

YAIY



Beacon



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Matt. 6:26

Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are?

(NLT)

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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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LOOKING FOR HOPE

Hope is the only good that is common to all men; those who have nothing else possess hope still - Thales

We know that the apostle Paul suffered much during his tenure on earth. Once, when he was imprisoned at Rome, he wrote to Timothy telling him of such a life. In II Timothy 3:10-12 Paul writes:

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Messiah delivered me. Yea, and all that will live righteously in the Messiah Yahshua shall suffer persecution.

When the end of this age draws nearer and nearer, we can expect that there will be a great persecution in the world directed towards Yahweh's people in an attempt to dissuade them from following the truth.

However, we receive consolation from the Scriptures, knowing that if we remain steadfast until the end, the blessings promised to the overcomers far exceed the materialistic benefits of this world in both quality and quantity. But, first we must prove ourselves worthy to receive these future blessings.

The World in Tribulation

One can easily equate this future time of trouble, the Great Tribulation, to the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt, and since Egypt typifies sin, Heb. 11:25, 26, the world in tribulation can be viewed as Egypt. We read of this enslavement in Ex. 1:8-14:

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, "Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land." Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the chil-

dren of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

One would not need to have a very extensive imagination to believe that this was instigated by Satan himself, in an attempt to break the spirit of the Israelites and make them forget their Creator. Certainly, similar times are ahead for us during the time of Great Tribulation under the cruel beast system. Rev. 13:13-17 tells us of this:

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

In these crisis times we will certainly have to "keep our cool." We will have to be discreet, have good judgment and be on a continuous lookout for Satan's influence because no one will be totally free of his coercion during this futuristic period of time. 1 Pet. 5:8 speaks of this:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

We must not lose faith but keep our minds alert to the danger. We must never lose hold of our convictions; we must be determined to remain true to Yahweh and His Word to the very end. I Pet. 5:9 and 10

help us out there:

Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the Elohim of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory by the Messiah Yahshua, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

When bondage became so great, the Israelites cried because of their distress and Yahweh heard them, Ex. 2:23-25:

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto Elohim by reason of the bondage. And Elohim heard their groaning, and Elohim remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And Elohim looked upon the children of Israel, and Elohim had respect unto them.

Moses was sent to the Pharaoh to bring Yahweh's people out of Egypt, Ex. 3:8-10. Certainly, Yahweh will not forget us today, but He will hear our cries when we become depressed and oppressed because of the wickedness of the world.

During this time we must not lose our grip on reality; that reality being that there is always hope in everything, in every trying situation. The disheartening fact is that, for the most part, man looks to man for deliverance. This we cannot afford to do, otherwise our cry of hope will not be heard on high by Yahweh but will fall on deaf ears.

Being Rescued

If you were ever literally lost, whether in a big city or out in no-man's land, then you know that the feeling of anxiety increases with each passing moment. Did this ever happen to you? You may even become somewhat hysterical until you finally see a familiar landmark or encounter another person who

knows the way home.

In a sense we read of this in Prov. 13:12, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."

A feeling of great relief overwhelms a person when he finds his way back home, as if the burden of the whole world is lifted from his shoulders. See also Prov. 13:19.

Even during time of tribulation one can obtain hope through faith as Paul writes in Rom. 5:1-5:

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with Yahweh through our Master Yahshua Messiah: by Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of Yahweh. And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of Yahweh is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

The hope of being rescued is freely given us as 2 Thess. 2:14-17 says:

Whereunto He called you by our good news, to the obtaining of the glory of our Master Yahshua Messiah. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Master Yahshua Messiah Himself, and Yahweh, even our Father, Who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

If we believe in what Yahweh tells us in the Scriptures, then the message of Yahweh's Word can give us a living, dynamic hope. Rom. 15:4 says:

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

What great joy and peace of mind the Scriptures will give us in the troubled times which lie ahead for us! All we must do is remain true and steadfast as we read of in Col. 1:5, 23:

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the good news; ...If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the good news, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven.

Where to Place Your Hope

Should one place his hope in worldly possessions? The thought of doing so is alluded to in Job 31:24-28:

If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, "Thou art my confidence"; if I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much; if I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; and my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: this also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the El Who is above.

Have you denied your loving Mighty One through concentrating your life on material things, rather than on the Spiritual? Therefore the answer to the question asked above is a definite NO, for we read what will happen to those who are materialistic in the last part of Prov. 10:28:

The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

The wicked place their hope and trust in themselves, in man and his shortcomings, and in the wealth they might accumulate on this earth. But we should set our eyes a great deal higher - we should do as David did:

And now, Yahweh, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee, Psalm 39:7.

We also read in 1 Peter 1:17-21 that we should place our hope in Yahweh:

And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by Him do believe in Yahweh, Who raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in Yahweh.

In 1 Tim. 1:1 Paul also tells us that our hope, our expectation, our confidence lies in the Heavenly Family:

Paul, an apostle of Yahshua Messiah, by the commandment of Yahweh our Savior, and the Master Yahshua Messiah, Who is our hope.

Yes, there are many things which are better than what this present world can offer. There is a better covenant, Heb. 7:22; better promises, Heb. 8:6; better sacrifices, Heb. 9:19-23; a better substance, Heb. 10:32-34; a better resurrection, Heb. 11:35. Surely, all of these better things emanate from Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, and will be given to those whom Yahweh chooses - His righteous ones, the True Worshipers.

We should place our hope and confidence in heavenly things. Why?

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto Yahweh, Heb. 7:19.

With Yahshua's appearance

and sealing of the New Covenant with His blood we do have a better hope for a more intimate relationship with Yahweh. This we may read about in 1 Peter 1:3-5:

Blessed be the Mighty One and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, Who, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Yahshua Messiah from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of Yahweh through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our future salvation lies in the hope and confidence we place in Yahshua's life and death and resurrection, as Paul tells the Thessalonians in 1 Thess. 5:8-10:

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For Yahweh hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Master Yahshua Messiah, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Benefits Of Hope

With Yahshua's second coming at the end of this present age, we shall witness the fulfillment of the present hope we now hold as Paul tells us in Titus 2:13-14:

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great Mighty One and our Saviour Yahshua Messiah; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Certainly this shall be a time of great joy because His return will initiate our resurrection to everlasting life. If we believe in what we read then this is our hope.

That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of everlasting life,

Titus 3:7.

In hope of everlasting life, which Yahweh, Who cannot lie, promised before the world began, Titus 1:2.

By placing our hope in Yahshua we know that this is a living hope,

Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Yahshua Messiah from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3.

That by two immutable (unchangeable) things, in which it was impossible for Elohim to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope (expectation) set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, Heb. 6:18-19.

The scriptures tell us in no uncertain terms that this hope will lead us to purity (*And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure, 1 John 3:3*), to patience (*But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it, Rom 8:25 and Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Master Yahshua Messiah, in the sight of Elohim and our Father, 1 Thess 1:3*) and to happiness (*Happy is he that hath the Elohim of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in Yahweh his Elohim, Ps. 146:5 and The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish, Prov. 10:28*).

Just as Moses forsook the physical treasures of Egypt and the pleasures of sin and chose to suffer affliction because he knew the greater treasures of Yahweh's Kingdom were better, should we do any less? NO. We must also forsake this present world. We must come out of Babylon if we would draw nigh to Yahweh, Rev. 18:4.

We must sigh and cry out against sin when we see it, Ezekiel 9:4.

Webster defines hope as the desire accompanied by expectation of, or belief in, fulfillment. If we should lose hope... what is left? Despair is the result of the utter loss of hope. Despondency is dangerous because it leads to continuation of sin. See Jer. 2:4, 20-25; 18:1,5,11-12.

If a situation seems insoluble, then that feeling of hopelessness can be conquered by the power from on High. We read in 2 Cor. 4:7-10:

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of Yahweh, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of Yahshua, that the life also of Yahshua might be made manifest in our body.

Yes, knowing that Yahweh's Holy Spirit is our preservative agent against despair, Ps. 42:5-11 and Prov. 2:1-11, we should let our hope and confidence rest in Him, not in man, or in any worldly possessions we may have, for they shall certainly slip from our grasp at the moment of death. But, rather, we should let our hope be the expectation of living again, guaranteed to Yahweh's people through Yahshua's acceptable sacrifice and resurrection from the dead to everlasting life.

Our hope should be Yahweh's Kingdom, that restored Eden, the brilliant future in which we shall see Him, and His Name shall be forever in our foreheads because we are His children.

