but how was he able to be blameless? By the Spirit of Yahweh, which he also acknowledged was in the brethren.

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by Yahweh, Romans 15:14 – 16 NKJV.

He recognized the forgiveness received and also the Spirit within, and he wanted to encourage the brethren to also be blameless with the goodness afforded to them by Yahweh and Yahshua. Essentially, having received Atonement and being brought into a right relationship with Them.

With all of that said, we do make mistakes; we do continue through a process of refinement, maturing and growing, as we follow the written Word, and Yahshua, in the Spirit. We understand more and more, with our character and integrity improving and growing.

We are being worked with, and Yahweh's Spirit is allowing us to have true belief and works, in the Name of Yahshua, the only begotten Son of Yahweh. In learning about Atonement, we are to consider how it was done in the past, but with a

spiritual approach to it today.

Blood and Water Purify

There were a lot of purification rites under the Levitical Priesthood, which had to be done with blood and water. Even the altar of incense had to be purified.

It says in Exodus 30:10 ESV,

Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most holy to Yahweh.

In Revelation, there are references to the smoke of incense along with the prayers of the saints rising to Yahweh. In fact, the prayers of the saints are likened to bowls of incense.

Some assemblies will use incense as a type of symbolic purification and holiness rite, and they will also burn candles, which, a couple verses before verse 10, actually does talk about "trimming the lamps," which is another study in itself.

We don't do these things in Messiah, except in the spiritual sense. For example, letting our light shine and viewing our prayers being like incense to Yahweh.

In the Levitical Order, things were very particular, and had to be done exactly as commanded or death would result. We find during Atonement, a good chapter to cover is Leviticus 16. Let's consider some of the actions taken in it.

Now Yahweh spoke to Moses

after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of Yahweh and died. Yahweh said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat," Leviticus 16:1 – 2 NASB.

As you may recall, Aaron's sons had brought in strange fire (Lev. 10:1), and that was certainly not allowed. The fire was to be taken from the coals from the altar (Lev. 16:12), but they evidently got it from somewhere else. The result of that transgression (sin, 1 John 3:4) was that they died. How important is it then for us to listen carefully, and to do what we're told?

Symbolism, Types, and Antitypes

Moses is listening very attentively at this point, and has to relay what Yahweh is telling him to tell his brother Aaron, the assigned high priest and Levite for the Temple worship.

Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on, Leviticus 16:3 – 4 NASB.

Should we take things this far today? How far do we go? What Covenant was in the past, and what Covenant are we in today? Any changes (Heb. 7:12)? Are we not able to discern type from antitypes? That is, something in the past which points to something in the future?

When you search the Internet you'll find a few "Levites" and "high priests" (at least that must be what they're trying to look like) who are wearing what appear to be Levitical priestly garments. These are for the Levite priests, but the thing is we're seeing those who are proclaiming the Messiah are wearing these things, and they are most likely not Levites. It doesn't really matter. We are to put on the Messiah, not Levitical articles of clothing.

Ritual purification washings (today being called *miqve'oth*) are also popular among some. Yet, the reason for these was so the temple (tabernacle, at that time) was not defiled. You read of this in Leviticus 15:31. We know why they were done, at that time. They were a type of purification before Yahweh, to be justified before Him. Today there is only one immersion needed in Messiah.

Continuing, and reading further in Leviticus 16:5 – 6 NASB, it says,

He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering

which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household.

Two goats, a ram, and a bull. Each having significance, but we'll really want to take a look at the two goats.

He shall take the two goats and present them before Yahweh at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for Yahweh and the other lot for the scapegoat, Leviticus 16:7 – 8 NASB.

There is some symbolism we can surmise from this when we think about the two opposite forces, such as Yahshua the Messiah and Satan the devil. Satan is often considered as the scapegoat or goat of removal (H5799, *azazel*), while Yahshua the sin offering for all the people and for all their sins.