And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Yahweh Elohim giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever, Rev. 22:4-5.

Living Hope

At the beginning of the first letter which Peter wrote, he wrote to the people of the dispersion about a living hope made available to us because of the resurrection of Yahshua. We read of this in 1 Peter 1:1-3:

Peter, an apostle of Yahshua Messiah, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of Yahweh the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Yahshua Messiah: grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be Yahweh and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of

Yahshua Messiah from the dead.

The word "lively" is translated as "living" in the majority of translations and is the translation of the Greek *zao*, meaning "to live."

Dr. Bullinger, in the Companion Bible, speaks of this hope as the "hope of living again" which is made available to us through the resurrection of Yahshua from the dead. This thought is in agreement with what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:12-22:

Now if Messiah be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Messiah not risen: and if Messiah be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of Yahweh; because we have testified of Yahweh that He raised up Messiah: Whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not, then is not Messiah raised: and if Messiah be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Messiah are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Messiah, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Messiah risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah shall all be made alive.

1 Pet. 1:4 tells us what we are to be hoping for:

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

This inheritance will surely be incorruptible because those who inherit it shall be incorruptible and immortal themselves.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahweh; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; we

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Mini-Study



Do You Have an Immortal Soul?

Churchianity in general teaches that the real you, the real person, is living in a fleshly, temporal body. Our fleshly body is likened to a container of sorts that is embalmed at death and buried in the ground while the real person, the real you, is invisible, having wafted off to heaven – or maybe to an ever-burning hellfire. This ethereal something is referred to as the "soul".

"His soul has departed from the body and is now in heaven with the Lord" is a popular summation of death at many funerals. Often the eulogy alludes to whatever attributes of the deceased are suitable, and concludes by noting that the dead person is actually more alive than ever without the body. The person's body is about to be put in the ground to await the resurrection to heaven, but the soul is already there according to the popular belief.

No Immortal Soul in Scripture

Yahweh's Word presents an entirely different picture of the "soul." Try to find the expression "immortal soul" anywhere in the Bible. It is not there! Nowhere does the Bible declare that the soul or body is naturally immortal. In fact, the opposite is true. Souls can be destroyed. The body is not the soul, because Yahshua said Yahweh is able to destroy both body AND soul:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell," Matt. 10:28.

shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, 1 Cor. 15:50-53.

If one wants to be an occupant in the kingdom of Yahweh through inheritance, one's body must be made immortal. This, indeed, reflects the concept of being able to "live again."

The Starting Point

The believers' living hope based on their new birth should lead to a lifestyle of holiness.

The starting point in our preparation of entering into Yahweh's kingdom begins with one's decision to be immersed into Yahshua's name. 1 Pet. 1:13-16 tells us what must be done, and what must be done continually.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance. But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior); because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Peter wants his readers to prepare to meet the challenge of obedience by adopting a somewhat foreign but completely new mind-set. As Nicodemus said in John 3:4:

How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

In verse 5 NIV, Yahshua gives him the answer:

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of Elohim unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

In these verses Peter is speaking of 6 distinct characteristics: 1)

Prepare your mind for action, 2) Be aware of temptations, 3) Be self-controlled, 4) Set your hope fully, 5) Be not conformed to evil desires, and 6) Mold your character.

Prepare Your Mind For Action

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior); because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy, 1 Peter 1:13-16.

1 Peter 1:13 says we are to: "gird up the loins of our mind." Just as the Israelites were told to "gird up their loins" to be prepared to exit Egypt in a hurry, we are, likewise, to be prepared to live a life in preparation for the coming kingdom. This is done through obedience, which is a conscious act of the will. Knowing that the road ahead to the kingdom will be a rough road, we need a tough-minded holiness that is ready for action.

To gird up our minds, basically, is telling us to focus our minds on Yahweh's work. We initiate this focus by willingly submitting ourselves to follow in Yahshua's steps. This initial step is to be baptized into the name of Yahshua and setting our goals and responsibility to seeking to do Yahweh's will by turning our back on our past life so as not to repeat those wrongdoings we did before.

Be Aware of Manifold Temptations

Once one makes their intentions known, through baptism, to follow that new path which leads to life everlasting, one should also be aware that Satan will be firing

those fiery darts to dissuade your continuance in that path. Peter and James, both, tell us that these trials can be grievous and burdensome.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (trials), James 1:2.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations (trials), 1 Peter 1:6.

In 1 Peter 1:7, Peter tells us of the purpose of such trials:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Yahshua Messiah.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry, 2 Tim. 4:5.

Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews tells us of many instances where people withstood the test of their faith.

These examples, most assuredly, show us that we must have self-control.

Be self-controlled

1 Peter 1:13 tells us to "be sober." In worldly vernacular, sober means not to be physically drunk and unable to control one's movements and even one's speech. Let us take a look at how it is used in the New Testament Scriptures.

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer, 1 Peter 4:7.

Does this verse speak of being physically drunk? NO.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober... But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation, 1 Thess. 5:6, 8.

Do these verses speak of being physically drunk? NO.

For I say, through the grace giv-

en unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as Yahweh hath dealt to every man the measure of faith, Rom. 12:3.

Does this verse speak of being physically drunk? NO.

The Greek words translated as “sober” in these verses, and in some nine other verses in the King James Version, are translated only once as “sober” in the New International Version. That is found in Romans 12:3.

In the other verses (1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Thess. 5:6, 8; 1 Peter 5:8; Titus 1:8; Titus 2:*2, 4; 1 Tim. 3:2, *11 and 2 Cor. 5:*13), in the NIV, the Greek words are translated as “self-controlled,” except those which have an asterisks, which are, in the order of the Scriptures referenced: “love,” “temperate,” and “in our right minds.”

Webster defines self-confidence as “realistic confidence in one’s own judgment.”

Set Your Hope Fully

Most assuredly, the single most important goal in our lives should be that of being a firstfruit when Yahshua returns - that of obtaining everlasting life and reigning in the coming kingdom with Yahshua, the first of the firstfruits.

Our hope is in Yahweh, Psalm 39:7.

In John 5:19 NIV, Yahshua is telling the Jews, who were trying to get Him killed, some truth when He said,

I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Yahshua again states this truth in John 8:28 NIV:

When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the One I claim to be] and that I do nothing on My own but speak just what the Father has taught Me.

Similarly, in John 15:5, where Yahshua says that He is the Vine and we are His branches, we are reminded that in order for us to do anything meaningful, we must abide with Yahshua and bear much fruit:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

In order to bear fruit we are cautioned about our actions in 1 Peter 1:17,

And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Yes, we must fully set our goal, our hope, of living again when Yahshua returns. To do this one must abide in Yahshua and have Him abide in us. By not doing so, our branch will be cut from the vine, cast into the fire and be burned.

Be Not Conformed To Evil Desires

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance, 1 Peter 1:14 NIV.

Obedience involves purifying oneself and practicing holy living, while offering spiritual sacrifices as a royal priest,

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Yahweh through Yahshua Messiah, 1 Peter 2:5 NIV.

Mold Your Character

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He Who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy,” 1 Peter 1:14-16 NIV.

The Hebrew word translated as “Be” is Strong’s #2071, *esomai*

(es'-om-ahee), meaning will be – in the future. “Holy” is translated from Strong’s #40, *hagios* (hag'-ee-os), meaning, for us, from Strong’s #53, *hagnos* (hag-nos'), meaning properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect.

For us to “Be holy” means that, in the future, we will be clean, innocent, modest, perfect. Our lifestyle will reflect not our former ignorance but will reflect our newness in our new birth called to be His own,

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of Yahweh, and of Yahshua our Master, according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and righteousness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue, 2 Peter 1:2-3.

In Old Testament times, Yahweh, even then, wanted His People to be holy.

Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I Yahweh your Elohim am holy, Lev. 19:2.

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am Yahweh your Elohim, Lev. 20:7.

Even though absolute holiness can never be achieved in this life, all areas of life should be in the process of becoming completely conformed to Yahweh's perfect and holy will.

Do Yahweh’s Will

If one wishes to feel like belonging to an important group, Yahshua tells us what we must do:

For whosoever shall do the will of Yahweh, the same is My brother, and My sister, and Mother, Mark 3:35.

This verse definitely says that by doing Yahweh’s will, one feels like being a part of Yahshua’s family.