This is one thing that is different about Atonement over Passover. Passover was an individual atonement. The actual Day of Atonement was for all of the people, collectively.

Further we read, in Leviticus 16:15 – 16 NASB,

Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of

meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

While this sacrificial goat appears to fit with Yahshua's sacrifice for us today, it's interesting that the other goat seems to also have some symbolism which could be related to the Savior.

Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness, Leviticus 16:21 NASB.

The problem with this being related to the Savior is that this goat is not killed right away, even though it would eventually die. This, then, is more closely related to Satan. Notice here how the hands of a man, who stands in readiness, takes the goat away. Now take a look at Revelation, to see a similar situation:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, Revelation 20:1 – 2 ESV.

This angel evidently stood in waiting to lay his hands on Satan to take him away. This is very similar to what we saw in the Atonement account of the past, even though we can think of the one goat as a covering for

us even today.

We see this was more appropriate in the Passover than in Atonement for us, the Passover providing individual atonement.

Interestingly enough, in Exodus 12:5, a goat in place of the lamb could be used if the individual family was too poor to afford a lamb.

Prophetically, we see Atonement not yet completely fulfilled. Today, we observe Atonement more for understanding of what is ahead in the future for all of Israel, but also because the Appointed Time still stands as a commanded gathering and annual Sabbath.

Annual Sabbaths are said to be forever (Lev. 23), with no end. Today, they are kept without the blood of animals; today, it is with different sacrifices and offerings, the "calves of our lips" (Hos. 14:2), for example.

Life is in the Blood

But Yahweh demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him, Romans 5:8 – 10 NKJV.

Why blood though? What is the significance of blood in all the sacrifices, both Levitical and for us now in Messiah, through His one sacrifice?

The Israelites, evidently, had this question among themselves, so Yahweh tells them and us WHY it is needed:

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to

you upon the altar to make atonement for your lives, for it is the blood that makes atonement for the life, Leviticus 17:11 TS.

When we get into the New Covenant writings, we see clarification as to how Yahshua's blood is so much better, because we, now, receive of the Spirit from Yahweh which does far more than we could hope.

Entering the Holy of Holies

In Hebrews 9:7 – 8 NIV, it states,

But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning.

While some translations don't say ignorant sins, the underlying word does actually indicate ignorance. And this is evidently what the author understood about the Atonement offering. Even though Leviticus chapter 16 indicated all sins, and repeated, as such, the context of the whole of Scripture has to be considered, and that is exactly what the author here is doing.

Knowing the prophesied Messiah had come, the author of Hebrews explains all those in Messiah no longer have to go

<see **Atonement** page 22>

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q In part, 1 Corinthians 12:3 says: “no man can say that Yahshua is Sovereign but the Holy Spirit.” My question is: What translation is used here and what other scriptures imply that Yahshua is referred to as SOVEREIGN?

A The translation is given in the first page as the *Authorized Version*, but the "Lord" part was changed to say "Sovereign." "Master" would have also worked. These Titles also work for Yahweh, but One which definitely does not work for both is "Ancient of Days." That Title is exclusive to the Father only (see Daniel's "vision," Dan. 7:9 - 22). Other verses that come to mind, which would indicate the Sovereignty of the Son, would be areas which tell us that every knee will bow to Him (Isa. 45:23 - 24; Phil. 2:10), that He will be called Yahweh our Righteousness (Jer. 33:15 - 16), and He will be worshiped sitting on the throne in the Kingdom (Rev. 3:21). Yet, we know the Ancient of Days does not come down until everything is purified (Rev. 21:1 - 3). Both will be the Temple at that time (Rev. 21:22 - 23). Currently, we already see Light from The Light (Psa. 36:9).

Q In part, Matthew 18:10 says: “angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father Who is in heaven. My question is: Since the angels in heaven are in the spirit realm as is Yahweh, can they see the face of Yahweh?”