Not every one that saith unto me Master, Master, shall enter into

<see Hope page 22>

Works of the Flesh versus Fruit of the Spirit

“Liberation, a man once claimed, has meaning only to the oppressed.” To the fat and happy, there is nothing to be liberated from. A Messiah has no meaning to one whose life is turmoil-free. So, let us not allow ourselves to believe that there is no purpose in our current sufferings, nor that Yahweh is displeased with us who have granted mercy to others – only to receive shunning, exile and shaming in return. No. What we are going through is not our Creator letting go of us; rather, He is now preparing us for what is to come and, in the process, He is keeping us on the Way!

We pray for liberation; not here in this time, but Eternal Liberation. Medals hanging from ribbons and the plunder of silver and gold given for worldly victories will be melted down to make bullets by our enemies. There is no hope in victory, for those whose enemies are of the flesh. Nevertheless, when those who fight against malevolent spiritual powers and principalities in high places receive material blessings from Yahweh, are they not gifts to further the work of our Elohim? May it be so, through Yahweh-Yireh, our Provider!

It is important to understand clearly what the differences are between the “Works of the Flesh” and the “Fruit of the Spirit”; especially if we desire to not fall into the realm of the lost. Shaul has some amazing things to say about this.

In this presentation, I will be using Paul’s Hebrew name, Shaul, because “Paul” is a misnomer, meaning “least”; and clearly, Shaul is not the least in terms of what he accomplished in his life, through the Set-apart Spirit. I say this, in spite of his humility, in which he described himself as the least of the Apostles. It should be noted that his Hebrew name means “to inquire, request or demand.”

Works of the Flesh

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV.

Let’s examine these contrasting values and behaviours of the Works of the Flesh.

Adultery

“Adultery” is the Greek word, *moicheia*; which means adultery, and includes the idea of having an illicit male lover. Figuratively, adultery refers to the act of “apostasy,” the act of breaking a covenant originally taken.

So, if the depth of meaning is applied to this word, it not only means someone who commits a sexual act outside of marriage (and the concordant inference is that it is a female who is the offender), it can also mean someone who abandons the worship of Yahweh Elohim to follow a more pleasurable, less strife-filled form of worship. By using the same allusion to gender, the word “adultery” may describe the Bride of Yahshua (that’s all of us, no matter what gender) wandering off from “home” (where we found our “first love”) to seek ever new and exciting ways to find relief from familiarity. Perhaps a better translation for the word, adultery, in a figurative or spiritual sense, is “apostasy.”

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden menorahs: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked

men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love, Revelation 2:1-4 NIV.

Fornication

“Fornication” is the Greek word, *porneia*; which means harlotry (including adultery and incest). The figurative sense is the practice of idolatry.

So, “fornication” does not only reference deviant sexual practices of all types, it implies the spiritual practice of devoting our lives to something, more so than we give our lives over to Yahweh. Let us not give way to the Devil or his legions.

Uncleanness

“Uncleanness” is the Greek word, *akatharsia*; meaning ceremonially impure, morally lewd or especially demonic. It further derives from a Greek word meaning unpruned. Figuratively, it can mean unexpiated, meaning to refuse to apologize or recompense.

So, “uncleanness” here means to be impure due to moral lewdness, even demonically unpruned like a wild thorn-bush, unapologetic and un-recompensing. In other words, the word refers to individuals who are boastful, puffed up in their own pride, uncommunicative and who refuse to be broken in spirit, humble and contrite.

Lewdness (“lasciviousness” in the KJV)

“Lewdness” is the Greek word, *aselgeia*; meaning primarily continent; or, if you understand what it means to be “incontinent” then the opposite would be the unceasing, unrestrained discharge of such matter. It means licentiousness, which refers to immorality and

shamelessness.

OK. Lewdness is not a pretty picture. Of course, spiritually, this word describes individuals who are offensive to everyone they approach, and who have no intent to restrain themselves.

Idolatry

“Idolatry” is the Greek word, *eidololatreia*, meaning image-worship, or the worship of a heathen deity or an idol. It also means to render religious homage or service.

When we worship in Spirit and in Truth, we picture our Heavenly Father and, especially, His Son, Yahshua. We idolize Yahshua – He walked on the very ground we walk on, and we want to BE like Him, to walk in His ways, to speak His words, to see with His eyes and hear with His ears. He is the image we hold in our minds to compare to OUR walk, our talk, our compassion and our vision, so that we may destroy anything that is not in His manner. To idolize Yahshua is not idolatry, as Shaul is describing here. Idolatry is the act of worshipping something material or someone made of flesh and bone. It is comparing ourselves to other persons in order to become like them; it is speaking as they speak, committing the same deeds and applying their principles to our lives. It is seeking power and prestige among men, more so than seeking strength from Yahweh and doing good works in His eyes. That, in my opinion, is what I believe Shaul is referring to in using the word “idolatry.”

Sorcery

“Sorcery” is the Greek word, *pharmakeia*, which means medication, and is the basis for the English word, pharmacy. It includes the idea of magic and witchcraft (the term used the KJV), also the idea of a poisoner.

Allow me to distinguish a “medi-

cation,” developed with the intent of assisting an individual cope with a very real, identifiable disease – and a “drug” or “substance” used to distort reality, mystify or render relief from one’s troubled life. Amphetamines, for example, can be used to stimulate the heart rate when one’s heart has stopped beating. It can also be obtained illegally to stimulate a sense of power and strength in individuals who have succumbed to the belief that they are powerless in their lives. Sorcery is an act of deception, designed to create false hope, false power, false significance, false satisfaction and false courage. It is a mental tool of the Devil to poison our minds as well as our bodies, in the hope that we might DIE without the Truth while trying to escape the hardships of this life. Our call is to endure suffering, not avoid it through seemingly magical means. Substance abuse is not a modern problem, and Shaul clearly identifies “Substance Abuse” in this letter to the Galatians.

I grew up watching TV evangelists performing magical healings, deceiving people into “believing” in the work of their ministry, while they accrued millions of dollars to support their empires. I later participated in a “works and wonders” church, allowing myself to believe in something I really couldn’t fathom. Yahweh called me out of that Babylon with the simple command, “Honor My Sabbath,” a call to abide in Him, not miracles of the flesh.

Hatred

“Hatred” is the Greek word, *echthra*; meaning hostility; and by implication, a reason for opposition. It derives from a Greek word meaning to be hateful; on one hand, to be odious, that is, abhorrent, loathsome, revolting, detestable, repulsive or obnoxious; and on the other hand, it means to be hostile. It also denotes an adversary, enemy or foe, and especially Satan.

The intent of this word, “hatred,” seems to point to that behavior we most often find in unruly adolescents. Clinically, it’s called “Oppositional-Defiant Disorder,” the tendency to argue with everything an adult says. I can imagine the disdain that Shaul must have had when he was preaching the truth, and he would run into opposition from those who had their own agendas. My wife and I thought we were leaving that all behind when we moved from Fresno, California, to Kingdom City, Missouri, where we would find believers of like-mind, where we would not run into those who were deceptive, hiding their false beliefs until finding the “right moment” to strike out. I can empathize with Shaul. It is clear why the snake bite he suffered didn’t kill him. He’d been bitten too many times by more powerful snakes of other principalities!

Contentions

“Contentions” is the Greek word, *eris*, meaning a quarrel, or wrangling. In the KJV, *eris* is translated contention, debate, strife and variance.

Again with the adolescents! I get the distinct idea that Shaul is describing those individuals who are constantly vying for their own wants, irrespective of others’ needs.

Jealousies (emulations)

“Jealousies” is the Greek word, *zelos*, meaning heat, either “zeal” or “ardour,” meaning passion, enthusiasm, intense devotion or eagerness. It means jealousy, like that of a husband, or figuratively, like that of Yahshua for His Bride. It can also refer to the malice and indignation of an enemy.

It’s amazing to see the aspects of love and hate all rolled up into one word, but I can’t imagine any other word that describes the reality of close relationships more than jealousy. Primary relationships

evoke the strongest bonds and the most intense and bitter disputes, aside from out-and-out warring nations. We can go from being willing to die for the one we love in one moment, and in the next be willing to kill that person.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim, Hebrews 10:31.

Outbursts of Wrath

“Outbursts of wrath” is the Greek word, *thumos*, meaning passion, as in breathing hard, to rush as in breathing hard, to blow or to smoke. Interestingly, it also can mean to sacrifice by fire, that is, to immolate, slaughter, kill, to do sacrifice, slay.

By “outbursts of wrath,” Shaul isn’t just describing someone blowing off steam. He’s talking about someone who is so mad they want to kill or do away with someone or some people. Have you ever been acquainted with a person or persons who would sacrifice their friendships, or even their marriage, out of anger, to accomplish their own purposes? If we truthfully answer that question, it may be the person with whom we are most familiar – the one we look at every day in the mirror – who has done those things. The only way I can understand this type of behavior is to imagine that those who reject others believe that they, themselves, have been rejected and feel ashamed, guilt-ridden and worthless. I firmly believe that people who command and demand are coming from a state of utter feelings of powerlessness in their own lives. People who blame come from extreme guilt over things they’ve done wrong. We are most likely to threaten others when we, ourselves, feel the greatest fear.

Selfish Ambitions (KJV – “strife”)

“Selfish ambitions” is the Greek word, *eritheia*, meaning intrigue or

faction, denoting contention and strife, to stimulate to anger or to provoke. The English word “intrigue” denotes a conspiracy or a deceptive plot and even trickery. “Faction” means a “splinter group” or “division.”

Shaul, here, is saying that one of the criterions for “works of the flesh” is the creation of division, especially within the Assembly. People who form factions, or “cliques,” who plot to divide the Assembly by provoking members to anger; who steal, lie and condemn – these are those whom Shaul is pointing out as wolves in sheep’s clothing.

Dissensions

“Dissensions” is the Greek word, *dichostasia*; meaning disunion, dissension and sedition. It literally means “standing in two places at once.” It is a “popular uprising.”

But, it is more serious than the words “popular uprising” implies. The English word “sedition” means incitement to rebellion, agitation, treason, subversion, rabble-rousing and troublemaking. These are serious charges that Shaul is describing here, and I’m convinced that Shaul is not railing against people who are trying to undue his “Assemblies.” He is concerned, here, about those who are rebelling against Yahweh, His Laws, and His Anointed, Yahshua the Messiah. He stands against those who incite riot against the Word of Yahweh.

Heresies

“heeresies” is the Greek word, *hairesis*, meaning a choice, especially a party or disunion. It also means “sect” and to take for oneself, to prefer or to choose.

Don’t we want choices in our lives? Isn’t it “empowering” to be able to choose? Yes, in a worldly sense. But, does Yahweh offer us the opportunity to choose our OWN truths? He forbids it. He does offer choice, though. “It’s either My way, or the highway to destruction.”

See, I have set before you to-day life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and Yahweh your Elohim will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other [mighty ones] and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love Yahweh your Elohim, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them, Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NKJV.

Envy

“Envy” is the Greek word, *phthonos*, meaning ill-will, jealousy and spite. It comes from a word meaning to shrivel, wither, spoil and ruin by moral influences (The term, moral, doesn’t mean “good,” it must mean “by influencing one’s morals.”). It means to deprave, corrupt, defile and destroy.

So, the English word, “envy,” in no way elicits the depth of meaning Shaul is trying to convey here. He is clearly identifying behavior which makes good into evil and evil into good.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20 NKJV).

Murders

“Murders” is the Greek word, *phonos*, meaning to slay or murder. In this particular verse, it is omitted from some of the Greek manuscripts. Apparently, there is no figurative use of this word; it simply means to kill someone with malice aforethought.

Drunkenness

“Drunkenness” is the Greek word, *methe*, meaning intoxication, with no other figurative uses in the New Testament. It’s interesting that “Meth” is a current slang word for Methamphetamines, an extremely abused substance in these days and times.

Revelries

“Revelries” is the Greek, word *komos*, meaning carousal, as if letting loose; or rioting. It comes from a word meaning to lie outstretched. The English definition of “carousal” is “a noisy or drunken feast or social gathering.”

Now, if I may summarize Shaul’s description of the “Works of the Flesh” which preclude one’s entry into the Kingdom of Yahweh. They include:

1. **Adultery** - Abandoning the worship of Yahweh to follow a more pleasurable, less strife-filled form of worship;
2. **Fornication** - Devoting our lives to something more so than we dedicate our lives to Yahweh;
3. **Uncleanness** - Being demonically unpruned – like a wild thornbush, unapologetic and un-recompensing;
4. **Lewdness** - Unrestrained licentiousness, immorality and shamelessness;
5. **Idolatry** - Rendering religious homage or service to an image, idea or an idol [including a person];
6. **Sorcery** - Submitting to acts of deception, like magic, Tarot card

reading, palm reading, astrology, channelling or illicit drugs for the purpose of creating false hope, false power, false significance, false satisfaction and false courage – all of which are tools of the Devil which he uses to poison our minds as well as our bodies;

7. **Hatred** - Being hostile, resentful, bitter, vengeful, adversarial or just plain odious, that is, abhorrent, loathsome, revolting, detestable, repulsive or obnoxious;

8. **Contentions** - Quarrelling or wrangling;

9. **Jealousies** - Being both jealous to kill and zealous to protect what one “owns”;

10. **Outbursts of Wrath** - Out of anger, abandoning or sacrificing close relationships in order to accomplish one’s own purposes;

11. **Selfish Ambitions** - Conspiring to steal, lie and condemn in order to create factions or cliques, and plotting to divide a congregation by provoking members to anger;

12. **Dissensions** - Inciting believers to subvert Yahweh’s Laws and to rebel against His Messiah, Yahshua;

13. **Heresies** - Taking for oneself, preferring or choosing that which is pleasing to the individual;

14. **Envy** - Spoiling and ruining others’ morals through depravity, corruption, defilement and destruction;

15. **Murders** - Killing with malice aforethought;

16. **Drunkenness** - Drinking and substance abuse; and

17. **Revelries** - Carousing in noisy, drunken social gatherings, or to use a modern term, “partying.”

We have examined the harsh spiritual nature of the “Works of the Flesh” as Shaul describes in verses 19 through 21 of the Book of Galatians chapter 5.

Let us now turn our attention to the Set-apart spiritual nature of the

Fruit of the Spirit.

Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are the Messiah's have impaled the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another, Galatians 5:22-26 NKJV.

Let us look at these attributers of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Love

"Love" is the Greek word, *agape*, meaning love; that is, affection or benevolence; especially in the plural form, *agapais*. It is translated as "love-feast" or a feast of charity elsewhere in the New Testament. It compares to the Hebrew word, *'agab*, a primitive root meaning to breathe after.

"To breathe after." The image comes immediately of Yahweh speaking or breathing the universe into existence. For what purpose has He done this?

Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master, Yahshua the Messiah, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in the Messiah, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as children through Yahshua the Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind inten-

tion which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in the Messiah, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose Who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in the Messiah would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the [evangel, good news or glad tidings] of your salvation -- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Yahweh's own possession, to the praise of His glory, Ephesians 1:3-14 NASU.

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Mini Study



Love

How it Fulfills the Law

Are the Ten Commandments replaced by love? Did the Messiah come to teach that we no longer have to obey the Ten Commandments, but merely show love in our life? Did He do away with the Ten Commandments? What does the New Testament teach on this pivotal subject?

The visitor seemed amused that we should be teaching anything about the Ten Commandments. "Don't you know the laws were done away at the cross?" he asked incredulously. "They were only for the Jews anyway, and we are under grace."

Then he added, "If you believe in the New Testament, then you must preach love, for the Savior did away with the law and said we are to love the Father and our neighbor and on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets," he beamed.

Perhaps you have been told this same thing by well-meaning people who feel enlightened, not obligated to obey anything in the Old Testament, sincerely believing that they are not burdened by any law. Their interest is in the New Testament only and they emphasize the grace and love of our Savior.

The Meaning of Love

The source of love is from our Heavenly Father Yahweh who "so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

John declares that Yahweh is the source of all love, and also writes: "He that loves not knows not Yahweh; for Yahweh is love." (1 John 4:8)

Two distinct words for love appear in the Bible. The Greek word *phileo* means "to have ardent affection

Yahweh's purpose in the creation of the universe is FAMILY. His intention is to bring together those whom He has set apart to be His children, to pass on an inheritance of love. He is in the process of bringing Heaven and Earth together. Those who love and worship Him as Creator, Father and King – and who in turn create, parent and lead with justice and mercy, as personified in our Master, Yahshua, – will be His children indeed. Love, *agape*, is more than giving material needs to the widows and orphans. Love is to breathe life into others, through creating relationship – creating family and all that that implies. To love means to act in such a way that others feel safe & secure to "be themselves" with us, to feel personally and corporately empowered as members and as the body of the Messiah, to feel connected and intimate, satisfied and filled with joy, encouraged and hopeful, innocent and worthy of the relationship. Aren't these the emotions that are set in motion in our relationship with the Father?