A Can the angels see Yahweh's face? Yes, you've read it yourself. They can also, no doubt, hear His voice. It is us who

cannot see His face (1 Tim. 6:16), nor have ever heard his actual voice (John 5:37). However, we can and do see and hear (in the members and in the written Word) the Representative, and we also follow Him Who is leading us to eternal life. We firmly believe and declare it was Yahshua representing Yahweh all the way back to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:8 - 18); to Noah (Gen. 6:13 - 21); to Abram (Gen. 12:7 - 8), to Moses (Exod. 33:20), etc. For further clarification, see *Did the Savior pre-Exist?* <http://www.yaiy.org/literature/SaviorPreExist.html>

Q I just finished reading your enhanced article “WHO IS OUR CREATOR?” on your site. It is very enlightening and I am richly blessed. A question I want to ask is from Yahshua’s statement in Luke 24:39 “for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” What was He referring to here as spirit with no flesh and bone? I believe all dead people are in the grave.

A All dead people are in the grave, except for Yahshua. It's interesting He should mention His hands and feet, that is where the nails would have been. However, there was no blood anymore. Spirit only was allowing Him to live; proof of life eternal after death, from the One Who did die and yet not see decay (Psalm 16:10). He was showing this to the disciples and explained to them that He is indeed the One the Scriptures spoke about (v. 44 - 48). He is the only One resurrected to eternal life at this time (Acts 13:32 - 39), but there will be first fruits at the appointed time (1 Cor. 15:23)...the time of His return.

Q **Ecclesiastes 12:7, Acts 7:59 and Luke 23:46 use the word spirit as a part of man that returns to Yahweh at death. What is that spirit?**

A *Ruach* (Hebrew) is spirit in the Old Testament, and *pneuma* (Greek) is spirit in the New. Both are often translated “wind.” We cannot see wind (air in motion), but we can see what it does. Spirit is the air we breathe and thought of as the “breath of life.” Yahweh gives life and takes it away. In the resurrection, Yahweh’s Set-apart Spirit will be

given to the firstborn which will make them immortal. Spirit is looked upon as energy or force and has various meanings, including the Holy Spirit.

Q **Why were the children of Israel forbidden to eat a kid seethed in his mother’s milk? Deut. 14:21.**

A The mother’s milk was to give life to the kid, not make the milk an instrument of death. Some scholars contend that it is next to impossible to boil milk with a kid.

<from **Atonement** page 20>
through the purification procedures or ritual blood sacrifices anymore under the Levitical priesthood.

This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order, Hebrews 9:9 –10 NIV.

The New Order, which he is speaking of, is the Melchizedek Order. The one, in which, those in Messiah abide.

But Messiah, having become a High Priest of the coming good matters, through the greater and more perfect Tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, entered into the Most Set-apart Place once for all, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, having obtained everlasting redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the

defiled, sets apart for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of the Messiah, Who through the everlasting Spirit offered Himself unblemished to Elohim, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? (Hebrews 9:11 – 14 TS).

While we see what Atonement was like in the past, we also see what it is for those of us in Messiah, accepting His position as High Priest and recognizing that we have Him as a Mediator today before the Almighty Father.

We’ve been granted the ability to serve and obey Yahweh as He desires, with clean hearts which love Him and do His will. We are no longer seen as unclean.

It makes us consider our role in life and what we need to be doing now. Yahshua also makes that clear to us:

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many, Mat-

thew 20:27 – 28 KJV.

Let’s consider what this day of Atonement is for us today, in Messiah, and not just what it meant in the past.

We close here with Hebrews 10:21 – 24 NKJV,

And having a High Priest over the house of Yahweh, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.

The time is now to be cleansed from our past sins, to walk in newness of life. If you’d like to know more about the Holy Days of Yahweh, please order your free booklet from us entitled **Biblical Holy Days**.

Elder David Brett



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and plants for man to cultivate —
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Psalm 104:14 NIV.