What constitutes evidence that the Set-apart Spirit of Yahweh is producing fruit within one of His Chosen? I submit for your consideration that, in the spirit of humility, if you can say that you experience the same feelings mentioned above toward a fellow Believer that you feel toward Yahweh and Yahshua, then you are witnessing the Spirit of Yahweh at work. Contrarily, to the extent that someone's actions are designed to create within others feelings of shame, disconnectedness, fear, powerlessness, or guilt, they are devoid of the Set-apart Spirit of Yahweh. May Yahweh, however, bless us to respond to others so that they may easily believe that they are worthy of our affection; that even when they make mistakes they are still loved; that they are important to us in spite of the distance that separates us; that they can trust in our

commitments to them and that they know we will not act to harm them. This is what Shaul means when he uses the word “Love” as the first indicator of the “Fruit of the Spirit.”

Joy

“Joy” is the Greek word, *chara*, meaning cheerfulness; that is, calm delight or gladness, calmly happy or well-off. Used as a salutation on meeting or parting, *chara* means “be well,” as in “Farewell,” “Be glad.” It is also translated, “Rejoice!”

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Yahshua met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him, Matthew 28:9 NKJV.

“Rejoice” is the Greek word, “*chairete*.”

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Sovereign, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven," Luke 10:17-20 NKJV.

So, “joy” is that aspect of our being that is confident in our calling as “Children of the King.” It is the security of knowing that we are powerful over the works of Satan. As a way of envisioning this joy, can you imagine being raised as a child of an earthly king? In spite of the presumed temptations and pressures this particular calling might present, if done properly, we would receive instruction, guidance and discipline to ensure our ability to act appropriately in any situation, to provide clear answers to any question, and to develop the character to attract the willing support of those to whom we are

responsible. Tremendous power, on the one hand, and incredible responsibility, on the other, would require a well-balanced application of wisdom. We would eventually be given the charge of protecting the weak and defeating our enemy. And, we would have the power and the means to accomplish this. This is the “Joy” that Shaul is referring to as the second Fruit of the Spirit.

Peace

“Peace” is the Greek word, *eirene* (i-ray'-nay), and means to join, to create peace and prosperity. It is translated as “one,” as in “unity,” quietness, rest and “set at one again.” The wisdom of the word “peace” speaks to me in much the same way that the word “Sabbath” speaks to me. However, Shaul is not using this word to describe a day, but a personality trait within an individual called by Elohim. A person having this “Fruit of the Spirit” evokes a sense of unity, togetherness and a lack of anxiety; and when we are with such an individual, we feel that sense of calmness and belonging within ourselves that is possible only through the Spirit of Yahweh.

May I suggest that when two righteous men acted to preserve the work with which Yahweh had charged them, by setting apart three trusted men in order to bring unity to the body of the Messiah, they did so out of Love, Joy and Peace, the first three characteristics Shaul describes as the “Fruit of the Spirit.” They sought to breathe life into the congregation and to keep it from withering on the vine. They did so with the Power given to them, not by the power of an earthly government, but by the Power received from Yahweh Himself. And, they did so to “Set as One Again.” They are Children of the King, and as such, they are obeying their Father and Sovereign. And, in spite of any tribulation that may befall them, the King shall provide for them and

protect them – as well as the outcome of their efforts. They are doing so in Peace, the third character demonstrating “Fruit of the Spirit.”

Longsuffering

“Longsuffering” is the Greek word, *makrothumia*, which means forbearance with fortitude and patience, with a long, enduring temper. It means leniency. The *thumos* part of the word means passion (as if breathing hard). Does that sound familiar? Ironically, it is the Greek word used by Shaul for “Outbursts of Wrath” in describing one of the “Works of the Flesh.” In other words, longsuffering describes a passionate being with a long fuse on his outbursts of wrath. It takes a lot of provocation to get this person to “explode.” In the words of the Scripture, “fierceness, indignation and wrath” are rarely seen in this individual.

Interestingly, the concept of longsuffering seems not to exclude the reality that, at some point in time, one’s wrath may be legitimately expressed. We all know that, someday, Yahweh will express His fierce anger, with vengeance upon the wickedness of this world and against those who stand in opposition to His will. He will, someday, destroy all evil. If He were not willing to wait for us and extend His patience toward us, we would not be saved or redeemed.

But the day of Yahweh will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and righteousness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of Elohim, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His

promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Sovereign is salvation, 2 Peter 3:10-15.

I have to say, here, that I am struck with the sense that having the “Fruit of the Spirit” includes a work of the flesh, albeit conditionally. Notice that the Word does not say, “Never, ever have an outburst of wrath!” Does it not say, (and I’m paraphrasing here, of course) “Wait ... until the right moment ... then let ‘em have it?” Presumably, someone with the “Fruit of the Spirit” would be willing to wait long enough for the object of their anger to “see the Light” and come to their senses. And, as a caution to us, Yahweh has made known to us another truth, in many places in Scripture, “As you do unto others, so shall it be done unto you.” This is a sobering thought. Imagine how much Yahweh will have to forbear as we stand before Him, to allow us into His Kingdom! That amount ... do unto others.

Kindness

“Kindness” is the Greek word, *chrestotes*, from another Greek word meaning gracious, usefulness, moral excellence in character or demeanor, gentleness, or goodness. It has roots in a Greek word meaning employed and another word meaning to furnish what is needed, especially, by Hebraism, to “lend a hand.”

Kindness is more than just kind words and encouragement. It is primarily the voluntary hard work of assisting others or providing for the Assembly of Believers the necessary means by which Yahweh’s will is manifested. I love that this word is used to convey the Hebraic concept of “lending a hand.” It stems from two ideas of hollow-

ness for grasping and the hand, in a literal or figurative sense, power. We see this word in the Scripture, not only in reference to our lending of a hand to others, but of Yahweh lending a hand to us.

(With the Hebraism of the word *chrestotes*):

Therefore consider the [lending of the hand] and [the] severity of Yahweh: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, [the lending of the hand], if you continue in His [lending of the hand]. Otherwise you also will be cut off, Romans 11:22.

Goodness

“Goodness” is the Greek word, *agathosune*, from a Greek word meaning goodness, that is, virtue or beneficence. Synonyms for virtue include the concepts of righteousness, integrity, honesty, morality and uprightness. Synonyms for beneficence include the concepts of profit, help and assistance.

As I attempted to imagine a person with *agathosune*, I became aware of the feelings I would experience in response to such an individual. They include the feelings of trust, safety, empowerment, hope and connectedness. Trust, because I can see in him the words of the Scriptures. Safety, because I can know that whatever he says to me will be honest – and, if there is any finger-pointing going on, he will be pointing to himself. Empowerment, because, if I need something, he will be willing to provide. Hope, because his uprightness will express the surety of the blessings which are to come. And connectedness, knowing that I will be listened to. Goodness, after all is said and done, describes someone who is willing to meet us face-to-face.

Faithfulness

“Faithfulness” is the Greek word, *pistis*, from another Greek word meaning persuasion. This describes an individual who gives

credence or has moral conviction of the truthfulness of Yahweh, and who especially relies upon Yahshua for salvation. It refers to the constancy of one’s profession of belief, through word and deed, in which he lends assurance to others through his fidelity.

One can imagine how easy it might be to develop a strong conviction of the Truth in the presence of such an individual. Being witness to the conviction of another is convincing, lending itself to conciliation by fairness, assenting to evidence or authority, relying upon our Savior and leading to obedience to the Word of Yahweh out of inward confidence. We are called to be persuasive through our good works. They will know that we are disciples of Yahshua through our active love toward others.

Gentleness

“Gentleness” is the Greek word, *prautes*, meaning mildness, humility or meekness.

In looking at the three words that the Concordance offers to describe this concept, two of them, mildness and meekness, suggest behaviors, while humility suggests attitude or character. Humility is a concept that I’ve come to realize, in my work with severely mentally ill individuals, is severely lacking in those most suffering in that state of mind. That is not to say that those of us outside of the confines of a prison for the criminally insane struggle any less with this issue. It’s just that it seems more obvious in this concentrated community. Those individuals who, in a moment of realization, see what they’ve done to others – and in response, experience the shame, guilt, fear, powerlessness and humiliation for what they’ve done – these are the ones who eventually recover from their illnesses. These are the ones who are, in a sense, broken upon

<see **Fruit** page 21>



Satan:

Vindictive Accuser

Today, there are different beliefs about Satan the devil. For example, some say Satan is not real, but rather allegorical or vision oriented only, based upon symbolic Semitic language. Alternatively, some believe Satan is a female spirit. Some even say demons are not real but come from Babylonian concepts. Are any of these teachings correct?

What does the Bible say? Can we find an evil spirit being in Scripture? What is this spirit up to and what is his history? Maybe more importantly, what is he doing now and what will be his future?

The Scripture Speaks

We believe that the Bible clearly teaches Satan is a real spirit entity which turned against Yahweh.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our Elohim and the authority of His Messiah have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our Elohim day and night," Revelation 12:10 (NASB used throughout).

It may be for some of us that it often slips our mind that Satan is actually going before Yahweh, accusing us, not just once in a while, but day and night. The Strong's Concordance says the word "accuses" means "to condemn or accuse mainly in a legal sense."

It's the same word that's used for the Pharisees trying to accuse Yahshua of breaking their laws. Not the laws of Yahweh, mind you, but their added oral laws, as if they were the Law Giver.

There are a lot of attributes that we can see in them which are directly related to Satan. Is it any wonder that Yahshua said their father was the devil?

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from

the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies, John 8:44.

This, in itself, proves Satan isn't a female. The word "father" is the translation of the Greek "pater," Strong's number 3962, meaning "a father."

As mentioned, there are some people who think Satan doesn't even exist, let alone standing as an adversary and accuser of the brethren.

Someone recently was questioning this, and wondered if allusions to Satan couldn't be speaking of something else figuratively, and not an actual devil.

Keep in mind, one of Satan's attributes is that he is a deceiver.

The Serpent Deceiver

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has Elohim said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Genesis 3:1.

Notice that the serpent is using a tried and true way of deception - to cause doubt about the truth or about someone's character, for the purpose of turning someone away.

Some of us have personally witnessed men who come up with false doctrines and then started presenting questions about the ones they knew were against their so-called new truth. It wasn't new at all, but their tactic in trying to draw others to them (and their teaching) was to accuse and to openly question the intent of others. Satan can move among people and cause trouble for the work of Yahweh.

It should be noted that when we put ourselves in a position of accusing others of ill will or intent before ev-

everyone, especially to try to gain advantage over others, we are putting ourselves in Satan's shoes, figuratively speaking. And speaking in a figurative language, is Satan really a serpent?

While Satan can even appear as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), this shape shifter, no doubt, can appear as a slithering serpent. We can confirm in the New Testament that this is indeed who is being spoken of here in the Garden of Eden, the one who deceived Eve.

An Angel of Light

In 2 Corinthians 11:3–4, Paul writes,

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah. For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different evangel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

While this acknowledges that the Apostle Paul knew of the serpent in Scripture, we have to go down to verse 14 to see Satan in context, which says, "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

The Apostle John gets a vision from heaven in which he sees, and it is clarified, that Satan is "the serpent of old."

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, Revelation 20:1–2.

The serpent, also referred to as a dragon, is identified as Satan (adversary) the devil (false accuser). When looking at other areas of the Old Testament, we see that there are times in which it appears Satan is working behind the scenes.

Satan Volunteers to Deceive

Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of Yahweh. I saw Yahweh sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left. Yahweh said, 'Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yahweh and said, 'I will entice him.' Yahweh said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and also prevail. Go and do so,'" 1 Kings 22:19–22.

This spirit being, possibly the adversary (Hebrew: *hashatan*), volunteers to entice and deceive.

Satan Plays on David's Weakness

While this area of Scripture might be questionable, as to if it was actually Satan, the following is not:

Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number." Joab said, "May Yahweh add to His people a hundred times as many as they are! But, my Master the king, are they not all my Master's servants? Why does my Master seek this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt to Israel?" (1 Chronicles 21:1–3).

Satan moved David to count Israel. Did Satan do this without permission? If we consider the communication we see between Yahweh and Satan about Job, which we'll look at shortly, we can surmise that Satan has to have permission to do anything he does.

In this situation, Satan must

have observed that one of David's weaknesses was "pride." Yes, David was known to have been mostly humble and even a man after Yahweh's own heart. But, a common problem among those who gain great authority is that they can grow prideful.

It was something that Satan evidently could work on and influence to even a greater extent in David. Maybe he made David think about the great armies of Israel and how they were a number to be reckoned with. But, to clarify that number, he would have to have them counted.

Joab must have seen how pride was shown in David's countenance or in the way he asked, because Joab knew what he was up to and tried to stop him. Yet, David was bullheaded in this moment of weakness and went forward with the count. He was punished severely for it.

So, why would Yahweh allow such things? Why is Satan allowed to roam the earth and cause the problems he's causing? Yahweh is allowing us to be tested and tried to see how we will react; it is done to prepare people to understand their own weaknesses and to see the strength and perfection in Yahweh's ways.

Ultimately, Yahweh is a merciful El and will not allow things to continue, but will restore this world and the universe and all of creation back to perfection as a renewed heaven and a renewed earth.

Even in our troubles, He restores us and helps us to prevail. But there is no question we are going to have fiery trials at times. And in many of the situations, Satan is most likely accusing us before Yahweh in how we deal with them or how he thinks we'll deal with them. Whether truthfully or falsely, we must realize that this spirit being is real and we are in a fight for our lives spiritually.

Don't Be Unaware!

We are at risk of such things as inflated pride in our own personal lives. We must stand firm in the truth of Yahweh and in His Spirit to overcome. We also have other examples we can learn from.

Now there was a day when the sons of Elohim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came among them. Yahweh said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing Elohim and turning away from evil." Then Satan answered Yahweh, "Does Job fear Elohim for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." Then Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of Yahweh, Job 1:6–12.

Here we see a false accusation, one that Job proves wrong. He didn't curse Yahweh, even though he lost just about everything, including family and wealth in animals and possessions.

I personally know of one couple who went through something similar. With the exception of their family not being harmed, they lost job, cars, and house, in one quick strike. It was immediately after they were immersed into Yahshua's Name. Their situation was also a little different than Job's in that they did curse Yahweh. They basically said, "We are NOT going to serve Yahweh Who allowed such trouble

to come upon us."

Satan is described, and rightfully so, as a lion on the prowl, desiring to devour those whom he can. And new believers are in his sights. Make no mistake about it.

The couple could have overcome; they were not given more than they could handle. That is Yahweh's promise. They still had family to fall back on; there was a reason Yahweh allowed them to be attacked as they were. It was to test them. I'm pretty sure it was to see if they loved Yahweh and Yahshua more than their physical wealth, but there may have been something else. All we really know is that Satan can ask permission to go after us at times.

We have to accept Yahweh's will no matter what our situation is. We can't just give up. Oh, we can, but we are throwing eternal life away if we do. We are to stand firm in Messiah Yahshua, and be obedient, even unto death, as He was. We also see that Job, being just a man with his will to do what was right in Yahweh's sight, overcame Satan's attacks and vindictive accusations. Satan hates those that love Yahweh, so don't be surprised if it feels like you're being attacked at times. The reality is that it could very well be the case. Our defense is to rely on Yahweh and resist Satan (James 4:7) as he tries to influence or attack us.

Rely on a Higher Power

In all of it, we will learn a lesson of who we are and build character and strength of integrity, if we allow Yahweh's Spirit to rule in our lives, doing His will and obeying His Word.

Satan answered Yahweh and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." So Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold,

he is in your power, only spare his life." Then Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, Job 2:4–7.

Through the book of Job, we see Satan getting permission to attack him. In the end we see Job had everything restored to him, double. He grew as an individual and realized that he did have some self righteousness about himself.

When prompted to curse Yahweh, he didn't do it. He didn't willfully rebel or sin against Yahweh. Like Job, we're not perfect, but we can overcome and do what is right even if Satan accuses us, saying, "They won't do what is right; they will give up and curse You!"

Satan's ways of trying to get more to fall will no doubt work, as testing will be allowed at times, and at times failure will result. However, we are to resist Satan and not rely on ourselves, but on Yahweh through His Son. Everything else is futility and a following in Satan's footsteps.

Satan's Fall

Here we see an allusion and description of Satan and his own history through the King of Babylon and his history. Isaiah 14:12 gives us insight into what has happened:

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!

Originally, named in Hebrew "Helel," meaning, "son of dawn" or "bringer of light" (in Latin: Lucifer), this winged cherub was quite the created spirit being. Evidently, he was a delight to look at.

In the following we get an allusion of Satan and his glory (described through the king of Tyre) before his fall.

Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say

to him, "Thus says Yahweh Elohim, You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of Elohim; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you," Ezekiel 28:12–15.

What happened to Satan? What went wrong? We're told that he became proud, arrogant, resentful, and covetous, desiring and trying to take over the position of Yahweh as the Almighty.

But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High," Isaiah 14:13–14.

Satan wanted Yahweh's throne. It's been suggested that he knew what Yahweh was planning with mankind, that men and women would eventually become able to sit on a throne and rule in Yahweh's kingdom. We don't know for sure, it's just speculation, but if that is the case, he most likely could have used it to convince a third of the angels that they were getting a raw deal and to follow him.

There is another Old Testament area in which we find Satan the devil mentioned. He's standing to accuse Joshua, the high priest. It appears that Yahshua (now, our Heavenly High Priest) is in His pre-existent state and rebukes the devil.

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. Yahweh said to Satan, "Yahweh rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, Yahweh Who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the Angel, Zechariah 3:1–3.

It's interesting that it says Yahweh said to Satan, "Yahweh rebuke you, Satan." In other words, if we're reading this correctly, the Angel of Yahweh was named Yahweh, which gets back to the preexistence of Yahshua the Messiah.

While we understand there is a spirit being who is referred to as an adversary and accuser, we know the history, as presented, that this spirit being, once a high ranking cherub, convinced a third of the angelic realm to follow him in defiance of Yahweh.

Different Positions and Strengths

These angels are not all the same in scope and power as some are very strong and are given reign over territories.

Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your Elohim, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia." Daniel 10:12–13.

Michael is clearly identified as an archangel in the book of Jude. This is a powerful Spirit being who even fought with Satan himself, which is revealed to us in the book of Revelation.

As we have seen Satan de-

scribed as the king of Tyre or king of Babylon, we find that even the other fallen angelic beings are sometimes referred with such a description as a prince. The prince of Persia resisted and battled an angelic being for 21 days. The prince of Greece is another fallen angel which is found in the same chapter, Daniel chapter 10.

Even Satan is referred to as "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), transmitting his evil influence around the world. Satan is also referred to as a king over the fallen angels.

They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon, Revelation 9:11.

Described in character as a destroyer now, but originally a bringer of light, called and named, Helel or even Shakar in the Hebrew. It's appropriate to call him Satan and also the devil.

Are any of these proper nouns? Does it even matter? Does evil need a name? While the lack of a proper noun does not negate an individual's existence, sinning against Yahweh certainly can.

Fate of Defiant Sinners

So what happens when one is in the Light, but then turns on Yahweh and His ways?

The end result for all who do so is death, irreversible and eternal. Any name or attribute given will be forgotten, as the existence of the being will cease to exist.

Satan the vindictive accuser tells lies, like "you won't surely die," Gen. 3:4; John 8:44. Yahshua knows the devil's fate. We are confident that He is telling the truth.

Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his

<see **Satan** page 22>



I continue to be greatly blessed by the literature and DVDs that YAIY sends me every month, and by the public access cable TV broadcast on Time-Warner Cable channel 18 that I try to watch every Monday night here at 7:30 pm EDT. — **CR, NY**

Thanks for the work you are doing in Master's vineyard. Yahweh bless you. It has been a great help in knowing MORE about Yahweh's ministry. — **KM, Kenya**

Thanks so very much for putting me on your mailing list. It is so great to see Yahweh's precious name in such a beautiful magazine. — **RB, IL**

I would be interested in the monthly publication and any free literature you could send me. Yahweh has opened my eyes of understanding and now I am on fire for the TRUTH. — **DB, MI**

Your magazine has been coming to me through an acquaintance for several months. Your articles are spiritually edifying and thought provoking. — **RV, TX**

Thank Yahweh for your lives. I was in need of all the articles in the magazine except the suicide problem. I love reading your magazines for about seven years but this one is special. My heart has learned a lot and I am hopeful I will see my victory in the name of Yahshua. Many thanks and may Yahweh continue to bless all of you. Your magazines have been a blessing to my soul. — **RC, Brazil**

Warmest greetings to you in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua. Many thanks for the newsletters and the other papers you send. I appreciate them very much. — **HT, MN**

I want to thank you so much for the booklet, "The Mistaken 'J'." It is a tremendous blessing to me. I'm glad that you can help me understand the Truth, for it is vital to our salvation in these perilous times.— **CD, GA**

Thank you so much for your fine magazine, "Beacon." I really enjoy reading it. — **EC, AK**

Peace and blessings to you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah. Brethren, I truly enjoy the various teachings that you all share with me in the YAIY Beacon. I have learned so much and continue to seek the truth in the Sacred Scriptures daily. I want to thank you for all the time, research and love that you use to enlighten me and others about our Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and the Messiah, Yahshua. I continually pray and thank the Almighty for you to continue to prosper.—**WR, GA**

As I'm learning more about the observance of the Feasts of Yahweh, my heart draws closer in obedience to His Torah. Your ministry has really helped me see the light of the "Truth"! I thank you so much for sending your letters with good news about "ridding out" all things in our presence with leaven and such as we approach the Passover. You are truly a blessing to me and for this I give praise to Yahweh. — **BW, NC**

I am writing to you at this time to say that your ministry is greatly appreciated. The Beacon magazine as well as the recorded Sabbath services on DVD serve as tools to use in the harvest of men's souls. They are timeless in that the Scriptural messages have not changed. Therefore at this time I'm sending you a thank you and a word of encouragement to continue pressing on in the work of the Master. — **RA, KS**

Thank you for the learning and teachings in "The Beacon," which I can't wait for the next issue to come. That's how much I enjoy it. — **DB, FL**

I really enjoy everything you send and I pass it on to my friend when I'm finished reading everything. Her daughter is 12 years old so I always give her the Kids for Yah and she reads it and does the puzzles and then files it in a folder. Thanks for your ministry. — **DD, MS**

Greetings in the name of Yahshua. I just want to thank you for the Beacon you sent to me. I will forever give Yahweh the praise for all of you at the assembly. You help me so much with the new moons and when the feast days are. — **MG, TN**

Thank you so much for the fantastic pamphlets and articles. Your scholarly work means a lot! Sometimes it is hard to find the time to drop a line to say thanks. Yahweh bless you. — **TS, MN**

First off, I would like to thank you for your publication. We have a group of guys here that really enjoy incorporating it into our weekly bible studies. It has been a huge help in revealing the truths about the Holy Days and the sacred name of our Father. — **JW, LA**

I would first like to thank you for getting the Beacon magazine. I get other messianic publications from other places but your's is definitely the best one. I share them with all I can to help others to come to the truth as I have and the Beacon is packed full of truth and truly feeds the soul. — **DT, LA**

I want to start by saying thank you so much for your beautiful magazine that I receive every month. It helps me in my walk in the truth, and I try my best to make copies of some of the studies in it to give to my brothers. I love all the beautiful studies you have been putting in the Beacon. Thank you again. — **GS, MI**

Greetings to you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah. May Yahweh continue to bless you in spreading the Good News. The Beacon is always greatly enjoyed and is so informative. Your mini-studies and booklets are so very enlightening and are so very useful in sharing with others. It is always good to hear about our Family of Believers in the YAIY Newsletter. I also enjoy the Sisters For Yah and the Kids For Yah which I am saving for my granddaughter. I have been studying for more than five years and I have been greatly blessed in many ways. The greatest being the peace I now have. I have a good library of the Beacon and have almost all of your mini-studies and booklets.—**KM, KY**

I'm writing first to thank you for the Beacon, the CDs and all of you at the assembly. You have helped me a lot with my walk in the truth of Yahweh and Yahshua Messiah. Thank you so much for all that you do. My prayers are with all of you at the assembly.—**SH, OK**

Greetings in the name of our Savior Yahshua and grace and peace from our Heavenly Father Yahweh. As always, thanks be to the Father for the wonderful work you do in Yahshua's name. Truly I pray the blessing of Yahweh on the work of your hands and I know He blesses all who do His will. — **SM, MI**

Yahweh bless you for your fine works and for your part in enlightening me. — **RM, NY**

I would like to thank you for your literature that you send to me. I have learned a lot about Yahweh and still learn more everyday. I really appreciate your help and the joy you bring into my life. — **ML, PA**

Greeting in the precious names of Yahweh our Father and Yahshua our Savior. I want to thank you for the YAIY Beacon magazine. I'm truly honored to know the sacred names. I've already begun to share this truth with my family and friends. The Scriptures have become so much more clear and better understood. So thank you for being a willing vessel for the Holy Spirit to work through. — **DL, AL**

This note is long overdue for thanking you for enriching my life with your awesome teachings. I have kept every single piece of literature, file it and run copies for others. — **CK, AZ**

Greetings in the name of Yahshua. I write unto you because you all at YAIY are so wonderful and so loving and I could not miss the opportunity to tell you thank you. I thank you so much for being a support to me and the brothers and sisters around the world that you help. I received the literature you sent which will be accessed by all to read and study. Again, I thank you and appreciate your love and concern. — **DF, KY**

My wife and I are always looking forward to receiving the Beacon. It is a Beacon of light and truth. It is such a blessing to know there are brethren like ourselves that are not afraid to stick their necks out to proclaim the truth. — **JM, England**

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the rock of salvation. The bold, the unrepentant, the grandiose, the self-centered, the oppositional and the violent do not see the rock that will pulverize them. They are blind to this reality. But, even in all that, we may yet have hope for these people, for we know that Yahweh is longsuffering toward those who are downtrodden, abused, rejected, abandoned and cut off from familial

love. It may be that those who are seen as castaways and the dregs of society are the very ones on whom Yahweh will have the most compassion. It can only be through humility that we can see the full extent of Yahweh's love for us.

Self-control

"Self-control"— is the Greek word, *egkrateia*, meaning temperance, strong or masterful, a fixed

position in place, time or state, and at rest. It can mean vigor or great dominion, might, power and strength.

The picture in my mind for this word is a rock. Its strength is in its ability to remain, to endure and to withstand. It must encapsulate the idea of the type of rock that is quarried to make the pillars of a huge building. How fitting! That those who endure to the end are likened to pillars in the temple of Yahweh.

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My Elohim, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My Elohim and the name of the city of My Elohim, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My Elohim. And I will write on him My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the called-out ones, Revelation 3:12-13.

That is also why Yahweh is described as our Rock of Salvation, through His Anointed Son, Yahshua.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Anointed, the Son of the living Elohim." Yahshua answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Shimon Bar-Yonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Kepha, and on this ROCK I will build My assembly, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," Matthew 16:15-19.

May our feet be found Standing on the Rock!
HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

<Hope from page 8>

the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven, Matt. 7:21.

Here, Matthew writes we are to do Yahweh's will, if we want to enter Yahweh's kingdom.

In his commentary, Matthew Henry says this on what is Yahweh's will:

"Now this is His will, that we believe in the Messiah, that we repent of sin, that we live a holy life, that we love one another. This is His

will, even our sanctification."

Many translators say that Yahweh's will is want He "wants," "desires," "wishes," "would have," etc.

1 Tim. 2:4 KJV says that Yahweh would have "all men be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth," but man is still presented with a choice:

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live, Deut. 30:19.

Yes, choose life by doing Yahweh's will.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

<Satan from page 19>

angels," Matthew 25:41. (See our mini-study Helfire: Destiny of the Unsaved?)

There are eternal consequences for our actions. What we do with what we know does matter. Time is short; let's be about our Father's business, and also let's not be unaware of the Devil who is out to destroy whom he can.

Don't give Satan a foothold or allow him to vindictively accuse you of being negligent with Yahweh's Word and His Spirit in your own life.

One last thought, we should consider, which may help us when going through difficulties. Going back to the book of Job, considered by most scholars to be the oldest written book of Scripture and certainly before the prophets of Yahweh, we have an interesting comment from Job:

Can mankind be just before Eloah? Can a man be pure before his Maker? He puts no trust even in His servants; and against His angels He charges error, Job 4:17-18.

Is Job describing humans in verse 17 and then angelic beings

in verse 18? Did Job have any idea that he may have been under attack by Satan or fallen angels? It could be. Nevertheless, we have a better understanding today of what is happening, and why the world is suffering as it is. We can bear up under pressure and stress, knowing these things.

Knowledge, in this case, is power. But the greatest Power we need to tap into for help and comfort in overcoming the world and the evil in it, is Yahweh's Spirit dwelling within us. It's there to help us. In Messiah, we have victory, if we stay faithful and not lose heart.

Finally, be strong in the Master and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of Elohim, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of Elohim, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE EVANGEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the SHIELD OF FAITH with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the Word of Yahweh. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, Ephesians 6:10-18.

Elder David Brett



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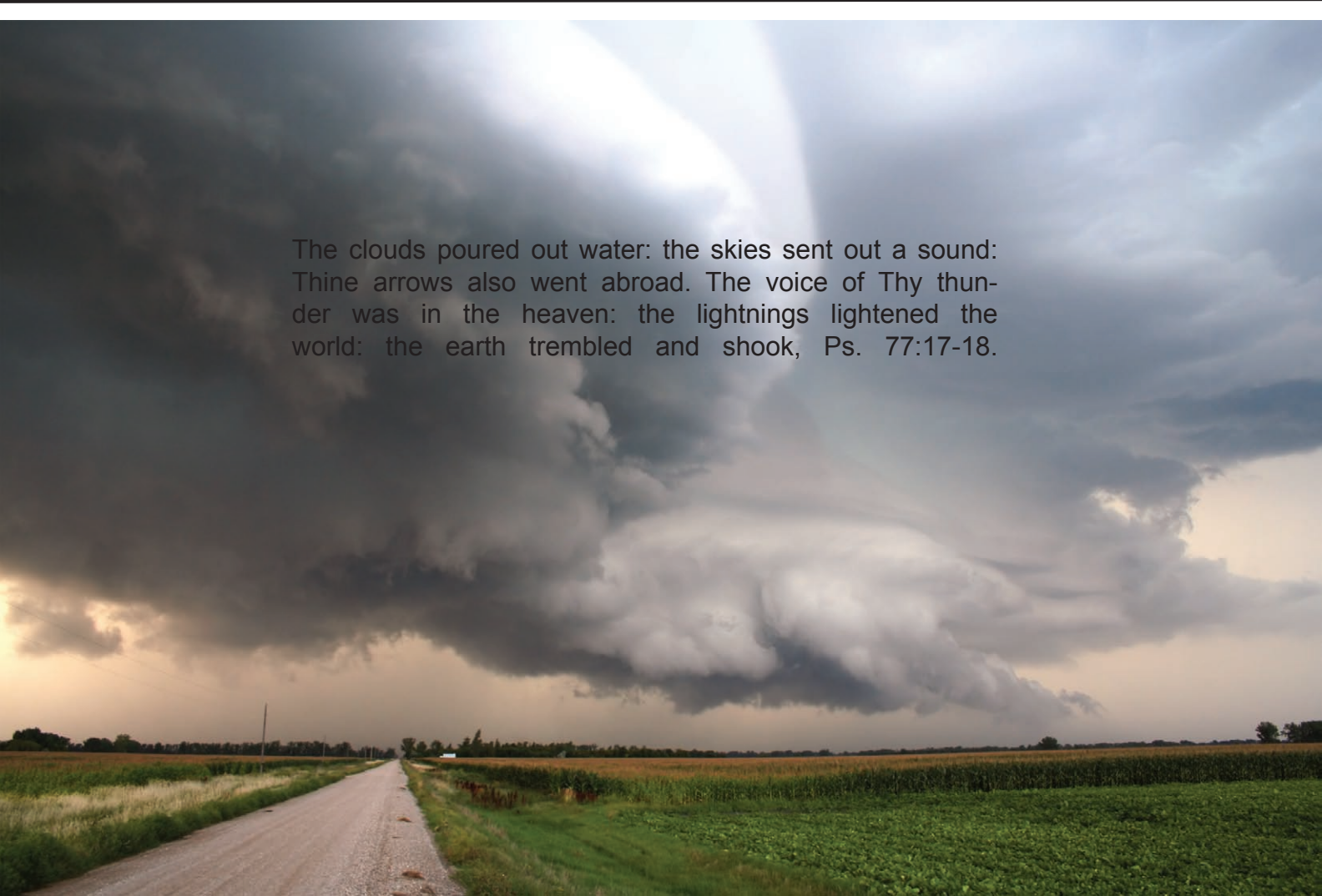
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The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound:
Thine arrows also went abroad. The voice of Thy thun-
der was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the
world: the earth trembled and shook, Ps. 77:17-18.